



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency to Host Day of Career Exploration and Networking for Hundreds of Students with Disabilities

Event at Georgia National Fair to Recognize National Disability Employment Awareness Month

ATLANTA, Ga. – The Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA), in partnership with the Georgia Farm Bureau, will host more than 1,800 high school students with disabilities at the Georgia National Fair in Perry, GA for a day of career exploration and work-based learning -- all in celebration of National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

With the theme “Welcoming Our Workforce” or WOW Wednesday, the full-day event on October 9th will include various educational stops culminating in a panel discussion where students with disabilities will learn about the agriculture industry, potential careers, and post-secondary opportunities. This one-hour discussion will take place at 1:00 p.m. in Reaves Arena. Students with disabilities from across the state have been invited to interact with subject matter experts to explore careers through live demonstrations and to connect their classroom learning to real-world applications.

“This exciting opportunity for students with disabilities helps introduce them to careers they might not have otherwise considered,” says GVRA Executive Director Chris Wells. “We thank the Georgia Farm Bureau and the Georgia National Fair for partnering with us for this event, and we’re excited about the possibilities it provides students as they plan for careers or post-secondary opportunities after graduation.”

Georgia’s agriculture industry contributes about \$83.6 billion annually to the state’s economy, according to the University of Georgia Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development. The industry generated 1.59 million total jobs statewide that paid \$85.68 billion in total wages to jobholders in 2023, the Feeding the Economy, a national study that estimates the direct and indirect impact of the food and agriculture industry reported.

In addition to hosting students, GVRA will engage fair attendees as part of a statewide educational outreach campaign. GVRA staff members will be on hand to inform and educate families about the services GVRA offers and the many ways the state agency is helping individuals with disabilities who want to work, or who need assistance to maintain their current jobs.

In conjunction with the campaign, GVRA also will host its Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services Board Meeting on the fairgrounds at 10:30 a.m. in the Roquemore Conference Center. The meeting is open to the public.

For additional information, contact Carla Murphy, Public Affairs Director, at Carla.Murphy@gvs.ga.gov or (470) 816-6501.

About the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

Established in July 2012, the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) operates five integrated and interdependent statutory programs that share a primary goal - to serve Georgians with disabilities to empower them to live independent lives.

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