



Opportunities for Ohioans
with Disabilities

Office of Communications

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Media Release

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Natural Essentials Receives the Champion of Opportunity Award from Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

COLUMBUS, OH – Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) has recognized Natural Essentials as a Champion of Opportunity for its commitment and leadership in hiring individuals with disabilities in Ohio. The award honors companies 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.

“Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities is pleased to present a Champion of Opportunity Award to one of the nation’s leading suppliers of natural products - Natural Essentials,” said Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Executive Director Kevin Miller. “Natural Essentials is so committed to promoting an inclusive workplace that they taught their managers American Sign Language, so they can better communicate with the deaf and hard of hearing. This company is an extraordinary example of how to create a culture of inclusivity.”

Natural Essentials, additionally displays their commitment by hiring an internal job coach to assist in the development and sustainability of their workforce. Their success is evidenced by the fact that 96 percent of OOD consumers at this company remain employed.

The Opportunity Awards have become a significant part of OOD’s annual business recognition program. These awards recognize companies 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 regardless of 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

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