



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY BASED CARE SERVICES

*BUREAU OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES*

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July 28, 2009

**REQUEST FOR EMPLOYER NOMINATIONS**

As October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, the Granite State Employment Project is hosting an Employer Recognition Breakfast on October 6, 2009. This year's event is recognizing employers who are demonstrating leadership in their commitment to employing workers with disabilities. We would like to highlight employers who not only recognize the skills and contributions that people with disabilities bring to their workforce, but who also adopted inclusive policies and hiring practices that allow people with disabilities to fairly compete for employment.

With the unemployment rate for people with disabilities remaining very high (14.3% versus 9.5% for people without disabilities), we must honestly acknowledge that there are multiple barriers that make obtaining employment for people with disabilities difficult. Whether we are in good economic times or bad, these statistics remain relatively unchanged. The above statistics do not include the number of people with disabilities who would like to be employed who are not captured in the unemployment figures. It is estimated that only 46% of the total number of people with disabilities are employed. With that in mind, we are especially interested in employers who are making a commitment to one or all of the following:

- 1) Creating opportunities that assist people with disabilities to develop the skills they need to obtain competitive employment.
- 2) Adopting inclusive hiring practices that allow people with disabilities to fairly compete for employment.
- 3) Engaging community partners to become a more diverse workplace.

Attached you will find an Employer Nomination Form and tentative agenda. Please consider nominating an employer from your region who has demonstrated a commitment to hiring people with disabilities. In addition to being selected to receive prestigious recognition from Governor Lynch, each employer selected will have the opportunity for publicity from local and statewide press. Employers not selected for this elite distinction will receive honorable recognition in regional and statewide publications.

Please assist us in creating a more disability inclusive workforce by sharing information about employers who are successfully hiring people with disabilities. *Together, we can make a difference.*

Sincerely,

Denise Sleeper, Director  
Granite State Employment Project

## **EMPLOYER RECOGNITION EVENT**

**October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
7:30 AM – 9:00 AM**

**Common Man Restaurant**  
25 Water Street - Concord, NH

### *Tentative Agenda*

- 7:30 AM**     **Fred Kocher ~ Master of Ceremony**  
**Principal Kocher & Company**  
**Producer/Host – WMUR NH Business Review**  
**President, New Hampshire High Technology Council**
- 7:45 AM**     **Governor John Lynch ~ Welcome**
- 8:00 AM**     **Key Note – Bob Purcell, President/Owner and Co-Founder**  
**Brevan Electronics, Inc. - Merrimack, NH**
- Celebrating 25 years of Excellence in Electronics Distribution*  
*“Brevan Electronics recognizes that people are its greatest resource”*
- 8:30 AM**     **Award Presentations**

**Granite State Employment Project**  
**Employer Recognition Breakfast**  
**Common Man Restaurant**  
Concord, NH  
OCTOBER 6th, 2009, 7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

**EMPLOYER NOMINATION FORM**

Please describe the activities of the nominee and state why the nominee is deserving of the award. Specifically describe characteristics of the company, organization or business that demonstrates leadership in their commitment to employing people with disabilities. Please give real examples or anecdotes. Use additional sheets, as needed. You may also submit relevant news clippings, letters of support, or other documents.

COMPANY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This Employer should be recognized because: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form to Denise Sleeper on or before August 24, 2009.** If you have any questions, please call Denise at (603) 271-5161

Please return the nomination form electronically to: [Denise.Sleeper@dhhs.state.nh.us](mailto:Denise.Sleeper@dhhs.state.nh.us)

The mailing address is:  
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