SVRC Business Recognition Awards

1/17/2017

# Purpose

To make it easier for Alaskans with disabilities to find work they are qualified for by recognizing successful employers who make a notable effort to employ people with disabilities.

# Awards

* Large Employer Award: 200 or more employees.
* Small Employer Award: less than 200.
* Will add the Don Brandon Memorial State as a Model Employer Award to give to a state agency.
* State Agency Employer award in the future. (Guidance has been to keep the awards to just a few to keep them special).

# Requirements

* Complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
* SVRC Staff will clear nominations with Alaska UI, Tax, Labor Standards and Safety, Worker’s Compensation and the appropriate Mayor’s office to ensure there are no outstanding issues with the local government. Need a business’s FEIN number to get this info. Usually best to get from the payroll office.
* Businesses that provide disability related services as their main business focus are not eligible.

# Nominations

## Nomination Criteria

* Has history of working well with DVR or is open to working with DVR.
* Has policies, procedures and initiatives that result in disability inclusiveness in the workplace and accessibility to services or products for customers with disabilities.
* Makes a notable effort to employ people with disabilities.
* This is not a point based system.
* A business who has received this award within the past 3 years is not eligible to apply.

## Nominators

* The DVR Business Team will have input.
* It was suggested to also add CRPs, TVR and other disability non-profit agencies. This is being discussed at the next subcommittee meeting.

# Award Presentation

* The committee will announce the award at industry-related events, such as the Alaska Society for Human Resource Managers Conference, Chamber of Commerce meetings, etc. The goal is to select events where the announcement will have maximum value for the award winners and maximum value and exposure to other Alaskan businesses.
* As with award recipients, award locations will be vetted to ensure they have no outstanding issues with federal, state or local laws and regulations.
* Nominees will also be mentioned whenever possible (in press releases, on website, DOL Facebook, etc). This is done to honor the nominee as well as the Counselor’s time in recommending people.

# Timeline

* SVRC staff will work with DVR’s Business Connect team to collect nominations of a small and large employer from one of five different regions (Anchorage, Fairbanks, Southeast, non-southeast Rural, Mat-Su and Kenai) based on their experiences working with employers and analyzing our data.
* Each year the SVRC will rotate to the next region so that in 5 years all regions will have been selected.
* The Business Connect team will also collect nominate at least one state agency to revive the Don Brandon Memorial State as a Model Employer Award.
* Nominations will be vetted to ensure they have no outstanding issues with federal, state or local laws and regulations.