

Dianne Blumer
Commissioner
P.O. Box 111149
Juneau, AK 99811-1149
www.labor.alaska.gov



Beth Leschper
Communications Director
907.465.2700
cell: 907.723.1321
beth.leschper@alaska.gov

Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 20, 2014

No. 14-12

For more information: Cheryl Walsh, Vocational Rehabilitation Director
907-465-2814, Cheryl.Walsh@Alaska.Gov

National Rehabilitation Counselors Appreciation Day is March 22

JUNEAU, Alaska—Saturday, March 22 has been designated as National Rehabilitation Counselors Appreciation Day. A congressional resolution cites the work of rehabilitation counselors that includes assessments, planning and implementing programs, and providing family support. Research has demonstrated that services delivered by qualified rehabilitation counselors improve employment outcomes.

“We help Alaskans with disabilities to prepare for, get and keep good jobs and assist businesses to access this talented untapped labor pool,” Vocational Rehabilitation Director Cheryl Walsh said. “More than 3,700 Alaskans participated in our programs last year – and almost 400 Alaska employers.”

One DVR participant said, “DVR didn’t change my life – it gave my life back.”

Walsh said that 95 percent of Alaskans who received services faced multiple barriers to employment.

“Our goal is to overcome those barriers,” she said. “Last year we assisted 598 Alaskans gain employment at an average hourly wage of \$12.78.”

For more information about the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and contact information, go online Labor.Alaska.Gov/dvr/ or Labor.Alaska.Gov/dvr/contact.htm.

###

Vocational Rehabilitation
Labor.Alaska.Gov/dvr/

113th Congressional Resolution
<http://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-resolution/388/text>