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**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF THE
DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING**

Julie Anne Schafer
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**THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
LICENSING AND REGULATION ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP TO AID JOB SEEKERS WHO ARE DEAF, HARD
OF HEARING, AND DEAFBLIND**

BALTIMORE, MD (October 3, 2012) – The Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH), together with the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR), today announce a unique partnership in honor of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). During the month of October, ODHH and DLLR will host two workshops for jobseekers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind. Held each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. This year's theme is "A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive Workforce: What Can YOU Do?"

"We routinely handle calls and emails from deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind jobseekers looking for assistance," said Lisa Kornberg, Director of ODHH. "When we saw the challenge issued through the NDEAM campaign, we began thinking about how to address the unique challenges people with hearing loss face when searching for employment. When we approached DLLR about a partnership, they were on board immediately." Kornberg continued, "DLLR is truly committed to serving the needs of people who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind and we are thrilled to be working with them on such a valuable project."

Interim Secretary Scott Jensen concurs. "The resources, technical assistance, and quality educational programming opportunities offered by ODHH allow us to provide continued professional development opportunities for staff, enhance the availability of resources, and to effectively reach and serve the deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind populations."

Both workshops will include information on basic job seeking skills and tour of a DLLR One Stop Career Center. The workshop on Wednesday, October 17, 2012 will be held at the Columbia Workforce Center (7161 Columbia Gateway Drive, Columbia, MD 21046) and will focus on job seeking skills for people with a hearing loss or who are hard of hearing. Lise Hamlin, Director of Public Policy for the Hearing Loss Association of America, will present "Tips for People with a Hearing Loss Seeking Jobs." The workshop scheduled for Monday, October 22, 2012 will be held at the Frederick County Business and Employment Center (5340 A Spectrum Drive, Frederick, Maryland 21703) and will focus on job seeking skills for people who are deaf and prefer to use sign language to communicate. Craig "Hank" Passi will discuss "Tips for People Seeking Jobs who are Deaf and Prefer to use Sign Language." Mr. Passi is the Staff Specialist for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services and Statewide Coordinator for the Deaf for the Division of Rehabilitation Services in the Maryland State Department of Education.

Both workshops are free and open to job seekers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind. Professionals working with people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind are also encouraged to attend. Registration is required and can be done online at <http://tinyurl.com/8svdcre>.

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