

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Smith-Fess Act of 1920, also known as the Industrial Rehabilitation Act and referred to as "The National Civilian Vocational Rehabilitation Act," into law June 2, 1920, the first federally funded program assisting people with disabilities who had not acquired their disabilities during military service; and

WHEREAS, on March 30, 1933, then-Washington state Governor Roland H. Hartley signed the VR bill, establishing Washington State's VR program under the administration of the State Board for Vocational Rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, disability is a part of the human experience that does not diminish the right of individuals to enjoy the opportunity to live independently, enjoy self-determination, make choices, contribute to society, and experience full integration and inclusion in the economic, political, social, cultural and educational mainstream of American society; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) helps thousands of Washingtonians with disabilities each year secure and maintain employment, and Washington State Department of Services for the Blind (DSB) provides hundreds of blind or visually impaired adults and youth with the skills and training necessary to gain or retain employment or achieve their career-related educational goals; and

WHEREAS, integral stakeholders like the Washington State Rehabilitation Council (WSRC), the Washington State Rehabilitation Council for the Blind (WSRCB), the Client Assistance Program (CAP), the Center for Continuing Education in Rehabilitation (CCER) at the University of Washington, and Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs), support DVR and DSB in delivering federally mandated services; and

WHEREAS, Western Washington University's (WWU) Rehabilitation Counseling graduate program ranks in the top 20 master's degree programs, providing trained counselors serving customers of DVR, DSB and VR organizations nationwide; and

WHEREAS, DVR, DSB and WWU value their core partners, including the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR), the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), and Tribal VR programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim June 2020, as

VR 100th Anniversary Month

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 28th day of May, 2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee

