



**State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services**

**Jim Doyle, Governor
Karen E. Timberlake, Secretary**

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61 Individuals Receive Governor’s Integrated Employment Award
October is Wisconsin’s Disability Employment Awareness Month

Today, 61 individuals from across the state received the Governor’s Integrated Employment Award. The award is given to professional employment specialists that have completed a six-part training program in order to better assist people with disabilities in obtaining and maintaining employment.

“People with disabilities make significant contributions to our workforce, and hiring people with disabilities is good for the individual, the business and our state,” says Department of Health Services Secretary Timberlake. “Our economy depends on a diverse workforce – which includes highly trained people with disabilities. I extend my congratulations to all of the employment specialists who have completed this training to help support persons with disabilities in gaining employment.”

“The employers in our state are known for their progressive employment practices and we applaud them for recognizing the contributions of all our citizens,” says Department of Workforce Development Secretary Roberta Gassman. “Reasons to hire people with disabilities include the following: They have equal or higher job performance ratings, higher retention rates, and lower absenteeism. Diverse work groups can create better solutions to business challenges, and companies that hire and accommodate people with disabilities in the workplace can receive tax benefits.”

For completing the six-part course, individuals received the Governor’s Integrated Employment Award, which is sponsored by the Department of Health Services, Department of Workforce Development, the Rehabilitation Services Administration and the Wisconsin Association for Persons in Supported Employment.

The Integrated Employment Training was offered in three locations around the state: (1) Gateway Technical College in Racine, (2) Nicolet College in Rhinelander, and (3) Western Wisconsin Technical College in Mauston. The Governor’s Integrated Employment awards were given in conjunction with Governor Doyle’s declaration of October as Wisconsin Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Below are the individuals that received the Governor’s Integrated Employment Award:

Racine Award Recipients <i>Trainer: Laura Owens</i>	Rhinelander Award Recipients <i>Trainer: Janet Estervig</i>	Mauston Award Recipients <i>Trainer: Dedra Hafner</i>
Tammi Cassidy-Neal	Sara Bembenek	Ashley Baker
Stephen Cunningham	Seth Boodle	Julia Barth
Angela deJong	Cathy Derezinski	Marilyn (Mari) DeJarlais
Jamie Dieter-Pias	Pat Drake	Amy Duquette
Ray Anthony Fikes	Sandy Ewan	Marlene Houser

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Nicole Gustafson-Binger	Carol Gilson	Britta Jabbar
Carrie Harmann	Lisa Gilson	Lynnette Kansier
Rosemeen Jiwani	Arlene Harris	Liz Kennedy
Katherine Johns	Donna Hejtmanek	Jackie Lenz
Lynn M. Kancian	Kathy Hoff	Katherine Massa
Jane Kircher	Lisa Larson	Julie Mecikalski
Gail Kochelek	Leah Laux	Amanda Negaard
Bill Lee	Suzanne Ledsham	Mark Roesler-Begalke
Jackie Malecha	Tammy Lesandrini	Melissa Schwarz
Angeline Markiewicz	Sheila Pisut	Kristine Tock
Sue McKeown	Ranee Roelse	Jason Wickstrom
Susan Rasinske	Nancy Schroeffer	Angie Wolfe
Meghan Schifalacqua	Christine Seidler	Marianne Zerbe
Jamie Schmitz	Donald Yahn	
Donna Searles	Va Yang	
Melain Talbot		
Courtney Teague		
Susan Thomas		

If you have a disability and would like assistance in finding employment, contact your local county, Tribal or Aging and Disability Resource Center for more information. Employers can contact the local Division of Vocational Rehabilitation office to help identify people with disabilities in your community that are looking for employment.

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