



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

Administrative Offices • 107 Capitol Street • Charleston, West Virginia 25301-2609  
Telephone: 304-356-2060 • Fax: 304-558-1421 • Toll-free: 1-800-642-8207  
Web page: [www.wvdrs.org](http://www.wvdrs.org)

Deborah Lovely, Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: William McDonnell, District Manager  
West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services  
(304) 842-2951 ext. 115

**Harrison County Board of Education honored as Employer of the Year**

**Clarksburg, W.Va. (September 26, 2011)** – Harrison County Board of Education, located in Clarksburg, W.Va., received recognition as the Clarksburg District Employer of the Year from the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) at an Employer Recognition Banquet at Stonewall Jackson Resort on September 22, 2011.

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

The long-term partnership with Harrison County Board of Education has supported and enhanced DRS' ability to serve people with disabilities in the Clarksburg and Harrison County area. The Harrison County school system's devotion to local youth has been proven by its commitment to providing DRS with opportunities to promote awareness of its services, providing office space for the DRS' rehabilitation counselors to meet with students and clients, and referring students who may benefit from services to DRS. The school system also promotes an inclusive workplace by hiring qualified people with disabilities for positions within the school system, as well as encouraging at-risk employees to pursue job retention services from DRS when a health condition is interfering with their ability to work.

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

- Fairmont State University, Fairmont
- Fiberglass Operations, Preston County Sheltered Workshop, Reedsville
- Big Lots, Bridgeport
- Sodexo Dining Services, Alderson Broaddus College, Philippi
- Advanced Hearing Solutions, Inc., Elkins

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 Clarksburg District consists of Monongalia, Marion, Preston, Harrison, Taylor, Barbour, Tucker, Randolph, Upshur, Lewis and Gilmer counties.

For more information about DRS and its programs, call 1-800-642-8207 or visit the division's Web site at [wvdrs.org](http://wvdrs.org). In the Clarksburg District, call (304) 842-2951.