

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Rochester-based Company Earns Statewide Award for National Disability Employment Awareness Month

For only the fifth time in twenty years, a Rochester-based company earned the statewide National Disability Employment Awareness Month award for their exemplary hiring and training practices for individuals with disabilities. The NYS Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID) nominated Midnight Janitorial as Rochester's regional winner. Midnight Janitorial was chosen out of fifteen regional winners as the recipient for the award at the statewide level.

The winner is chosen based on their overall efforts in four categories. These are: 1) community outreach; 2) hiring and promoting individuals with disabilities; 3) providing internship or mentorship opportunities; and 4) accommodating individuals with disabilities through such actions as adjusting schedules and physical accommodations.

Angella Luyk, CEO of Midnight Janitorial, is impressed with the job performance demonstrated by employees hired from VESID. "We may take more time to train them but they reward you with their dedication and loyalty. They work harder and have an incredible work ethic. These are qualities Midnight Janitorial really values in an employee." Twenty-three percent of Midnight Janitorial's staff is from VESID. Luyk plans to add more next year.

Laura Maas, Regional Placement and Marketing Representative for VESID, emphasizes the benefits and economic importance of hiring individuals with disabilities. "VESID represents all

disabilities except legal blindness. These individuals, many of whom are highly educated, are grateful to become contributing members of society. It improves their self-confidence and perception of themselves,” explains Maas.

The economic impact is tremendous. In the 2007-2008 fiscal year, thirteen thousand individuals with disabilities obtained competitive employment in New York State. This translated to \$15.6 million dollars in savings of public assistance funds.

Midnight Janitorial will receive their award at RAEN’s 21st Annual Employer Recognition Awards Breakfast. Contact Laura Maas at (585) 238-2967 for more information about VESID or National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

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