

FOR RELEASE: November 29, 2017

The Ohio State University Receives the Champion of Opportunity Award from Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

COLUMBUS, OH – Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) has recognized The Ohio State University as a Champion of Opportunity for its commitment and leadership in hiring individuals with disabilities in Ohio. The award honors organizations that have gone above and beyond in their commitment and who serve as statewide examples of what it means to provide quality employment opportunities and increased independence for individuals with disabilities.

“Ohio State’s inclusive culture embodies the ideals of the Champion of Opportunity Award,” said OOD Executive Director Kevin Miller. “Last spring, Ohio State embedded an OOD talent sourcing coordinator at the university where she works directly with job seekers with disabilities and helps them keep or find jobs at the university. This innovative partnership has been quite successful and we are excited to see individuals being hired in greater numbers.”

Ohio State also shows their strong commitment to creating an inclusive workplace environment through their membership in the Ohio Business Leadership Network and their coordination of numerous Windmill trainings. These Windmill trainings are used to educate workplaces on inclusivity and maintain a good working environment once the individuals with disabilities are established in the workplace.

“The OOD Champion of Opportunity Award further recognizes Ohio State’s dedication and commitment to an inclusive work environment for people of all abilities,” said Susan Basso, Ohio State senior vice president for talent, culture and human resources. “We are proud of the opportunities this partnership has created and grateful for the contributions individuals with disabilities have made to the university.”

The Opportunity Awards are a significant part of OOD’s annual business recognition program and highlight Ohio companies committed to providing employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The awards recognize organizations at various levels; from those who have just begun to recruit, hire and retain individuals with disabilities to those with a proven track record of integrating individuals with disabilities into their workforce.

OOD is committed to engaging and educating Ohio businesses on the benefits of recruiting, hiring and retaining individuals with disabilities. Representatives from the Business Engagement Team work directly with Ohio employers of any size to understand their workforce needs, quickly match job seekers with specific openings, and provide needed assistance and training.

OOD is the state agency responsible for assisting individuals with disabilities to gain meaningful employment, to live independently or receive disability benefits through the Social Security Administration. www.ood.ohio.gov