



News from THE WALLACE GROUP

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**Minn.Governor's Council on
Developmental Disabilities**

**For Immediate
Release**

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COBORN'S GROCERY IN BUFFALO CITED AS AN 'INNOVATIVE EMPLOYER' BY GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

**Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities cites grocer for creatively
utilizing the skills of people with disabilities in nontraditional ways**

Heralded for its work in employing people with developmental disabilities, Coborn's in Buffalo was honored as an "Innovative Employer" by the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD Council). The grocer is one of 11 employers chosen from 45 nominees in the state.

Store Manager Rick Flatta has seen significant benefits from several employees with disabilities who have worked in his baking, stocking and bagging operations. He's also received many positive comments from customers.

"I want to give people a chance to work and to prove themselves," said Flatta. "Customers seem to appreciate our business supporting people with developmental disabilities."

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Innovative employer/page two

A survey of employers conducted jointly for the DD Council and the Department of Employment and Economic Development found that in general work situations, people with developmental disabilities performed as well or better than other employees by every standard, other than speed.

Companies and organizations engage people with disabilities either as direct employees or through organizations that provide employment services and training for people with disabilities. A recent survey revealed that there are now nonprofits serving all regions of the state that can provide such access to qualified employees.

Honorees were selected based on site visits and analysis of employer practices. The nominees chosen were also found to have an inclusive work environment and typically offered opportunities for advancement.

While practicing its golden rule to “Treat all with dignity and respect,” Coborn’s owns and operates grocery, convenience, liquor, video stores and pharmacies throughout the upper Midwest.

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