

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 325, Bismarck ND 58505**

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Media contacts: Heather Steffl at 701-328-4933 or LuWanna Lawrence at 701-328-1892

Vocational rehabilitation employees recognized for helping North Dakotans with disabilities reach their employment goals

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) presented performance and recognition awards to eight individual employees and other team members at its training conference on Oct. 26, 2017.

Department vocational rehabilitation professionals helped 613 North Dakotans with disabilities obtain competitive, integrated employment in their community last federal fiscal year.

The division presented **Bobbie Bosworth** of the **Minot** office with the *Director's Award for Excellence*. Peers nominated Bosworth for demonstrating dedication, productivity and dependability while managing office operations and providing excellent customer service.

Allyson Berner of the **Minot** office and **Jennifer Moldenhauer** of the **Jamestown** office received the *Award for Counselor Achievement*, which recognizes the top 10 percent of counselors who helped the most people become employed.

Minot region employee **Kyle Peterson** and **Fargo** region employee **Rebecca Martin** received the *Award for Counselor Achievement – Honorable Mention* for having the second highest number of clients to achieve employment.

DVR presented **Tanya Ide** and her colleagues in the **Minot** DVR office with the *Exemplary Service Award* for providing outstanding case service to clients through creative thinking, direct work with multiple agencies and consistent client follow-up.

The division named **Williston** office employee **Stephen Vassell** *Rookie of the Year*. This award honors a DVR employee who has less than two years of service, exceeds performance goals and displays a high level of community service and involvement.

The division also presented one *Career Achievement Award*, which is based on the number of people with disabilities placed into employment over the course of a vocational rehabilitation counselor's career. **Jerry Severson** of the **Grand Forks** office received the *Career Achieved – 200 Club Award*.

VR Team Participation Awards were presented to both the **Minot and Williston DVR offices** for their involvement in community activities on behalf of the division.

Division staff members provide assessments and counseling to help individuals identify strengths and goals, connect individuals to training, education, assistive technology and supportive services, and provide job placement assistance.

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To receive DVR services, individuals must have a disability that is a barrier to employment, and they must want to work and be available to work. Many of the individuals served have a physical or cognitive disability.

DVR also connects businesses to qualified prospective employees who can meet their workforce needs and provides assistance so businesses can retain employees affected by disabilities and find solutions to other disability-related issues.

Information about services is available online at www.nd.gov/dhs/dvr/index.html or by contacting the division at 1237 W. Divide Ave., Suite 1B, Bismarck, N.D., 58501, 701-328-8950, toll-free 800-755-2745, ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888 or dhsvr@nd.gov.

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