

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

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## **Rehabilitation counselors recognized for connecting people to jobs**

BISMARCK, N.D. - The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation counselors take work seriously.

During the 2014 Federal Fiscal Year, state vocational rehabilitation counselors provided individualized counseling and guidance to connect 3,259 people with disabilities to training, education, and other employment-related services. They also helped 394 people become employed.

Division Director Russ Cusack said counselors are motivated by helping others achieve their goals, and they deserve the recognition traditionally bestowed by Congress designating March 22 as National Rehabilitation Counselor Appreciation Day.

"The division is very proud of our highly trained staff," Cusack said. "They help people with disabilities assess their skills and talents, identify employment goals, develop a plan to achieve them, and access services leading to meaningful employment."

The division also assists employers to retain workers experiencing vision loss, hearing loss, or other disabling conditions, and invests heavily in services for young adults with disabilities as they transition from high school to work.

Cusack said the Vocational Rehabilitation Division is pleased to support North Dakota's workforce development effort. He credited division staff, the strong work ethic of people receiving VR services, supportive employers and partner agencies, and North Dakota's strong economic conditions and low unemployment rate with the program's success.

In addition to employment-related services, the division also funds centers for independent living, as well as the Older Blind Program for people age 55 and older.

For information about the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and local office locations, go online to [www.nd.gov/dhs/dvr/index.html](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/dvr/index.html) or contact the division at 701-328-8950, toll-free 800-755-2745, or ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888, or [dhsvr@nd.gov](mailto:dhsvr@nd.gov).

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