

**NEWS from the N.D. Department of Human Services
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Lt. Gov. to present Employer of the Year Awards on Oct. 27
Awards recognize employers' support for people with disabilities

BISMARCK, N.D. – Lt. Gov. Jack Dalrymple and the North Dakota Department of Human Services will present the *2009 Employer of the Year Award* to one statewide and seven regional award recipients at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27, 2009, at the Seven Seas Inn and Conference Center in Mandan, N.D.

The awards recognize North Dakota business owners and employers for exceptional work in supporting North Dakotans with disabilities. The ceremony is part of the 2009 North Dakota Vocational Rehabilitation Annual Awards Banquet and training conference.

“We will honor seven employers who have demonstrated, through their actions, a commitment to hiring individuals based on their abilities,” said Nancy McKenzie, Director of Vocational Rehabilitation for the human services agency.

She said that North Dakota ranks first in the nation for the employment rate of individuals with disabilities because of this positive business practice.

Recipients of the *Employer of the Year Award* are selected based on their continued work with North Dakota Vocational Rehabilitation and their efforts within their communities to support, develop, and inspire individuals with disabilities to achieve their full potential.

North Dakota Vocational Rehabilitation is a division of the North Department of Human Services. Its mission is to assist individuals with disabilities to maximize their employment opportunities and to assist businesses owners and employers in finding solutions to disability-related issues.

Information about Vocational Rehabilitation services is on the Web at www.nd.gov/dhs/rcs/index.html and is also available by calling 701-328-8950, toll free 800-755-2745, or TTY 701-328-8968.

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