

NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck ND 58505

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For more information, contact: LuWanna Lawrence, 701-328-1892 or Heather Steffl, 701-328-4933

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to Host Training Conference Oct. 22-24 in Fargo

BISMARCK, N.D. - The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, which provides employment services to people with disabilities and businesses, will host a training conference Oct. 22-24, 2014, at the Holiday Inn, 3803 13th Ave. S., in Fargo.

The conference will provide learning opportunities for professionals who work with vocational rehabilitation clients in the areas of motivational interviewing, generational interactions in the workplace, technology devices for people with vision loss, home and vehicle accessibility, understanding memory loss, workplace safety, and more.

Federal Rehabilitation Services Administration Commissioner Janet LaBreck will speak on Thurs., Oct. 23, from 8:15 to 9:45 a.m. in the Crowne Hall conference room on emerging practices that can assist vocational rehabilitation agencies to enhance employment outcomes for people with disabilities. LaBreck has spent decades advocating for individuals with vision impairments, like herself, or other disabilities.

World-class guitarist, Emmy award-winning composer, and Twin-Cities native, Billy McLaughlin, will deliver the closing keynote presentation on Fri., Oct. 24, from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., in the Royal and Embassy conference rooms. He will share through music and storytelling how he overcame muscular contractions that hampered his ability to perform until he embarked on a journey to regain his musical career by teaching himself to play his guitar left-handed.

Another highlight of the conference includes an awards luncheon on Oct. 22 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. where eight North Dakota businesses will be honored for their support of employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

"This training and recognition conference is an enriching opportunity for professional growth and will contribute toward the division's mission to assist individuals with disabilities to obtain and maintain employment," said Russ Cusack, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation director. "We are honored to have a national leader, Commissioner LaBreck, in attendance. She shares the same mission of helping people with disabilities achieve success in the workplace."

For information about Vocational Rehabilitation services, visit www.nd.gov/dhs/dvr/index.html or call 701-328-8950, toll free 800-755-2745, or TTY 701-328-8968.

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