



**WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE ARTS
DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kmart honored as Employer of the Year

Charleston, W.Va. (November 8, 2013) – Kmart, located in Charleston, W.Va., received recognition as the Charleston District Employer of the Year from the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS).

"The partnerships with businesses that are jointly developed and nurtured serve as the foundation for our ultimate success," said Division of Rehabilitation Services Director Donna Ashworth. "The employers recognized are progressive in their attitudes and they empower people with disabilities by providing them with job opportunities."

Kmart consistently demonstrates its willingness to provide employment opportunities to DRS clients. Kmart has opened its doors as a community based assessment site, which provides a short-term job "tryout" with the goal of discovering vocational strengths and weaknesses, for clients of the division. They have also been willing to accommodate employees with disabilities by providing job coaches and flexible schedules.

Distinguished Employer awards were presented to other businesses in the district:

- Charleston Area Medical Center, Charleston
- Mountain State Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons, Huntington
- Smith's Foodfair, Elkview

DRS, a division of the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts, is the state agency responsible for the federal vocational rehabilitation program in West Virginia. DRS assists people whose physical or mental condition is interfering with their ability to get or keep a job.

Employers play a critical role in the success of those participating in the vocational rehabilitation program.

DRS offers individualized service to assist employers in retaining valued employees or in hiring qualified employees. DRS can provide consultation related to disability, as well as information about

assistive technology, disability resources, potential tax credits, workplace accommodations and other benefits to employers.

The Charleston District consists of Kanawha, Boone, Clay, Calhoun, Roane, Jackson, Mason and Putnam counties.

For more information about DRS and its programs, call 1-800-642-8207 or visit the division's website at wvdrs.org. In the Charleston District, call (304) 356-2371.