



**WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE ARTS
DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES**

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2014 Diversifying Perspectives Art Exhibition opening announced

Charleston, W.Va. (Sept. 12, 2014) – The 2014 Diversifying Perspectives Art Contest and Exhibition will open with a reception at 2 p.m., on Tuesday, Sept. 16, in the Balcony Gallery of the Culture Center.

The exhibit features original artwork created by people with disabilities.

The show will remain on display through the month of October in honor of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. This year's theme is "Expect. Employ. Empower."

Winners of the art contest will be announced during a program beginning at 2 p.m. The event is open to the public.

The artwork selected as the Grand Exhibitor, the contest's top prize, has been incorporated into a poster promoting National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The poster is free and available from the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services.

The Diversifying Perspectives Art Contest and Exhibition is an opportunity to showcase the creative and diverse abilities of people with disabilities and to promote National Disability Employment Awareness Month in October. The contest was open to West Virginia residents with disabilities who were at least 18 years old. Forty-seven entries were received.

This contest and exhibition is presented by the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) in partnership with the West Virginia Office of the Secretary of Education and the Arts and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History.

DRS and the Division of Culture and History are both agencies within the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts.

DRS is the state agency responsible for the federal vocational rehabilitation program in West

Virginia. Each year, DRS helps thousands of West Virginia residents with disabilities meet their employment goals by providing individualized work-related counseling, training, job placement and other vocational rehabilitation services through its 31 field offices across the state.

Culture and History brings together the past, present and future through programs and services focusing on archives and history, arts, historic preservation and museums.

For more information on the Diversifying Perspectives Art Contest and Exhibition visit www.wvdrs.org or call 1-800-642-8207.