



News Release

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WWRC DIRECTOR RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT EFFORTS

(RICHMOND, Va.) — Rick Sizemore, director of the Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center, was recognized locally and nationally for his development and expansion of services and programs to help individuals with disabilities gain skills and workforce credentials necessary for employment in the new Virginia economy.

Sizemore received the Virginia Rehabilitation Association's R.N. Anderson Award for Leadership and the National Rehabilitation Association's Belle Greve Memorial Award this fall for supporting the employment of individuals with disabilities in Virginia.

"Through Rick's example and strategic efforts, services have been improved and expanded, with a result of heightened public awareness of issues for people with disabilities," said Margie Millner, president of the VRA.

Sizemore, a resident of Swoope in Augusta County, joined the center in 1986, and his work to support individuals with disabilities spans three decades. WWRC provides vocational training and medical interventions for people with disabilities to assist them in obtaining employment and to live more independently. The center, located in Fishersville, is part of the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services.

"Rick's career has been dedicated to WWRC and his leadership over the last few years has transformed it from a 'best kept secret' to an integral part of our state's workforce development system," said DARS Commissioner Jim Rothrock.

Prior to being named director in 2007, Sizemore held various positions at WWRC, including director of residential programs, director of the physical plant services division and deputy director. He serves as vice president of the National Consortium of State Operated Comprehensive Rehabilitation Centers after having served five years as president.

Sizemore graduated from Radford University with degrees in business management, music and radio-television broadcasting. He received certifications from the Institute for Education Leadership's Collaborative Leaders Program and the Virginia Executive Institute.

In conjunction with the WWRC Foundation, Sizemore produces a podcast, "VR Workforce Studio," that focuses on vocational rehabilitation and disability employment. To listen or read to the latest stories and interviews, visit www.vrworkforcestudio.com.

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The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, in collaboration with community partners, provides and advocates for resources and services to improve the employment, quality of life, security, and independence of older Virginians, Virginians with disabilities, and their families. For more information, visit www.vadars.org or follow DARS on Facebook at www.facebook.com/vadars or Twitter at @vadars.