



**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 receive recognition

Wheeling, W.Va. (May 31, 2012) – Five area businesses were recently honored by the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS).

“Distinguished Employer” awards 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 recognized were:

- Bureau of the Public Debt, Department of the Treasury, Parkersburg
- Open Hands Seed Project, The Mentor Network/REM Community Options, Paden City
- Ponderosa, Calcutta, Ohio
- McDonald's, Weirton
- Trinity Medical Center West, Steubenville, Ohio

"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 Wheeling District consists of Brooke, Doddridge, Hancock, Marshall, Ohio, Pleasants, Ritchie, Tyler, Wetzel, Wirt and Wood 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. In the Wheeling District, call 304-238-1092.