

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

NEWS RELEASE

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NEBRASKA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION RECOGNIZES NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

Nebraska's Vocational Rehabilitation offices will hold events across the state to recognize October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month and to promote the employment and advancement of workers with disabilities.

The following events will be held this month:

- Omaha, Fremont: Dress For Success Clothing Closet, a business attire clothing drive. Donations may be dropped off by Oct. 22nd at the following Vocational Rehabilitation offices:
 - ✓ 12011 Q St., Omaha
 - ✓ 1313 Farnam, 3rd floor, Omaha
 - ✓ 2951 N. Clarkson St., Fremont

All clothing will be donated to the Heartland Family Services and the YWCA. For more information contact Melanee Petersen, Omaha west office, at 402.595.1212 or toll free 877.240.4445.

- Kearney Vocational Rehabilitation office, 315 W 60th Street, Suite 400, Kearney. An open house/informational event on Oct. 27, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Assistive Technology Partnership will demonstrate devices to help employees maintain a job. Contact Judy Vohland at 308.865.5343 or toll free 800.262.3382.
- Fremont Vocational Rehabilitation office, 2951 N. Clarkson St. Fremont. An open house on Oct. 8, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Contact Melanee Petersen, in the Fremont office, at 402.727.2900 or toll free 888.585.5439.
- Lincoln Vocational Rehabilitation office is participating in a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service program, Oct. 20, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at 1301 West Highland Blvd. in Lincoln. The Assistive Technology Partnership and Vocational Rehabilitation will display accommodation services and/or equipment provided persons with disabilities to ensure successful job placement. Contact Debra Jenkins at 402.471.3231 or toll free 800.472.3382.
- Grand Island Vocational Rehabilitation office, 3335 West Capital Ave., Grand Island. Event: Consumer Appreciation Week, Oct. 26 – 28. Activities include mini workshops on interviewing skills, resume writing, ethics game, a fashion show by the Career Closet, self-employment and others. Contact Judy Vohland at 308.385.6200 or toll free 800.862.3382.
- North Platte Vocational Rehabilitation office, 200 S. Silber, Bldg. 2, North Platte. An Open House with Walmart for Project SEARCH, Oct.29, 9 a.m. to 11a.m. Location for the open house to be determined. Contact Kim Simmons at 308.535.8100 or toll free 800.272.3382.
- Norfolk Vocational Rehabilitation office, 1212 Benjamin Ave., Norfolk, will hold an open house with Project SEARCH at Faith Regional Hospital, Nov. 2, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Location for the open house to be determined. Contact Bernie Craven at 402.370.3200 or toll free 800.442.3382.

This year's theme for National Disability Employment Awareness Month is "Talent Has No Boundaries: Workforce Diversity INCLUDES Workers With Disabilities."

Vocational Rehabilitation helps people with disabilities prepare for employment and maintain their jobs and works with businesses to help them recruit, train and retain employees with disabilities.

"As our economy slowly begins to recover, it's important that we take time this month to recognize the diversity of skill and talent that workers with disabilities bring to the workplace." said Mark Schultz, state director of Vocational Rehabilitation. "Workers with disabilities are contributing to the success of businesses at all levels and many more are well prepared to be part of the solution for businesses looking to hire."

Vocational Rehabilitation has helped individuals with disabilities prepare for employment and keep their jobs since 1921, working with individuals who have experienced physical, mental or emotional impairments that create a barrier to employment.

Career counseling, transition services for high school services, job coaching and training as well as other services are provided statewide.

Vocational Rehabilitation is an agency within the Nebraska Department of Education.

For information on Vocational Rehabilitation services and the location of offices, visit <http://www.vr.ne.gov/> or contact the state office toll free at 877.637.3422 or 402.471.3644.