

For Immediate Release: Thursday, Nov. 10, 2011
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Workforce Development Council Honors Outstanding Employer

PIERRE, S.D. – Every Citizen Counts Organization, Inc. (ECCO) of Madison received the 2011 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Outstanding Employer award. Vicki Kommes accepted the award on Thursday from South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR) local office manager Jim Baltzer.

WIA is an employment and training program administered by DLR. It is designed to provide services that will increase skills for adults and youth, which will result in employment, increase earnings, and overcome barriers to employment. Employment counseling and job coaching are also offered through DLR local offices.

ECCO is a private, non-profit community based facility that provides vital services to people with disabilities. The Madison DLR staff have placed a number of participants at ECCO with Kommes' assistance. These participants have all successfully completed on-the-job training at ECCO, and most continue to work there.

“As an award winner, ECCO should be extremely proud of their accomplishments in providing opportunities for individuals,” said State Labor and Regulation Secretary Pam Roberts.

All award winners were nominated and recognized by their DLR local office, based on evidence of excellence and accomplishments.

DLR and the Workforce Development Council together address today's workforce issues by planning and evaluating job training and education programs in South Dakota. They also assist in the implementation of WIA programs by selecting service providers and evaluating progress toward program goals.

Members of the Workforce Development Council represent various business, labor and education interests. The State Departments of Labor and Regulation, Human Services and Education; Governor's Office of Economic Development; and Board of Regents also are represented on the council. For more information, visit www.sdjobs.org.