



Communications Office

News Release

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For Media Use:
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Media Alert

Local Employers to be Honored

- WHAT:** 4th Annual Disability Employment Awareness Celebration
- WHO:** Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) will be honoring outstanding local employers for their commitment to hiring people with disabilities
- WHEN:** Thursday, October 31
8:30 refreshments
9: 00 – 10:00 a.m. awards ceremony
- WHERE:** Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront
333 1st Street South, St. Petersburg, 33701
- COST:** Free
- HOW:** Honorees will share their experiences working with people with disabilities, as well as personal stories about how the decision has shaped their businesses or lives. Last year, more than 120 people participated in this annual event. Business leaders are encouraged to network with other businesses employing people with disabilities to compare notes and help strengthen the program.

Learning about the benefits of hiring people with disabilities can open new doorways to employment. Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is committed to helping people with disabilities become part of Florida's workforce. VR has 80 offices across Florida, and last year helped 6,071 Floridians with significant disabilities find or keep jobs. For more information about VR and its services, call (800) 451-4327 or visit **Rehabworks.org**.

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REMINDER FOR MEDIA--When reporting on stories about people with disabilities, remember to use language that puts the person first, rather than the disability. For example, use phrases such as "people with disabilities" (instead of "the disabled") and "person who uses a wheelchair" (rather than "wheelchair bound"); and "people with a mental illness" (rather than "the mentally ill").