



News from THE WALLACE GROUP

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

**For Immediate
Release**

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NATURAL RESOURCE GROUP IN MINNEAPOLIS NAMED 'INNOVATIVE EMPLOYER' BY STATE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities cites environmental and public affairs consultant for creatively utilizing the skills of people with disabilities in nontraditional ways

Recognized for its work in employing people with developmental disabilities, the Natural Resource Group in Minneapolis was honored as an "Innovative Employer" by the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD Council).

"We are building awareness and supporting the fact that all people want gratifying work," said Lynda Whittemore in human resources and brand development for Natural Resource Group. She needed more help in office administration and said that hiring a person with developmental disabilities was "a chance to do the right thing."

Her employee, Sue Lang, is highly proactive. She works on a set of tasks and also comes to Whittemore to suggest other projects to take on. Lang's work area is well organized and she oversees 20 printer stations, Whittemore explains.

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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.

A total of 11 Innovative Employers were chosen from 45 Minnesota nominations for recognition made to the DD Council. Winners 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.

Natural Resource Group, LLC provides environmental and public affairs consulting for the development of energy infrastructure projects, which include natural gas, crude oil and refined product pipelines, gas storage and liquid gas facilities.

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