BURKE COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH
OCTOBER 2026

WHEREAS, October 2026 marks the 81st anniversary of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, an annual observance recognizing the contributions of workers with disabilities and promoting inclusive employment practices; and

WHEREAS, National Disability Employment Awareness Month traces its history to 1945, when Congress established a weeklong observance recognizing people with physical disabilities, and it has since expanded to include individuals with all types of disabilities, including mental health conditions and other nonobvious disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 theme, "Celebrating Value and Talent," recognizes the skills, perspectives, and contributions that workers with disabilities bring to workplaces, communities, and the nation's economy; and

WHEREAS, workplaces that welcome and support the talents of all people strengthen businesses, expand economic opportunity, and help build a more inclusive and prosperous community; and

WHEREAS, National Disability Employment Awareness Month provides an opportunity for employers, schools, and community organizations to recognize the value of inclusive employment and to help ensure that individuals with disabilities have access to meaningful work, economic self-sufficiency, and full participation in community life; and

WHEREAS, Burke County affirms the importance of equal employment opportunity and recognizes the valuable contributions individuals with disabilities make throughout our workplaces and community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Burke County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes October 2026 as **National Disability Employment Awareness Month** in Burke County and calls upon employers, schools, community organizations, and residents to participate in this observance and support efforts that expand meaningful employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities throughout the year.

Approved this 21st day of September, 2026.

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Jeffrey C. Brittain, Chairman
Burke County Board of Commissioners