

News from the South Dakota Department of Human Services

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Disability Employment Awareness Month

Gov. Dennis Daugaard has proclaimed October Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM) in South Dakota. DEAM aims to raise awareness about disability employment issues and to celebrate the contributions of workers with disabilities. A host of South Dakota agencies and organizations will engage in activities during October to promote awareness of these issues and to help foster a disability-friendly culture in the workplace.

For more information on DEAM events within South Dakota, please [click here](#). South Dakota's statewide observation coincides with National Disability Employment Awareness Month, a national awareness campaign that takes place each October. The 2018 theme is "America's Workforce: Empowering All."

Person Centered Thinking (PCT) Tip of the Month

To truly provide a Person with PCT Practices, it is important to:

- ◆ Listen to the person(s), support their choices, desires, along with what they don't want.
- ◆ Pay attention to the person's experiences and interests.
- ◆ Offer the person choices and opportunities to try new things.
- ◆ Recognize the person's skills, encourage new experiences and activities surrounding their interests.
- ◆ Advocate on behalf of the person's interests and values.

South Dakota Developmental Center Health & Wellness Fair

Residents of Redfield and surrounding communities will have an opportunity to explore health topics and screenings during a local Health and Wellness Fair at the South Dakota Developmental Center (SDDC). The sixth annual Health and Wellness Fair will take place Oct. 18 from 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT on the developmental center campus grounds, inside the activity center gymnasium located at 17267 W. 3rd St. in Redfield.

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about health and safety, visit with representatives of organizations and learn about the services available to help maintain an enjoyable and healthy lifestyle. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please call 605-472-4210.

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DHS hopes you find the information contained within our monthly newsletter publication engaging. We encourage you to share it as a way to augment community knowledge of South Dakota's resources and partnerships. If you would like to receive this newsletter, please use the link provided and click on subscribe. <http://dhs.sd.gov/news.aspx>.

2018 Governor's Awards

On September 25th Gov. Dennis Daugaard presented the 2018 Governor's Awards to South Dakota businesses and workers who have made significant contributions to the employment of people with disabilities. The Governor's Awards ceremony is co-sponsored by the South Dakota Board of Vocational Rehabilitation, Board of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Statewide Independent Living Council and the South Dakota Department of Human Services.

Governor's Awards were presented to the following recipients:

- Catherine Greseth of Rapid City - Outstanding Citizen with a Disability
- Enma Lemus Arriaga of Watertown - Outstanding Citizen with a Disability
- Ryan Bartz of Sioux Falls - Outstanding Employee with a Disability
- Burger King of Mobridge - Outstanding Private Employer (Small Employer)
- Global Polymer of Madison - Outstanding Private Employer (Large Employer)
- Outdoor Campus West/South Dakota Game Fish and Parks of Rapid City - Outstanding Employer
- Dave Halverson of Sturgis – Outstanding Transition Services



Medicare Open Enrollment Period Begins October 15

Open enrollment for the 2019 Medicare Advantage and Medicare Part D plan year begins on Oct. 15 and ends on Dec. 7. During the open enrollment period, trained volunteers from the South Dakota Senior Health Information and Insurance Education Program (SHIINE) will offer free assistance to seniors seeking additional Medicare information. Individuals taking advantage of the one-on-one counseling should bring their Medicare card and a current list of medications. If you would like assistance, please contact one of the following regional offices to schedule an appointment:

Eastern Region: 1-800-536-8197

Central Region: 1-877-331-4834

Western Region: 1-877-286-9072

Business Specialist Column

South Dakota Department of Human Services Division of Rehabilitation Services Business Specialist Kim Ludwig helps South Dakotans with disabilities to obtain or maintain employment in the workforce and provides services to employers who want to hire people with disabilities.

If you would like to learn more about the benefits of employing people with disabilities, or have questions on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), reasonable accommodations, how to communicate effectively with people with disabilities, and/or available business tax incentives, please contact Kim at Kimberly.Ludwig@state.sd.us.