

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

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ND Department of Human Services' Vocational Rehabilitation Program Honors Employees

BISMARCK, ND – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation recently honored several employees for their outstanding work in assisting North Dakotans with disabilities to obtain employment. The awards were presented at the division's annual training conference.

- **Barbara Burghart**, Bismarck; **Nan Bakkelund**, Fargo; **Debra Carlson**, Jamestown; and **Kristi Schindler**, Minot, were recipients of the *Director's Award for Counselor Achievement*. This award highlights the top 10 percent of counselors with the highest number of individuals placed into employment.
- **Candace Hanson**, Bismarck; **Brenda Satrom**, Grand Forks; and **Kim Fugere** and **Tanya Ide**, Minot, were honored with the *Director's Award for Counselor Achievement – Honorable Mention*. This award highlights the next 10 percent of counselors with the second highest number of individuals placed into employment.
- **Martha Erickson**, Dickinson; **Steve Kadrie**, Fargo; and **Kim Fugere** and **Kristi Schindler** of Minot, received the *Career Achievement Award - 100 Club award*. This award is based on the number of individuals placed into employment over the course of a counselor's career.
- **Becki Hoff** and her colleagues **Martha Erickson**, **Monica Kubischta**, **Sheila Murphy**, **Tammy Sattler**, **Kari Shea**, and **Elaine Wanner** from the **Dickinson** Vocational Rehabilitation office were recipients of the *Exemplary Service award*. This award recognizes outstanding case service to VR clients by showing creative thinking, direct work with multiple agencies, and consistent client follow-up.
- **Sarah Monk** of Grand Forks was honored as the *Rookie of the Year*. This award honors a VR employee with less than two years of service who exceeds performance goals and displays a high level of community service and involvement.
- The five-member staff at the **Williston** VR office including **Roni Gravgaard**, **Andrea Meyer**, **Roxanne Raymond**, **Frank Strom**, and **Jackie Teskey** were honored with the *VR Team Participation Award*. This award spotlights excellence in representing their organization at community events and participating in fundraisers and awareness programs.
- **Carol Schmitt** of Minot was honored with the *Director's Award for Excellence*. Schmitt was nominated for this prestigious award by her peers for demonstrating dedication, productivity, and dependability to the VR program.

The North Dakota Vocational Rehabilitation program's mission is to assist individuals with disabilities to maximize their employment opportunities and to assist business owners and employers in finding solutions to disability-related issues.

Information on vocational rehabilitation services is online at www.nd.gov/dhs/dvr/index.html and is also available by calling 701-328-8950, toll-free 800-755-2745, or ND Relay TTY 701-328-8968.

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