The CEO Commission for Disability Employment is proud to celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month this October. This important month offers both employers and employees the opportunity to highlight the value of an inclusive workplace for people with and without disabilities.

Andrea Diquez – CEO at Saatchi & Saatchi NY

"Success in cultivating diversity is achieved only when you decide not just to hire people who are different but to create the right environment to make it work. This takes time, effort and patience. To start with, everyone on the team has to take the time to learn each other's approaches, strengths and weaknesses. Once this happens, chemistry is built, and then magic happens. I believe there isn't a single challenge we can't solve when we invite different perspectives, life experiences and ways of thinking to the table. And while you need to be a proponent of building a people-first culture, inclusive employment gives people with disabilities confidence in their abilities, a sense of achievement and a path to competitive, integrated employment. By empowering our employees, we empower them to buy our next house, develop friendships in the workplace and purchase our own accessible vehicle. Workplace inclusion is the key to equality."

Ken Capone – Public Policy Director at People on the Go Maryland

"People with disabilities deserve to feel included in all aspects of life. They should go to their neighborhood schools with peers, live in communities of their choosing and work alongside people with and without disabilities. Inclusive employment gives people with disabilities confidence in their abilities, a sense of achievement and a path to competitive, integrated employment. By empowering our employees, we empower them to buy our next house, develop friendships in the workplace and purchase our own accessible vehicle. Workplace inclusion is the key to equality."

Michael Latham – Chairman & CEO at The Service Companies

"One of the great advantages of being a service provider to so many top brands is having a platform to share best practices that can help open more doors for people with disabilities. As a hospitality service provider, it is imperative and necessary for us to change the conversation. Failing in the hospitality service business, we understand that our most valuable assets are our employees. In today's competitive market, the best talent is what makes the difference between an average or an extraordinary experience. Expanding our efforts to employ people with disabilities gives us the opportunity to attract top talent and empowers individuals with disabilities."

Kayla McKeon – Manager of Grassroots Advocacy at the National Down Syndrome Society

"Employment is very important to all of us who are ready, willing and able to work. We want to showcase our abilities not our disabilities. We want to be included, respected and be able to speak and advocate for ourselves. We are people first and foremost. We want to participate in all events just like any other colleague of mine. Inclusion means the best but a secured seat at the table of the who are contributing to the goals of my organization."

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