

# **NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services 600 East Boulevard Avenue – Department 325, Bismarck ND 58505-0250**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Dickinson Vocational Rehabilitation Office to Hold Open House**

BISMARCK, N.D. – The N.D. Department of Human Services' Vocational Rehabilitation regional office in Dickinson will hold an open house on Thurs., Sept. 5, 2013, from 7 to 9 a.m. (Mountain Time) and from 2 to 3:30 p.m., at their new location in the North Plaza Mall, 1674 15<sup>th</sup> St. W., Unit E. The event is an opportunity for area employers, agencies, potential clients, and other community members to learn about the employment and work-readiness services and supports offered by Vocational Rehabilitation.

“North Dakota is a leader in the employment of people with disabilities because of the strong support they receive from the community and our program,” said Kari Shea, regional administrator for the Dickinson Vocational Rehabilitation Office. “Counselors will be on hand during our open house to discuss how we can all work together to assist both people with disabilities and businesses meet their employment needs.”

The Vocational Rehabilitation program serves qualifying individuals with permanent injuries, illness, or impairments by helping them find and keep a job that is compatible with their skills and abilities. Individuals are provided with one-on-one training, counseling, vocational guidance, and other supports that can help them meet their employment goals. The program also works with students who have disabilities that are transitioning from school to work and independent living.

Business owners and employers can also seek assistance from Vocational Rehabilitation through its business consultation services. Staff work to help businesses hire and retain employees based on their abilities and interests, answer any work-related questions regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act, recommend assistive technology and other accommodations to improve work place accessibility for individuals with a disabilities, as well as other supports.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Office in Dickinson served 287 clients from southwestern North Dakota during the last federal fiscal year. The office currently employs four people including an administrator/counselor, a full-time counselor, a vision specialist, and an office manager and support staff person.

For more information on services available to help employers and employees address disability-related issues, contact the N.D. Department of Human Services' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in Dickinson at 701-227-7600, toll free 888-227-7525, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888 or visit [www.nd.gov/dhs/dvr/](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/dvr/).

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