

Office of Communications & Legislation

John R. Kasich, Governor Kevin L. Miller, Executive Director

News Release

Contact: Kevin Holtsberry Chief of Communications Office: (614) 438-1476 Cell: (614) 506-2024

Kevin.Holtsberry@ood.ohio.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 03/18/15

OhioHealth MedCentral Honored As a Champion of Opportunity

OhioHealth MedCentral Mansfield Hospital recognized for its commitment to, and leadership in, integrating individuals with disabilities into Ohio's workforce

COLUMBUS, OH – Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) today recognized OhioHealth MedCentral Hospitals for its commitment and leadership in integrating individuals with disabilities into Ohio's workforce. The private non-profit health system was presented with the Champion of Opportunity Award, part of OOD's annual business recognition program, during a presentation at MedCentral Mansfield Hospital.

"OhioHealth hospitals, including MedCentral, have built a culture of inclusion and opportunity." said OOD Executive Director Kevin L. Miller. "They understand that this commitment strengthens their workforce, aligns with their core values, and has a positive impact on the community."

The Champion of Opportunity 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.

"It is an honor to be recognized as a Champion of Opportunity," said Jean Halpin, president of OhioHealth MedCentral. "We recognize that individuals with disabilities also have abilities, and we welcome them as care site associates."

The Opportunity 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. For a listing of the 2014 award winners please visit http://www.ood.ohio.gov/Employers/Opportunity-Awards.

OOD is committed to engaging and educating Ohio businesses on the benefits of recruiting, hiring and retaining individuals with disabilities. Its business relations model works directly with Ohio companies 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 gain meaningful employment, live independently and receive disability benefits through the Social Security Administration. www.ood.ohio.gov