

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Governor Doyle Announces Winners of the State Use Program's Partnership Awards

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle today announced winners of the State Use Program Partnership Awards, which recognize Wisconsin State Use Program participants who have made outstanding contributions to the employment of severely disabled people across the state.

“In Wisconsin, we work hard to ensure that every person has the opportunity to go as far as their hard work and talent can take them,” Governor Doyle said. “The State Use Program ensures that every individual with a severe disability in Wisconsin has the opportunity to experience the personal satisfaction and financial benefits that come from employment. The work centers, private businesses and state agencies being honored with partnership awards serve as models for the cooperative work that improves the quality of life for disabled people across the state.”

Established in 1989, the State Use Program reduces unemployment among severely disabled Wisconsin residents by encouraging state agencies to contract with non-profit, certified work centers that teach disabled people job-skills and provide them with employment opportunities. The products and services offered by the work centers are then sold to state agencies at fair market value.

In 2008 work centers in the State Use Program made over \$14 million in sales to state agencies and state contracts provided job opportunities to over 3,000 disabled workers. The State Use Board's Partnership Awards recognizes organizations for their collaborative efforts to create contracting partnerships that provide quality goods and services to the state.

Six work centers were honored with partnership awards. They include:

- Diversified Services Inc., Siren,
- Headwaters Inc., Rhinelander,
- Lincoln Industries, Merrill,
- Career Industries, Racine,
- Diverse Options Inc., Ripon and
- Lakeside Curative in Racine.

Additionally, six private businesses were honored for their contributions to this unique program:

- Jacquart Fabrics Inc.,
- Elbeco Garment Inc.,
- Wienbrenner Shoes Company,
- Heritage Bags Inc.,
- Clark Products Inc. and
- JCB Flavors LLC.

The state Departments of Corrections and Transportation and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee were also acknowledged for their willingness to contract with work centers and businesses in the State Use Program.

The State Use Program Partnership awards are administered by the eight members of the Wisconsin State Use Board, who are appointed by Governor Doyle.

To learn more about the State Use Program, visit the program website at:
stateuseprogram.wi.gov