



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DRS recognizes RPR Industries, Inc.

Charleston, W.Va. (September 29, 2010) – The West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) recognized RPR Industries, Inc. of Grantsville as its Employer of the Year for its Charleston District at an Employer Recognition Banquet at Stonewall Jackson Resort on September 23, 2010.

“This banquet is a way for us to show our appreciation to the businesses nominated and selected by our vocational rehabilitation professionals for their consideration and contributions to the employment of our clients,” said Division of Rehabilitation Services Director Deborah Lovely. These employers are giving someone a chance to prove their employment capabilities. They are empowering individuals with disabilities by providing them with job opportunities.”

RPR Industries, Inc. is a rubber product manufacturing company in Grantsville, W.Va. This small company is located in an area where employment opportunities are limited and the unemployment rate is very high.

RPR Industries was nominated and selected for going above and beyond in working with DRS to provide an on-the-job training program to allow a client to learn the job of packaging clerk. The company willingly accommodated the client's needs related to his disability. The client's motivation and strong desire to be a productive employee has become an inspiration to others in the company.

DRS, a division of the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts, is the state agency responsible for the federal vocational rehabilitation program in West Virginia. DRS assists people whose physical or mental condition is interfering with their ability to get or keep a job. Employers play a critical role in the success of those participating in the vocational rehabilitation program.

DRS offers individualized service to assist employers in retaining valued employees or in hiring qualified employees. DRS can provide consultation related to disability, as well as information about assistive technology, disability resources, potential tax credits, workplace accommodations and other benefits to employers.

Other West Virginia businesses recognized by DRS at the banquet include Fleet Service Company, Inc., Wheeling; Sweet Springs Valley Water Company, Gap Mills; The Op Shop, Fairmont; WorkForce West Virginia, Huntington; and Food Lion Store #2568, Martinsburg.

The Charleston District consists of Kanawha, Boone, Clay, Calhoun, Roane, Jackson, Mason and Putnam counties.

For more information about DRS and its programs, call 1-800-642-8207 (V/TDD) or visit the division's Web site at www.wvdrs.org/. In the Charleston District, call (304) 766-2634.