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Champion of Wisconsin's State Use Program Receives Government Leadership Award

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Madison, Wis. — Employment opportunities for people with disabilities in Wisconsin would not be as strong as they are today without the efforts of Dave Dumke, field services representative and ITBEC coordinator for the Wisconsin Counties Association. Dumke was chosen as the 2009 recipient of the Government Leadership Award from Rehabilitation For Wisconsin, Inc., and the Wisconsin Rehabilitation Association.

Dumke received the Government Leadership Award as a result of his work on the State Use Board, which he has chaired since 2004. Wisconsin's State Use Program was created in 1989 to provide gainful employment for thousands of Wisconsin citizens with severe disabilities who seek job opportunities in their communities.

"Dave's leadership as State Use Board Chairperson has been invaluable to the success of the State Use Program in providing employment for Wisconsinites with disabilities. Through his guidance, the Board continues to make progress in establishing policies and procedures resulting in more and better jobs for peoples with severe disabilities," said Laura Rice, Wisconsin State Use Program Director.

The state use law, Wis. Stat. 16.752, requires all state agencies to purchase products and services from in-state, nonprofit work centers employing persons with severe disabilities when the work center is able to meet state specifications and provide the product or service at fair market value. The work centers provide long term employment and marketable job skill training for people with disabilities to increase their independence and self-sufficiency. In fiscal year 2008, work centers reported annual sales to state agencies totaling \$14,289,211.

"Dave has always looked out for people with disabilities, with the belief that people with disabilities are as important and deserve the same respect as anyone else," said Jean Zweifel, a State Use Board member and CEO of Greenco Industries, Inc. in Monroe, Wis. "Dave has influenced decision-making at all levels of government."

Rehabilitation For Wisconsin is a statewide nonprofit association based in Madison, Wis. Its members include more than 50 organizations dedicated to addressing the employment, residential and community support needs of people with disabilities and economic disadvantages.

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