



News Release

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SRC HONORS FOUR WITH LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION AWARD

(RICHMOND, Va.) — Toney Lineberry, chair of the State Rehabilitation Council, and Commissioner Jim Rothrock of the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services have announced the council's Roy J. Ward Employee Leadership Recognition Awards for outstanding service and contribution to the field of vocational rehabilitation and the disability community.

The annual awards are named in memory of Roy J. Ward, a longtime leader in the disability community and former member of the [SRC](#), which works on behalf of people with disabilities by serving as a source of advice, information and support for DARS' vocational rehabilitation and supported employment programs.

The award honors DARS vocational rehabilitation employees who distinguish themselves by the quality of service they provide their clients as well as their contributions to advance the employment and independence of people with disabilities. Recipients provide leadership to local, state or national organizations and bring expertise to community or agency-based initiatives that enhance vocational rehabilitation services and develop future leaders in the field.

"These leadership awards give the members of the council an opportunity to recognize some of the most exceptional of the many wonderful vocational rehabilitation employees across the Commonwealth," Lineberry said. "Presenting these annual awards is one of the highlights for the State Rehabilitation Council members during their terms."

"We are pleased that the SRC once again has recognized some of our outstanding employees, not only for their work in vocational rehabilitation but for their community efforts on behalf of individuals with disabilities," said DARS Commissioner Jim Rothrock.

The 2013 SRC Roy J. Ward Employee Leadership Recognition Award winners are:

Susan Gaillard, based in DARS's central office in Richmond, has served as the training manager for DARS staff. She was instrumental in developing the Skills for Leadership Training

program and served as a coach and mentor to support the agency's emerging leaders. She has served as adjunct faculty with Virginia Commonwealth University's Rehabilitation Counseling program. She is an active participant in the National Council of Rehabilitation Educators, is a board member of the [Virginia Rehabilitation Association](#), and has led the Education and Training Committee of that association. She was co-chair of the planning committee for the 2013 [Virginia Transition Forum](#), which took place in Richmond earlier this spring.

Russ Neyman, deputy director of the [Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center](#) in Fishersville, has provided leadership with improved technology and programming to ensure client safety with mass notification, school resource officer training, and enhanced safety preparedness drills. Neyman worked to coordinate WWRC's emergency management response to the June 2012 Mid-Atlantic Derecho. His work in the area of helping to improve public transit for individuals with disabilities led to the extension of the local 250 Connector bus route to WWRC and ensuring that this service was incorporated into the training curriculum of WWRC students. He is also a volunteer member of the Coordinated Area Transportation Services Board and the [Virginia Regional Transit](#) board.

Barbie Ostrander, medical director at WWRC, initiated a pilot program to help the Commonwealth's regional medical centers ensure that those clients with complex medical needs were provided services to help them become familiar with, and potentially enrolled in, DRS and WWRC services. In addition to her duties, she is a board member of the [Assistive Technology Loan Fund Authority](#), where she has been instrumental in managing key aspects of the fund as well as strategic planning and the recent board development activities. She also is involved with the [National Consortium of State Operated Comprehensive Rehabilitation Centers](#) and consults on issues nationally, especially as they relate to medical services. Most recently, she was acknowledged by the Arkansas Career Training Institute for her consultation on the restricting of their medical division.

Kim Shepard has held a number of positions at the agency over the past two decades, including supported employment counselor for the physically disabled, vocational rehabilitation counselor, lead counselor and her current role as manager of the Hampton and Newport News offices. Her offices lead the Hampton Roads region in the number of DARS consumers who are successfully employed. She has distinguished herself as a regional and statewide leader by serving on the AWARE workgroup, the Supported Employment Matrix Review, training numerous interns, and becoming the vocational evaluation "Chieffer" in the region. She has served on the board of the [Virginia Rehabilitation Association](#) and is president-elect of that organization. She also has served as the treasurer for the [Association for Persons in Supported Employment](#).

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The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, in collaboration with community partners, provides and advocates for resources and services to improve the employment, quality of life, security, and independence of older Virginians, Virginians with disabilities, and their families. For more information, visit www.vadars.org.