

Office of Developmental Disabilities

A message from Lilia Teninty, Director



Oct. 17, 2016

To: All ODDS Staff and Stakeholders

I was honored to be a guest at this year's Central Oregon Employment First Fifth Annual Employer Recognition Event, which was held Tuesday, Oct. 11 in Redmond.

The Central Oregon Employment First local team started the event as a way to recognize and honor local employers and businesses contributing to the community by hiring individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). The event honors employers from Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties.



John Pinckney (right) of LaPine Ace Hardware accepts an employer award.
Photo: Cassy McCartney

Tracy Young, founder and director of employment provider Good 2 Go Oregon, served as the evening's master of ceremonies.

Multiple employers emphasized the value that employees with disabilities bring to their businesses.

"We have undergone a lot of changes over the years at Deschutes and Matt has changed with us," said Kerri Lynne of Deschutes Brewery, speaking of

the business's longtime employee who experiences a disability. "He is one of our most productive employees, and we have 550 employees now."

Peter Gunby, Abilitree's Human Resources Manager, shared his personal story about fighting his way back to employment after a ski accident left him with traumatic brain injury.

Several businesses recently hired an employee with a disability for the first time, while others had a long history of hiring people with disabilities. One employer remarked that there will no longer be a need for awards events when the workforce is truly inclusive and every business hires employees with disabilities as standard practice.



Traci Liberatore was named Job Developer of the Year.

Photo: Cassy McCartney

More than 35 businesses were nominated and 14 employers won awards. The recipients were:

Best Individual Placement:

- Bend: Central Oregon Breeze
- Redmond: Enterprise Cart Rental
- LaPine: Ace Hardware

Supportive Local Business:

- Sisters: Sisters Athletic Club
- Bend: Cascade Indoor Sports Center

Outstanding Commitment to Multiple Placements:

- Madras: Madras Cinema
- Bend: Safeway at Franklin and 3rd
- Redmond: Oregon Wild Harvest

Supportive Large Employer:

- Bend: City of Bend
- Redmond: Comfort Inn and Suites

Best New Placement

- Bend: Dick's Sporting Goods
- Redmond: Feet Retreat

Outstanding Commitment to Sustainable Employment:

- Bend: Jake's Diner & Stop and Go Shell Station

Job Developer of the Year:

Traci Liberatore of Abilitree

A photo slideshow from the event is available at: <https://flic.kr/s/aHskLzQJmM>

Sincerely,

Lilia

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Director

Office of Developmental Disabilities Services