



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Higher Education and Disability Service Providers have been instrumental in protecting and ensuring civil rights and accessibility in higher education for students with disabilities.

**WHEREAS**, the primary mission of the Tennessee Association on Higher Education and Disability as a not-for-profit organization is to support professional educators and service providers in higher education through education, communication and professional development.

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Association on Higher Education and Disability provides professional support and development to post-secondary disability service providers in the state of Tennessee and to other individuals and organizations who are committed to the principles of equal access and opportunity for all qualified students with disabilities to become full self-determined participants in higher education.

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Association on Higher Education and Disability and its members are dedicated to supporting professional educators and service providers in higher education through education, communication and professional development.

**WHEREAS**, Higher Education and Disability Professionals make a critical impact in the postsecondary lives of qualifying students with disabilities including veterans.

**WHEREAS**, Higher Education and Disability Service Providers often function as directors, specialists, consultants, coaches, educators, counselors, community leaders, policymakers and researchers;

**WHEREAS**, Higher Education and Disability Service Providers support and often consult with parents, educators, and students to encourage a smooth transition to postsecondary educational opportunities.

**WHEREAS**, Higher Education Disability Service Providers are committed to providing appropriate confidential services, case management, and consultation for students, faculty, and other educational partners regarding the Americans with Disability Amendment Act, (ADAAA), Section 504 and other laws, policies, and procedures, affecting students with disabilities;

**WHEREAS**, Higher Education and Disability Service Providers believe that disability is diversity;

**WHEREAS**, Higher Education and Disability Service Providers are integrally involved in the retention and persistence of postsecondary students at their respective institutions;

**NOW THEREFORE**, in recognition that Tennessee's higher education systems and institutions would be less successful without the contributions of Higher Education and Disability Professionals, I, Governor Bill Haslam, proclaim the Week of April 8-14, 2012 as

## HIGHER EDUCATION AND DISABILITY WEEK

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 4th day of April, 2012.

Governor

Secretary of State