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Contacts: Brad Scott, GSA Regional Administrator (Kansas City, Mo.): 816-926-7201
Charlie Cook, GSA Public Affairs Officer (Kansas City, Mo.): 816-823-1043

GSA's Dan Perkins Named "Employee of the Year" by CAREERS & the disABLED Magazine

KANSAS CITY, MO. – The U.S. General Services Administration's Dan Perkins has been selected as the "Employee of the Year" by the *CAREERS & the disABLED* magazine. Perkins will accept the award today during a special awards banquet in Boston.

Perkins, who has lost his eye sight due to Sarcoidosis, was recognized for his professionalism and advocacy efforts on behalf of the people with disabilities in the workplace.

"You will not find and better emissary for workers with disabilities, or more deserving recipient for this award, than Dan Perkins," said Brad Scott, GSA Regional Administrator. "He is not only a very able associate who has brought honor and distinction to GSA his good works, he is a daily inspiration for his perseverance, courage, great humor and kindness."

Perkins was diagnosed with Sarcoidosis in 1981 when he first began losing his vision. He has worked in GSA's Kansas City office since he was hired a finance specialist in 1990.

As an associate with GSA, Perkins frequently advocates the merits of electronic accessibility compliance, and has assisted in the testing and development of a software package that makes federal forms accessible for individuals who need to use a screen reader.

"He is an institution in our office and a constant reminder of what can be accomplished through the power of attitude. He faces more challenges in a single day than most of us do in a lifetime, but what is most notable is that he faces those challenges with an attitude and ease that, unintentionally and gloriously, casts shame on those of us who grouse about our most trivial obstacles," said Scott.

Perkins was also recently recognized locally for his outstanding contributions as Chairman of the Kansas City Federal Executive Board's Disabled Federal Employees Council for 2007.

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CAREERS & the disABLED Magazine, established in 1986, is the nation's first and only career-guidance and recruitment magazine for people with disabilities who are at undergraduate, graduate or professional levels. Each issue features a special Braille section. CAREERS & the disABLED has won many awards, including several media "Award of Excellence" acknowledgments from the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities.

The U.S. General Services Administration was created by Congress to improve efficiency and leverage the buying power of the federal government in order to acquire best value for the American taxpayers. GSA's Heartland Region delivers superior workplaces, quality acquisition services and expert business solutions for federal workers located in approximately 400 government-owned and leased buildings in communities throughout Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska. www.gsa.gov