

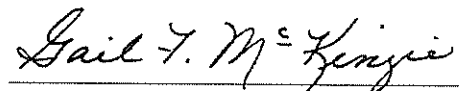
Proclamation

School Board of Polk County
Bartow, Florida

- WHEREAS, more than one million people with disabilities have entered the labor force since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990; and
- WHEREAS, as taxpayers, consumers and workers, people with disabilities are contributing to our society and to their own fulfillment of the American dream; and
- WHEREAS, new generations of young people with disabilities are growing up in Polk County, graduating from high school, going to college, and preparing to participate in the workplace; and
- WHEREAS, job seekers with disabilities, regardless of age, are striving to attain economic independence through self-sufficiency and gainful employment; and
- WHEREAS, both students and job seekers with disabilities have the right to maximize their potential by making the most of their intellect, talents and abilities in an environment free of physical, programmatic and attitudinal barriers; and
- WHEREAS, Disability Mentoring Day provides an opportunity for students and job seekers with all types of disabilities to gain insight into career options by spending part of their day in the workplace “shadowing” an employee as he or she goes through a normal day on the job; and
- WHEREAS, employers from the private, governmental, and non-profit sectors may benefit from mentoring people with disabilities as a way of learning about the experience of disability, developing lasting relationships with disability community leaders, and recruiting new and emerging talent for meaningful internship and employment opportunities; and
- WHEREAS, these efforts are made possible through a broad partnership with the American Association of People with Disabilities and a dedicated local team of organizers from businesses, non-profit organizations, school districts, colleges and universities and government agencies;
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT resolved by the School Board of Polk County, Florida, that we designate October 15, 2008 as:

Disability Mentoring Day

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the School Board of Polk County, to be affixed at Bartow, Florida, this 23rd day of September, 2008.



Gail F. McKinzie Ph. D., Superintendent of Schools



Lori Cunningham, Chairman, District 2

Frank O'Reilly, District 1

Hazel Sellers, District 3

Dr. Brenda Reddout, District 4

Kay Fields, District 5

Margaret Lofton, District 6

Tim Harris, District 7