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CONTACT: DWD Communications, 608-266-2722

On the Web: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dwd/news.htm>

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## **Lt. Governor Kleefisch, Secretary Newson Recognize Sheboygan-Area Employers for Hiring People with Disabilities**

### ***Four Kwik Trip stores among those honored during Disabilities Employment Awareness Month***

SHEBOYGAN FALLS – With October designated as Disabilities Employment Awareness Month, Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch and Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today joined in saluting Sheboygan area businesses for hiring people with disabilities.

“Given the opportunity, people with disabilities have much to offer, and in hiring them, you have not only become partners in their success, you have also set a strong example for other employers to follow,” Lt. Governor Kleefisch said. “When this happens, everybody wins. Your new hires gain their independence and become self-sufficient through employment. You and other employers with jobs to fill are able to meet your workforce needs, serve your customers and become more successful. And we all move forward as a community and state.”

Governor Walker proclaimed the month of October as Disability Employment Awareness Month in Wisconsin, and on his behalf, Lt. Governor Kleefisch presented awards to four local Kwik Trip stores, recognizing them as “Exemplary Employers.” Several other businesses received “Outstanding Employer” awards at the Sheboygan County Annual Employer Recognition Luncheon, “Abilities for Hire.”

The DWD Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) joined two local partners in sponsoring the event: RCS Empowers, a longtime DVR service provider, and Hearthstone, an organization advocating on behalf of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

“Under Governor Walker’s leadership, we have worked with our regional partners to empower individuals and set them on a path to independence,” Secretary Newson said. “The employers honored today and their employees are the latest example of what success we can achieve in working together.”

DVR is the state’s premier program to provide employment services and counseling to people with disabilities who face substantial barriers to employment. In 2013, DVR served more than 17,000 Wisconsin residents with disabilities and placed 3,840 people in jobs. These newly employed individuals are projected to earn \$66.3 million annually, which is more than double the taxpayer investment in their services. DVR’s budget is 78.7% federal funded with a 21.3% state match required for each federal dollar allotted to Wisconsin.

For more about DVR: <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/>