

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Secondary Special Education Teachers Selected for Internship Project
*Will learn about services that can benefit students with disabilities***

BISMARCK, N.D. – The N.D. Department of Human Services' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) has selected six secondary special education teachers and a youth transition specialist to participate in its 2014 Teacher Internship Project, which provides training on the supports and services available through the state's vocational rehabilitation program for students with disabilities.

Teachers selected include: Colleen Dalman, Griggs-Steel-Trail Multidistrict Special Education Unit and Midkota High School, Glenfield N.D.; Melanie Hanson, Grand Forks Central High School; Jamie Hardt, Independence, Inc., Minot, N.D.; Rachele Krebsbach, Divide County School District; Dawn Krein, New Salem-Almont Schools; Kerrie Oster, Magic City Campus, Minot, N.D., and Mavis Strand, Memorial School and Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Bismarck, N.D.

"This opportunity gives teachers a better understanding of how they can help students with disabilities be more successful as they pursue employment or post-secondary training," said division director Russ Cusack.

The three-week internship begins June 11, 2014, and includes a three-day orientation in Bismarck, N.D., focusing on disability-related legislation and regulations, the vocational rehabilitation process, relationship building, transitions and referrals. Throughout the internship, participating teachers will job shadow a vocational rehabilitation counselor to learn about client intakes, assessments, guidance and counseling, and employment plans. They will also visit with local community partners to identify resources available to their students. Their final project includes the development of a resource portfolio to share with colleagues in their school, school district, or special education unit.

Cusack said participants can earn three graduate credits through Minot State University for completing the internship experience.

The DVR Teacher Internship Project is a joint effort between the N.D. Department of Human Services, the N.D. Department of Public Instruction, and Minot State University.

For information about DVR services and supports, go online to <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/dvr>, or call 701-328-8950, or ND Relay TTY 1-800-366-6888.

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