



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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Local businesses to receive recognition**

**Beckley, W.Va. (May 10, 2012)** – Six area businesses will be honored by the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) with an awards ceremony on May 14, 2012, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Tamarack Conference Center in Beckley.

“Distinguished Employer” awards will be presented to recognize strong local partnerships with the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services, the state’s primary employment resource for people with disabilities who want to work.

Area businesses to be recognized are:

- The Resort at Glade Springs, Daniels
- Dr. Kelly Pitsenbarger, M.D., Beckley
- Ashley Food Pride, Union
- Wal-Mart Supercenter, MacArthur
- Wal-Mart Supercenter, Princeton
- Value Plus, Oak Hill

Judge Derek C. Swope, of West Virginia's Ninth Judicial Circuit Court, will be the keynote speaker for the awards ceremony. Swope has distinguished himself as a compassionate jurist who approaches his work with an eye toward the rehabilitation and social re-integration of non-violent offenders.

"All of the employers selected recognize the abilities and the positive contributions individuals with disabilities bring to the workplace," said Division of Rehabilitation Services Acting Director Donna Ashworth. "Many of the employers demonstrated extraordinary consideration in providing accommodations that help an individual perform the tasks associated with his or her job, while other employers consistently provide employment opportunities to DRS clients."

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 interferes 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 services to assist employers in retaining valued employees or in hiring qualified employees. DRS can provide consultation related to disability, as well as information about tax credits, assistive technology, disability resources, workplace accommodations and other benefits to employers.

The Beckley District consists of Braxton, Fayette, Greenbrier, Mercer, Monroe, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Raleigh, Summers and Webster counties.

For more information about DRS and its programs, call 1-800-642-8207 or visit the division's web site at [www.wvdrs.org](http://www.wvdrs.org). In the Beckley District, call 304-256-6900.