

**NEWS from the N.D. Department of Human Services**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 27, 2009**

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**Cooperstown and Mandan Businesses Share Employer Award**  
*Other regional winners also honored for their disability-related efforts*

BISMARCK, N.D. – Lt. Gov. Jack Dalrymple and the North Dakota Department of Human Services announced today that **Sheyenne Tooling and Manufacturing** of Cooperstown, N.D., and the **Pizza Ranch** of Mandan, N.D., have been named co-recipients of the 2009 *North Dakota Employer of the Year* award.

The two companies were recognized for business practices and community involvement that support the employment of people with disabilities. The department's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the North Dakota State Rehabilitation Council selected them from among seven regional employer award recipients.

Other regional employer award winners include: Easter Seals Goodwill ND, Inc., of **Fargo**, N.D.; Kohl's Department Store of **Grand Forks**, N.D.; Sleep Inn and Suites of **Minot**, N.D.; Dickinson State University, **Dickinson**, N.D.; and McDonald's Restaurant of **Williston**, N.D.

Officials presented the awards to company representatives during the 2009 North Dakota Vocational Rehabilitation annual awards banquet and training conference, held today at the Best Western Seven Seas Inn of Mandan, N.D.

"It is a pleasure to honor these companies. Their progressive attitudes and business practices have helped individuals with disabilities put their abilities to work," said Nancy McKenzie, director of the department's Vocational Rehabilitation Division, which sponsored the awards.

McKenzie said the seven companies recognized serve as models for other North Dakota businesses. Due to their efforts and the efforts of other employers in the state, she said, North Dakota leads the nation in the percentage of individuals with disabilities who are employed.

North Dakota Vocational Rehabilitation is a division of the North Dakota Department of Human Services. Staff members work to assist individuals with disabilities to maximize their employment opportunities and to help North Dakota business owners and employers find solutions to disability-related issues.

For information about the awards and services available to help employers and employees, contact the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation at 701-328-8950 or Relay ND 800-366-6889. Contact information for the eight regional offices is on the Web at <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/rcs/about/regional-contact.html>.

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