



News Release

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DRS ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER HONORED BY VCCS

(RICHMOND, Va.)— Joseph M. Ashley, RhD, Assistant Commissioner for Grants and Special Programs at the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services, has been honored by Virginia's Community Colleges for his contributions to the workforce system.

At the 2010 Hire Education Conference in December, Ashley was presented with the Expanding Opportunities Award in recognition of his commitment to sharing resources that build and enhance the Virginia Workforce System.

For more than a year, Ashley worked with the VCCS staff to obtain grant resources that ensure that Disability Program Navigators (now Disability Resource Coordinators) are available to local Workforce Investment Boards to support universal access to Virginia's workforce centers. Ashley provided new resources to local One-Stops including assistive technology-equipped workstations, universally designed business demonstration work stations, video teleconferencing equipment and Universal Design and Business Development consultants to One-Stops and business partners. The partnership with VCCS builds upon work by a consortium of regional Workforce Investment Boards under two previous Workforce Incentive Grants funded by the Department of Labor.

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The Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services provides and advocates for the highest quality of services to help persons with disabilities maximize their employment, independence, and full inclusion into society. Through its five regional offices, 35 field offices, and various partnerships within the private and public sector, DRS assists more than 30,000 consumers annually with services including vocational counseling, career exploration, training, assistive technology and other specialized programs that cater to individual needs. For more information, visit www.vadrs.org.