

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2nd Annual Workforce Development Awards Announced

September is Workforce Services Month, and to celebrate the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) has announced the recipients its 2008 Workforce Development Awards.

Established in 2007 by the ODJFS Office of Workforce Development, the awards highlight the role of the One-Stop System in improving the economic health of Ohio's communities. Local workforce development professionals choose recipients based on their superior leadership in improving local involvement in the One-Stop system.

"The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services is proud to recognize the accomplishments of local One-Stop Systems during Workforce Services Month," said ODJFS Director Helen Jones-Kelley. "These organizations are dedicated to serving their communities, and we look forward to seeing the activities they will offer throughout the month of September."

Nominations were evaluated on the following six categories: business services, local workforce investment boards, best practices, customer service, outstanding employer and veterans' services. Among those being honored this year are the Business Outreach Team of Mahoning and Columbiana Counties, the WIA Area 17 Workforce Investment Board of Mahoning and Columbiana Counties, the Employment Source, CVS/Caremark, the Source Northwest Ohio Veterans Services Team, and the Summit County Department of Job and Family Services and the Job Center "Fun Stop"

As administrator for several federal workforce programs, ODJFS oversees a network of 32 full-service "One-Stop Centers" in 20 local workforce areas throughout Ohio. The One-Stops provide free job training and other employment services to Ohioans looking for work. They match job seekers with businesses looking to hire workers, and help laid-off workers learn new skills and find jobs.

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Editor's Note: A description of the awards and a list of the recipients is attached.

2008 Workforce Development Awards

2008 Business Services Team of the Year

Description: This award honors the local One-Stop business team that has distinguished itself through exemplary customer service during the time period of July 1, 2007-May 30, 2008.

Recipient: The Business Outreach Team of Mahoning and Columbiana Counties

Counties: Mahoning & Columbiana

2008 Local Workforce Investment Board of the Year

Description: This award honors the local Workforce Investment Board (WIB) that has distinguished itself through exemplary leadership in workforce development during the time period of July 1, 2007-May 30, 2008.

Recipient: The WIA Area 17 Workforce Investment Board of Mahoning and Columbiana Counties. (Received award in 2007.)

Counties: Mahoning and Columbiana

2008 One-Stop Customer Service Award

Description: This award honors the local One-Stop System that has distinguished itself through exemplary customer service to both employers and job seekers during the time period of July 1, 2007-May 30, 2008.

Recipient: The Employment Source

Counties: Stark and Tuscarawas

2008 One-Stop Best Practice Award

Description: This award honors will recognize the most creative and successful innovation implemented or practiced by a local One-Stop System during the time period of July 1, 2007-May 30, 2008.

Recipient: The Summit County Department of Job and Family Services and The Job Center "Fun Stop"

County: Summit

2008 Outstanding Employer of the Year Award

Description: This award honors the employer that has distinguished itself through its support of, and participation in, Ohio's One-Stop System during the time period of July 1, 2007-May 30, 2008.

Recipient: CVS/Caremark

County: Cuyahoga

2008 Veterans Services Team of the Year

Description: This award honors the local One-Stop Veterans Services Team that has distinguished itself through exemplary customer service during the time period of July 1, 2007-May 30, 2008.

Recipient: The Source Northwest Ohio Job Veterans Services Team

County: Lucas