

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Third Annual Workforce Development Awards Announced

September is Workforce Services Month, and in honor of that occasion the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) has announced the recipients of the 2009 Workforce Development Awards.

The Workforce Development Awards recognize the achievements of Ohio's One-Stop Centers in building the economic strength of the state's communities. Local workforce development professionals choose the winners 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-Stops during Workforce Services Month," said ODJFS Director Douglas Lumpkin. "These organizations are dedicated to serving their communities, and their value during the current economy is immeasurable."

Nominations were evaluated on 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 Employment Source (Stark and Tuscarawas Counties), Rise Above (Clark County), Humility of Mary Health Partners (Mahoning, Columbiana and Trumbull Counties) and The Employment netWork Services Team (Lorain County) and the Area 17 Local Workforce Investment Board (Columbiana and Mahoning Counties).

As administrator of several federal workforce programs, ODJFS oversees a network of 31 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

2009 Business Services Team of the Year

Description: This award honors the local One-Stop Business Team that distinguished itself through exemplary customer service from July 1, 2008, to May 31, 2009.

Recipient: The Employment Source Business Services Team of Stark and Tuscarawas Counties

2009 Local Workforce Investment Board of the Year

Description: This award honors the local Workforce Investment Board (WIB) that distinguished itself through exemplary leadership in workforce development from July 1, 2008, to May 31, 2009.

Recipient: The WIA Area 17 WIB of Mahoning and Columbiana Counties

Note: This is the third time the Area 17 board was selected to receive this award.

2009 One-Stop Customer Service Award

Description: This award honors the local One-Stop Center that distinguished itself through exemplary customer service to both employers and job seekers from July 1, 2008, to May 31, 2009.

Recipient: The Employment Source of Stark and Tuscarawas Counties

2009 One-Stop Best Practice Award

Description: This award recognizes the most creative and successful innovation implemented or practiced by a local One-Stop Center from July 1, 2008, to May 31, 2009.

Recipient: Rise Above - A Collaboration of the Clark County One-Stop Partners

Note: Rise Above is an innovative program that provides intensive job preparation and placement services for job seekers.

2009 Outstanding Employer of the Year

Description: This award honors the employer that distinguished itself through its support of, and participation in, Ohio's One-Stop System from July 1, 2008, to May 31, 2009.

Recipient: Humility of Mary Health Partners of Mahoning, Columbiana and Trumbull Counties

2009 Veterans Services Team of the Year

Description: This award honors the local One-Stop Veterans Services Team that distinguished itself through exemplary customer service from July 1, 2008, to May 31, 2009.

Recipient: The Employment netWork Veterans Services Team of Lorain County