



Office of the Mayor
Toby Barker

Proclamation

National Inclusive Postsecondary Education Day

WHEREAS, inclusive postsecondary education is defined as college that includes people with intellectual disabilities; and

WHEREAS, college students with and without an intellectual disability can go to college together as all students learn more academically and socially when taught together in inclusive classrooms; and

WHEREAS, students with intellectual disabilities continue to learn after high school, just like their peers and their siblings, and students with intellectual disabilities who attend inclusive postsecondary education are more likely to have competitive jobs after college; and

WHEREAS, today there are only around 6 percent of all colleges and universities that have options for students with intellectual disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the RISE To The Top! Inclusive Postsecondary Education Pilot Program located at The University of Southern Mississippi is partnering with the National Coordinating Center and Think College in designating May 1, 2023, as Inclusive Postsecondary Education Day; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi students, families and educators join with universities, colleges and communities around the country in celebrating Inclusive Postsecondary Education Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Toby Barker, Mayor of the City of Hattiesburg, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2023, as

National Inclusive Postsecondary Education Day

in the City of Hattiesburg and ask the citizens of Hattiesburg to work together to promote respect and inclusion of individuals with intellectual disabilities and to celebrate their accomplishments and contributions to our community.



Mayor Toby Barker