

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. 14th 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 Heartland Family Services. For more information contact Melanee Petersen at 402.595.1212 or toll free 877.240.4445.

- Omaha, Fremont: Seymour Smith Park Clean-Up by Vocational Rehabilitation staff and Community Partners
When: Oct. 15
Where: Seymour Smith Park, 6802 Harrison St.
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Contact: Amelis Long, 402.595.1944
Hosted by Vocational Rehabilitation; Assistive Technology Partnership; Autism Center of Nebraska; Career Solutions Inc. and Easter Seals of Nebraska
- Kearney Vocational Rehabilitation office, 315 W. 60th St., Suite 400, Kearney. Consumer Appreciation Days, Oct. 17th-18th at their office location. Contact: Judy Vohland, 308.865.5343 or toll free 800.262.3382.
- Lincoln Vocational Rehabilitation office, 3901 N. 27th St., Suite 6, Lincoln. An open house/informational event from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Fri., Oct. 21. Contact: Debra Jenkins, 402.471.3231 or toll free 800.472.3382.
- Grand Island Vocational Rehabilitation office, 3335 West Capital Ave., Grand Island. Consumer Appreciation Week, Oct. 17th-21. Displays available in the main office and itinerant offices. Contact: Judy Vohland, 308.385.6200 or toll free 800.862.3382.
- Norfolk Vocational Rehabilitation office, 1212 Benjamin Ave., Norfolk, will hold an open house/informational event that includes tours and a hands-on display of assistive devices available through Assistive Technology Partnership, Wed., Oct. 19, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Contact: Bernie Craven, 402.370.3200 or toll free 800.442.3382.
- South Sioux City Vocational Rehabilitation Office, 901 West 21st St., Suite 1, South Sioux City, will host an open house/informational event for the public on Oct. 20, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Contact: Lisa Alexa, 402.494.2265 or toll free 877.659.7899.

- Scottsbluff Vocational Rehabilitation office will recognize FBG Service Corporation in Scottsbluff for its work with Vocational Rehabilitation consumers. FBG Service Corporation will receive the Employer Award at noon on Fri., Oct. 14, at El Charrito Restaurant, 802 21st Ave., Scottsbluff. Laurie Eichthaler and Doug Lulloff will accept the award on behalf of the company. Contact: Pat Kraemer, 308.632.1326 or toll free 800.292.3382.

Profit by Investing in Workers with Disabilities is the 2011 National Disability Employment Awareness Month theme in recognition of the contributions of workers with disabilities. National and state events are intended to inform the public that workers with disabilities represent a highly-skilled talent pool that can help employers compete in today's global economy.

Vocational Rehabilitation helps people with disabilities prepare for employment and maintain their jobs and also helps businesses 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, job coaching and training as well as other services are provided statewide for individuals with disabilities.

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.