



**Robert Bentley**  
GOVERNOR

Alabama Department of  
**REHABILITATION SERVICES**



**Jane Elizabeth Burdeshaw**  
COMMISSIONER

Oct. 3, 2016

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Anna Taylor  
334-293-7156 or 1-800-441-7578

### *Mayor Strange, VA to be honored for significant contributions to workers with disabilities*

MONTGOMERY – The Montgomery Area Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities (MACEPD), a program of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS), will honor the success and contributions of River Region businesses that provide opportunities for individuals with disabilities in the workforce at an Oct. 6 awards luncheon.

Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange and the Central Alabama Veteran Health Care System (CAVHCS) are among this year's recipients and are being recognized as part of October's annual observance of National Disability Employment Awareness (NDEA) Month.

Awards will be presented in 10 different categories and will acknowledge the many contributions of community partners, youth, educators, the news media and local professionals. Local winners exemplify this year's theme, "#InclusionWorks," and will compete for statewide recognition at a special event at the Capitol in December.

Strange will receive the 2016 Public Service Award and CAVHCS will be named the recipient of this year's Large Business Employer of the Year and Partnership of the Year awards.

"People with disabilities can bring a range of skills, talents, and abilities to the workplace like anyone else," said Peggy Anderson, ADRS administrator for business relations. "Inclusion works because it just makes sense."

The MACEPD Awards luncheon will be at the Capital City Club, 201 Monroe St., in downtown Montgomery, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Alabama Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities was created by former Gov. Jim Folsom in the late 1940's as a response to veterans with disabilities who returned home to find no work available. Since that time, many individuals with disabilities – veterans and civilians – have received the benefit of Governor's Committee activities. The committee coordinates a network of local volunteer groups throughout the state and works closely with ADRS staff to develop employment opportunities and raise awareness of the needs and rights of Alabamians with disabilities.

The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services is the state agency whose mission is to enable Alabama's children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential. In fiscal year 2015, the department assisted 4,602 Alabamians with disabilities in becoming successfully employed.

###

PROVIDING SERVICES TO ALABAMIANS WITH DISABILITIES