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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Commissioners Recognize Employers for Embracing Employment of Individuals with Disabilities

Cumberland County, PA - Governor Tom Wolf has declared October as Disability Employment Awareness Month in Pennsylvania and Cumberland County Commissioners recently recognized local employers for supporting hiring practices that include individuals with disabilities; raising the bar for other employers in our region. Sue Carbaugh, IDD Director for Cumberland County, says that Cumberland/Perry IDD embraces employment in integrated work settings as a priority option in service planning for working age adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Disability is believed to be a natural part of life and in no way diminishes a person's right to achieve a full and satisfying life, including economic self-sufficiency.

Commissioners recognized three Cumberland County employers for hiring, retaining, and advancing individuals with disabilities and believing that a diverse workforce can improve their businesses. Giant Food Stores and OHL Distribution Center both located in Carlisle, and Chartwells Dining Services at Shippensburg University were recognized at an Annual Lunch and Learn event held October 23rd in Harrisburg. On behalf of the Board of Commissioners, Carbaugh presented Certificates of Special Recognition to these employers for earning the Business Champion Award for their commitment to hiring individuals with intellectual disabilities in Cumberland County.

Disability Employment Awareness Month in Pennsylvania is part of a national celebration. This year's theme is "My disability is one part of who I am." Pennsylvania is participating in the Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program (EFSLMP), a U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy program. The program gives states technical assistance from national experts to develop and implement a plan to increase competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities. For more information on Cumberland/Perry IDD programs and services, please contact 717.240.6320.

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