

## 'All-Stars' Honored for Leadership, Customer Service, Creativity

RALEIGH – The N.C. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services has honored staff members in Washington, Raleigh and Charlotte with its tenth annual, statewide “VR All-Star Awards.” The categories and winners are:

- **Leadership** — Daniel Stevens, a rehabilitation education specialist in Washington, was cited for outstanding achievement in leadership. The award praises Stevens for being a driving force in establishing the agency’s dual-customer approach to serving people with disabilities and their prospective employers as co-equal customers.
- **Customer Service** — Honored for customer service was Melinda Remaley, a business services coordinator in the Raleigh central administrative office. The award cites Remaley for the “organized, detailed and caring way” she goes about her job, frequently working behind the scenes to make sure all details fall into place and challenges are overcome.
- **Creativity** — Cited for creativity was Celeste Helling, a speech-language pathologist in the agency’s Charlotte assistive technology service center. The award honors Helling for creative service delivery to people with disabilities, as exemplified by her development of free software to assist in evaluating her consumers’ speech and language skills.

The three were chosen from 11 recipients of the division’s regional “Superstar Awards.” Employee volunteers manage the awards program in which agency staff nominate and vote on their co-workers.

Linda Harrington, director of the division, thanked the honorees and congratulated them “on achieving the greatest honor this agency bestows.... With this highest statewide recognition, you have been honored by your co-workers as ‘the best of the best.’”

Health and Human Services Secretary Lanier M. Cansler also congratulated the recipients, saying that the work of the division “is an integral, important part of the department’s mission to serve the people of North Carolina, most especially those with disabilities. The contributions for which you’ve been recognized are indispensable in carrying out that work.”

