



News from THE WALLACE GROUP

**P.O. Box 21303, Eagan, MN 55121
3750 Pilot Knob Road, Eagan, MN 55122
(651) 452-9800 (651) 452-3504 fax**

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

**For Immediate
Release**

Contact: Aaron Hustedde, The Wallace Group, 651-452-9800
aaron@wallacegroup.com, cell-651-307-1365

PIONEERING NORTHEAST METRO SCHOOL DISTRICT CITED AS 'INNOVATIVE EMPLOYER' BY GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

**Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities cites Intermediate School
District 916 in northeast Twin Cities for creatively utilizing the skills of students with
disabilities in document imaging roles**

Recognized for its work in employing people with developmental disabilities,
Northeast Metro Intermediate School District 916 (ISD 916) was honored as an
"Innovative Employer" by the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental
Disabilities (DD Council).

ISD 916 employs students with developmental disabilities in document imaging.
"The digital imaging program is a successful combination of real work for the district and
also a career teaching model," said Dr. Antoinette Johns in the Special Education
department. The district is building a document imaging curriculum. "Our services for
the district are proving to these student employees that they have new job skills," said Jan
Triplett in the Work Experience and Life Skills department.

Innovative employer/page two

From the experimental work of four years ago to today, the employment of people with developmental disabilities for document imaging has gone from the unusual to an accepted practice in many business areas. Across the state, hundreds of people with disabilities have found jobs in this area, according to the DD Council.

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.

A survey of employers conducted jointly for the 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.

ISD 916 is one of 11 Innovative Employers chosen from the 45 nominated in Minnesota. As one of three intermediate school districts in the Twin Cities area, it provides programs and services in special education, career and technical education, and general education.

#