**For more information, contact**:

Gordon O’Neill

Communications Contactor

[gordon@oneillcommunications.com](mailto:gordon@oneillcommunications.com)

**Fact Sheet: *EveryBody Works NC***

**Thousands of “Job-ready” Candidates:** North Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation (NCVR) had over 4,300

“job-ready” candidates seeking employment in August of 2017 and successfully placed over 6,400 candidates in jobs in 2016.

**Employment Gap (ages 16 - 64):** 27.7% of people with disabilities of working age had a job in 2016, lagging behind 72.8% of workers without disabilities who had jobs. (*US Bureau of Labor Statistics, July 2017*)

**Educated and Credentialed:** Of the 6,400 candidates placed by NCVR in 2016, 57% had a high school diploma or equivalent, 25% had some post-secondary education, and 14% earned a license, certification or degree including 330 associates, 285 bachelors, 80 masters and 10 advanced degrees.

**Part-time Employment:** In 2016, 34% of workers with a disability were employed part time, compared to 18% of those without a disability

**People with Disabilities:** Are rated equally or more productive than coworkers; achieve equal or better job performance ratings; help reduce turnover rates based on industry research; and they often inspire their co-workers to work harder and as a team.

**Self-Employment:** Employed persons with disabilities are 15% more likely to be self-employed than those without disabilities demonstrating the innovative talents available in this diverse segment.

**Government Employees**: The percent of people employed in government was about the same for both those with and without disabilities in 2016 – 14.0% and 13.6 % respectively.

**Employment and Benefits Work Together**: The new NC ABLE Program allows individuals with physical or cognitive disabilities to save and invest up to $14,000 a year without jeopardizing means-tested benefits including Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The fear of losing benefits has been a major deterrent to many people with disabilities seeking employment.

**Accommodations:** Well over half of all accommodations for employees with disabilities are made at no cost to the employer and most require a one-time investment that often costs less than $500.

**Everybody Works NC** campaign is increasing awareness of the untapped pool of talent found in the disability community and is a collaborative effort of the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD), the North Carolina Business Leadership Network (NCBLN) and North Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation (NCVR).

**National Disability Employment Awareness Month** (NDEAM) is in October each year and many of its activities are part of the year-long *EveryBody Works NC* campaign that includes a statewide speaking tour, media relations programs, social media and a series of special events.

***Sources****: Bureau of Labor Statistics, North Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation and North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities.*

**Other Press Resources/Contacts:**

**North Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation** (NCVR) or **North Carolina Assistive Technology Program** visit [*www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/dvrs*](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/dvrs) or contact DHHS Communications at [919-855-4840](tel:%28919%29%20855-4840)

**EveryBody Works NC**: Visit [*www.everybodyworksnc.com*](http://www.everybodyworksnc.com/) or contact Gordon O’Neill at 404-310-6188 or [gordon@oneillcommunications.com](mailto:Gordon@oneillcommunications.com)

**Business Leadership Network**: Visit <http://www.ncbln.org/> or contact Beth A. Butler, J.D., Executive Director of North Carolina Business Leadership Network at 980.422.5544 or [Beth@USBLN.com](mailto:Beth@USBLN.com%20?subject=EveryBody%20Works%20NC)

**Project SEARCH:**  Visit *nccdd.org/project-search.html* or contact Susie Rutkowski, [Susie.rutkowski@cchmc.org](mailto:Susie.rutkowski@cchmc.org)

**Job Accommodation Network**: [*askjan.org/index.html*](http://askjan.org/index.html)

**Labor Force Characteristics Summary:** [***https://www.bls.gov/news.release/disabl.nr0.htm***](https://www.bls.gov/news.release/disabl.nr0.htm)

Labor Force (with and without disability):[***https://www.bls.gov/news.release/disabl.t05.htm***](https://www.bls.gov/news.release/disabl.t05.htm)

Occupation Chart/Table**:** [***https://www.bls.gov/news.release/disabl.t03.htm***](https://www.bls.gov/news.release/disabl.t03.htm)