

**NEWS from the N.D. Department of Human Services  
600 E Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505-0250**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 23, 2008**

Contacts: Harley D. Engelman, Rehabilitation Consulting and Services (RCS) Marketing and Business Relations Director, 701-328-8957, or LouAnn Nider, RCS Training Administrator, 701-328-8916

## **Employers to be honored for supporting North Dakotans with disabilities**

### Governor Hoeven to present *Employer of the Year Awards*

BISMARCK, N.D. – The Rehabilitation Consulting and Services initiative of the North Dakota Department of Human Services is recognizing eight North Dakota employers for their exemplary support of people with disabilities. Governor John Hoeven will present one statewide and eight regional *Employer of the Year* awards on October 28, 2008, at 2 p.m., at the Grand International Inn of Minot.

“Because of the positive business practices exemplified by these and other employers, North Dakota leads the nation in the employment rate of individuals with disabilities,” Hoeven said. “To meet our workforce needs, we must continue to develop and utilize the unique talents and abilities of all North Dakotans, and I am pleased to help honor employers who have demonstrated, through their actions, a commitment to hiring and employing individuals with disabilities.”

According to Nancy McKenzie, Director of the department’s Vocational Rehabilitation Division, the awards recognize selected employers and business owners for their continued work with vocational rehabilitation services and for their efforts within their communities to support, develop, and inspire individuals with disabilities to achieve their full potential.

The award presentation is being held in conjunction with a three-day training conference focusing on transition planning of high school students with disabilities. The human services department and the Department of Public Instruction’s Office of Special Education are co-sponsoring it.

North Dakota Vocational Rehabilitation is a division of the North Department of Human Services. Its primary mission is to assist individuals with disabilities to maximize their employment opportunities. The Rehabilitation Consulting and Services initiative helps North Dakota business owners and employers find solutions to disability-related issues.

For information about the conference or awards, contact 701-328-8957.

# # #