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## **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Wins Award as IT Innovator**

### ***Among 5 state, local agencies honored in U.S. by InformationWeek Magazine***

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today congratulated the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) on receiving a national award for innovation in information technologies benefiting people with disabilities.

“Using technology, DVR is reaching out to more consumers and providing greater service through videoconferencing,” Secretary Gassman said. “The innovative use of this technology represents one more way that, through Governor Doyle’s leadership, Wisconsin is leading efforts to help those with disabilities become employed and self-sufficient.”

The videoconference system includes a remote closed caption feature, eliminating the need for an interpreter on site. What DVR developed can be adapted for use by other divisions. DVR was one of only five state and local agencies in the nation to receive a 2010 Innovator award from *InformationWeek* magazine, which covers the latest IT developments and practices in business, industry and government.

The 2010 Innovator awards were recently presented at *InformationWeek’s* annual conference in California. DVR was among the 500 winners featured in the magazine the week of the conference. The article reported on DVR’s deployment of videoconferencing systems in 12 of its offices around the state and included a photo of videoconference in progress.

DVR Administrator Charlene Dwyer said the Bureau of Information Technology Services within DWD’s Administrative Services Division played a crucial role in developing and testing the system and in recommending equipment that would meet the customers’ needs.

DVR provides employment services and counseling to people with disabilities who face substantial barriers to employment. In fiscal 2010, DVR served over 38,000 people, provided training to 7,200 people and placed over 2,700 people into jobs. Included in these efforts are hundreds of Wisconsinites who have been placed in jobs through the On-the-Job Training (OJT) Hiring Initiative, a program launched under Governor Doyle’s leadership in 2009 and supported through over \$2 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding.