

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Bismarck N.D. 58505**

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Dept. of Human Services' Vocational Rehabilitation Division Honors Employees

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Human Services' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) recently recognized employees from its Fargo, Dickinson, Jamestown, Minot and Williston offices for their work assisting North Dakotans with disabilities to obtain employment.

Allyson Berner and **Kyle Peterson** of the division's Minot regional office received the *Director's Award for Counselor Achievement*. This award recognizes the top 10 percent of vocational rehabilitation counselors who have the highest number of clients placed into employment.

Becki Hoff of the Dickinson DVR office and **Derek Kimmes** and **Jennifer Moldenhauer** of the Jamestown DVR office received the *Director's Award for Counselor Achievement – Honorable Mention*. The division presents this award to counselors who have the second highest number of individuals placed into employment.

Kendra Faa and the **Minot DVR Office** received the *Exemplary Service Award* for providing outstanding case service to clients through creative ideas, direct work with multiple agencies, and consistent client follow-up.

Jennifer Larson of the Fargo DVR office was named *Rookie of the Year*. This award honors a DVR employee with less than two years of service who exceeds performance goals and displays a high level of community service and involvement.

Andrea Meyer of the Williston DVR office was awarded with the *Director's Award for Excellence*. Colleagues nominated Meyer for this prestigious award for demonstrating dedication, productivity, and dependability to individuals to enhance their independent living and employment skills.

The division presented the *VR Team Participation Award* to the **Minot DVR Office** in recognition of their involvement in activities on behalf of Vocational Rehabilitation.

The *Career Achievement Awards* are based on the number of people with disabilities placed into employment over the course of a vocational rehabilitation counselor's career. The awards start at the *100 Club Award* level and increase in increments of 100. This year, **Marilyn Wilson** of the Fargo DVR Office received the *Career Achievement – 200 Club Award*.

Vocational rehabilitation services help people with disabilities find meaningful work and also help employers connect with a valuable, often untapped workforce, as well as retain trained workers whose abilities have changed. Rehabilitation counseling and consultation is available at no cost to qualifying individuals and businesses, non-profits, and government agencies.

For information, visit www.nd.gov/dhs/dvr/index.html or contact the division at 701-328-8950, toll-free 800-755-2745, TTY 701-328-8968 or ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888 or dhsvr@nd.gov.

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