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Roberta Gassman
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State of Wisconsin

Department of Workforce Development

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Secretary Gassman Salutes Firms That Hire Workers with Disabilities *Kohler tops Sheboygan area employers honored at Abilities for Hire event*

Sheboygan Falls – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Roberta Gassman today praised Kohler Hospitality & Real Estate for its exemplary record in hiring people with disabilities. October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

“What we are really celebrating today is people with abilities,” Secretary Gassman said. “Our goal is to work with employers like Kohler and other local partners to help *all* individuals gain meaningful employment. People with disabilities have much to offer, and it’s important we help find ways to apply their talents.”

On behalf of Governor Doyle, Secretary Gassman honored Kohler Hospitality & Real Estate at the fifth annual Abilities for Hire event. More than a dozen other employers received certificates of commendation at the Sheboygan County Employer Recognition Luncheon, sponsored by DWD, the Rehabilitation Center of Sheboygan and HearthStone, which is a not for profit organization serving people with disabilities.

Secretary Roberta Gassman noted that last year, nearly 2,700 people with disabilities succeeded in entering the workforce, earning approximately \$47.4 million. Prior to receiving assistance from the Department’s Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, the annual income reported was \$7.1 million.

Kohler Hospitality & Real Estate received the 2006 Exemplary Employer Award. The following received 2006 Outstanding Employer Awards:

- Antoinette's & Antonio's, Plymouth
- Duke of Devon, Sheboygan
- Dutchland Plastics Corp., Oostburg
- Elder Beerman, Sheboygan Falls
- Health Care Services, Sheboygan
- Jumes Restaurant, Sheboygan
- Lakeland Auto, Sheboygan
- Mentink’s Market – Piggly Wiggly, Oostburg
- Ritger Law Office, Random Lake
- Subway, Oostburg
- The Home Depot, Sheboygan Falls
- The Open Door Drop-In Center, Sheboygan
- The Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake
- Younkers, Sheboygan

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