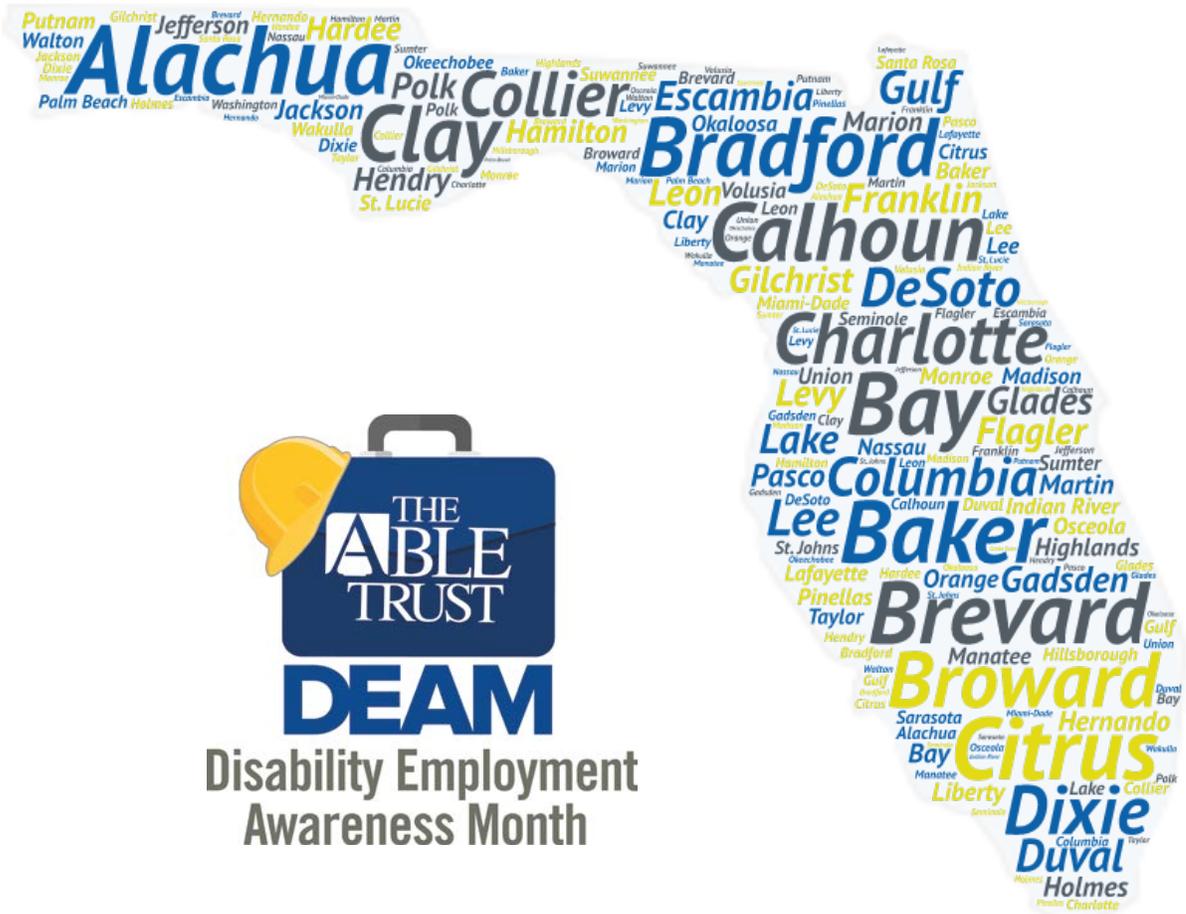


Disability Employment Awareness Month Summary of Events – FY 2017



The Able Trust
www.abletrust.org
850-224-4493

Florida Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM) has been observed and celebrated in Florida for 16 years. The goal of DEAM is to recognize the contributions and capabilities of workers with disabilities and to highlight the continued need for a diverse and inclusive workforce. DEAM enables businesses to engage individuals with disabilities and begin a dialogue with this talented and motivated pool of potential employees. Allowing businesses and organizations to interact with students and job seekers with disabilities in a less formal workplace environment, simultaneously changes misperceptions and increases knowledge and comfort level of working alongside people with disabilities. In Florida, DEAM encompasses an entire “season” beginning in September and lasting into the first quarter of the following year. The eventual goal is to have career exploration activities take place year-round, increasing the opportunity for employment of individuals with disabilities.

Participants in DEAM are provided a number of different career exploration activities including one-on-one job shadowing, group site visits, career preparation workshops and career fairs. The type of activities available to participants is determined by participating businesses and community liaisons working to arrange events throughout the state. DEAM activities provide participants the opportunity to gain insight into a particular career field or job. These interactions enable students and young job seekers to network and better prepare themselves as applicants for job opportunities in the workforce.

The programs of The Able Trust aim to empower and educate people with disabilities so they become successfully employed. The Able Trust is proud to continue coordination of Florida DEAM, which began this year with a well-attended statewide launch on October 13, 2016 in Tampa. Integral to the success of Florida DEAM are the many dedicated community liaisons throughout the state and equally important, the businesses and organizations that open their doors to participants. Promotion of the activities, financial support, and active participation in DEAM activities was also provided by 13 committed organizations and individuals, who all elected to fund the 2016 campaign highlighting DEAM in Florida.

Created by the Florida Legislature in 1990, The Able Trust is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public charity. Its mission is to be a key leader in providing Floridians with disabilities opportunities for successful employment.



Richard L. Cole Jr., Esq.
and Barbara Cole

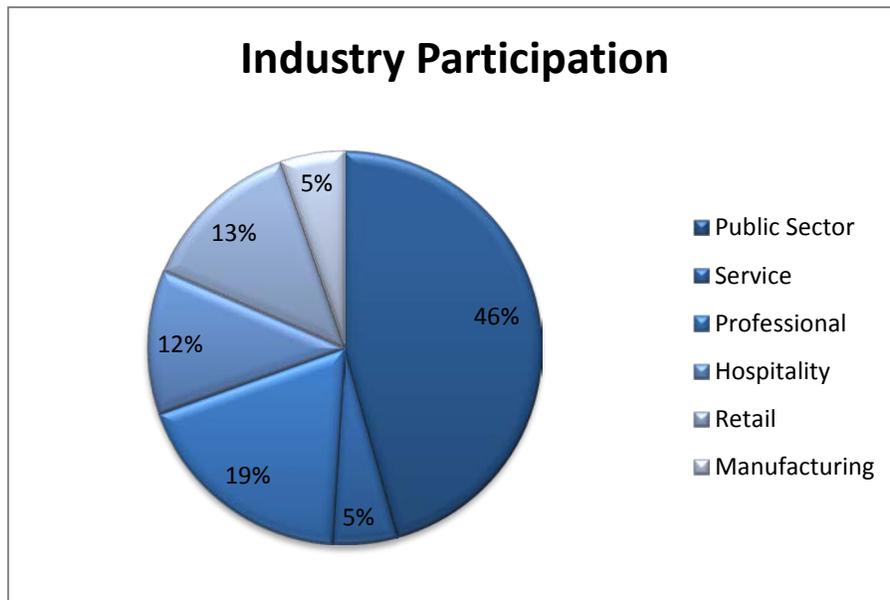


A Synopsis of Florida DEAM Activities

2016 DEAM was made possible due to the hard work of 80 community liaisons working in 62 counties throughout Florida. **Together with over 160 businesses and organization partners, they were able to provide career exploration opportunities to 2170 participants.** In 2016 DEAM was launched with a breakfast kickoff in Tampa. Over 100 representatives of the business community, government and the public sector came together to show their support to employing individuals with disabilities and the importance of DEAM. Speakers included Keynote Neil Romano, Restauratuer Richard Gonzmart, Able Trust Alums Joseph Murray and Sarah Goldman, Senator Jack Latvala, and Representative Kathleen Peters.

Breakdown of Industry Participation

Public Sector (local, state government, nonprofit)	46%
Service (includes utilities)	5%
Professional (includes medical professions)	19%
Hospitality (includes restaurants, hotels, attractions)	12%
Retail (includes grocery stores)	13%
Manufacturing	5%



Other Item of Note

Florida was unfortunately hit by Hurricanes Hermine and Matthew during the 2016 Hurricane season which directly impacted scheduled DEAM events. The storms pushed DEAM events into 2017, yet unfortunately some events were canceled due to damage of participating businesses.

Participants of DEAM are provided a number of different career exploration activities including one-on-one job shadowing, group site visits, career preparation workshops and career fairs. The following highlights are just a few examples of the DEAM experiences that occurred throughout the state



Hendry County

Located on one of the main streets in the rural community of La Belle in Hendry County, Las Gemelas Tortilleria welcomed students with disabilities to tour the facility and learn about the manufacturing and distribution of tortillas.

Duval County

The IRLC in Jacksonville worked with Carrabba’s Italian Grill in Orange Park to provide a culinary career experience to a small group of DEAM participants.



Bay County

DEAM participants in Bay County were able to select an employer of their choosing to spend a morning job shadowing. Participating businesses were Sam’s Club, Walmart, Bay County Humane Society, Bay County School, Bill Cramer Chevrolet, Goodwill, Banfield Animal Hospital, Olive Garden, Red Lobster, LongHorns Steak House, Lynn Haven Police Department, Publix, Zoo World, Early Education & Care Head Start, WMBB TV Channel 13, PetSmart, and Cindy’s Fashions.

Madison County

DEAM in Madison County was a two-part process. Students at Madison County High School had a local t-shirt manufacturer come to the school to instruct students on screen printing and t-shirt manufacturing. Students then visited the manufacturing program at North Florida Community College to learn about other manufacturing careers and the program offerings that can lead to a career in Florida’s growing manufacturing industry.



Miami Dade County

DEAM participants in Broward County learned about the radio industry at Y100 Miami and The Beat 103.5, stations a part of the iHeart radio network.

Broward County

Broward County DEAM participants completed a job site visit with the Broward county Sheriff’s Office to learn about the variety of careers in law enforcement.

