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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact Person: Cheryl Plank
(563) 316-0441
cplank@imagineia.org

Proclamation of October as Disability Employment Awareness Month

On October 7, 2024, the Burlington City Council officially proclaimed October as Disability Employment Awareness Month, recognizing the importance of creating inclusive workplaces for individuals with disabilities. This proclamation aligns with the national effort to raise awareness about the value that individuals with disabilities bring to the workforce to promote employment opportunities for all.

The event saw active participation from Hope Haven, a division of Imagine the Possibilities (HH/ITP), a local nonprofit committed to empowering individuals with disabilities. Representatives from HH/ITP were in attendance and spoke about the ongoing need for businesses and organizations to prioritize accessibility and inclusion in their hiring practices.

“Thank you, Mayor Billups and the council, for this proclamation recognizing National Disability Employment Awareness Month,” said Eva Castillo, Director of Services of Hope Haven, a Division of Imagine the Possibilities. “We celebrate the value and talent that workers with disabilities add to workplaces and the economy in Des Moines County. We are committed to ensuring all individuals that express the want to work, have access to good jobs. Currently in our Supported Employment program in Des Moines County we have over 50 individuals working in local businesses, and several others eager and ready to work. Good jobs strengthen individuals, families and communities. They also strengthen our nation’s workforce and economy. Our number one goal is to give all individuals access to inclusive workplaces that benefit everyone.”

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