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**Lebanon Veterans Affairs Medical Center Joins Broad Effort to Observe
National Disability Employment Awareness Month**
Nationwide campaign will take place in October

Lebanon, Pennsylvania — October 2, 2015

Lebanon VA Medical Center today announced its participation in National Disability Employment Awareness Month, an annual awareness campaign that takes place each October. The purpose of National Disability Employment Awareness Month is to educate the public about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. This year's theme is, "My disability is one part of who I am."

The history of National Disability Employment Awareness Month traces back to 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

"This year's theme encapsulates the important message that people with disabilities are just that — people," said Jennifer Sheehy, Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy, "And like all people, we are the sum of many parts, including our work experiences. Disability is an important perspective we bring to the table, but, of course, it's not the only one."

Reflecting this year's theme, throughout the month, Lebanon VAMC will be engaging in a variety of activities to educate its employees on disability employment issues and its commitment to an inclusive work culture. These efforts include displays with positive messages about our commitment to a disability inclusive workplace by fostering an inclusive workplace culture with education, training and informative sessions.

"Lebanon VAMC is proud to be a part of this year's National Disability Employment Awareness Month," said Mr. Douglas A. Etter, Public Affairs Officer, "We want to spread the important message that we value the diverse perspectives, including those of individuals with disabilities. We are especially proud that Kortney Clemons, Army Wounded Warrior & Paralympics Athlete will be our Guest speaker Monday, October 5, 2015 12 noon until 1 p.m. in Building 22-219. The public is welcome to attend."

Employers and employees in all industries can learn more about how to participate in National Disability Employment Awareness Month and ways they can promote its messages — during October and throughout the year — by visiting www.dol.gov/ndeam.

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