



Mark Sanders Award for Exceptional Service to Disabled Veterans

(Local Office/One-Stop Center)

GENERAL INFORMATION

This award is named in honor of Mark Sanders who, during his distinguished career with the California Employment Development Department and in leadership positions with the National Association of State Workforce Agencies, was untiring in his efforts to promote excellence in services to **disabled veterans**.

This award recognizes a local office and/or one-stop center that has demonstrated, over the previous calendar year, ***exceptional services to disabled veterans seeking employment assistance***. The award will be directed to the local office/one-stop center which, in the opinion of the judges, has **done the most to assist disabled veterans, promote interest in their problems, and search for meaningful employment**.

Emphasis will be placed on the utilization of any *unusual* or *unique* methods used by staff to assist **disabled veterans**. This award will recognize the local office/one-stop center whose efforts demonstrate exceptional service and dedication to improving

Mark Sanders Awards for Exceptional Service to Disabled Veterans Recipients

- 2005 - South Dakota Career Center, Rapid City, South Dakota
- 2004 - Gulf-to-Bay One-Stop Career Center, WorkNet Pinellas, Clearwater, Florida
- 2003 - No Winner Selected
- 2002 - Breathitt Career Center
Hopkinsville, Kentucky
- 2001 - Central Texas Workforce Center
Killeen, TX

Alabama Employment Security
Office
Montgomery, AL
- 2000 - Alachua County One Stop Career
Center
Gainesville, FL

employment opportunities for disabled veterans and whose contributions involving disabled veterans extend to the community as well.

The Mark Sanders Award recognizes the efforts of an entire office or one-stop center, not just a veterans' unit or veterans' staff. Information should be provided on how other staff or all staff provide services to disabled veterans.

The following process and criteria have been established for the solicitation of nominations and selection of the award winner.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominations may be submitted by **July 7, 2006**, via email to naswa@naswa.org or in hard copy. The nomination process consists of the following:

1. **Nomination packages may be submitted electronically or must be forwarded no later than July 7, 2006**, to NASWA headquarters, 444 North Capitol Street, N.W., Suite 142, Washington, D.C. 20001; Attention: Veterans' Service Award Committee. If submitted on paper, **the nomination should be typed, 6 copies, double spaced, and on agency letterhead over the agency administrator's signature. The nomination should provide documentation supporting the nomination.**
2. The nomination package must include the Nominee Information and the Nominator Information in the format provided on the **Nomination Form [PDF] [Word]**. **The Nomination Narrative is limited to two (2) pages** and must be attached to the

1999 - San Mateo County Field Office
California Employment
Development Department

1998 - Des Moines Workforce Center
Des Moines, Iowa

1997 - Copperas Cove Office
Texas Workforce Commission

Marysville Employment Department
Field Office
California

1996 - Dunn, NC
Coeur d'Alene, ID
Columbus East, Ohio

1995 - Reno/Sparks, NV

1994 - Knoxville, IA
Canoga Park, CA

1993 - No Winner Selected

1992 - Portsmouth, NH
Southside, OK
Burlington, NJ

1991 - Mandan, ND
San Antonio, TX

1990 - Columbia, SC

Nominee/Nominator information sheet. The additional documentation is limited to ten (10) pages.

3. **Nomination activity should cover only the previous *calendar year*. Only *one* nomination per category, per state, will be accepted.**
4. State administrators will be notified in writing of the final judgment of the Award Committee.* The awards will be announced and presented at the NASWA Annual Conference. If the appropriate state or local representative is not present, the presentation may occur in the states where each local office/one-stop center is located.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Selection Committee will be composed of members of the NASWA Veterans' Affairs Committee, other than those members representing state agencies which have submitted nominations.

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION

The nomination must include:

- Number of local offices and/or one-stop centers in state, total number of veterans staff (DVOPs and LVERs) in state. Number of staff in office or center being nominated. Number of veterans staff (DVOP - LVER) in office or center being nominated.
- Outstanding features, innovations, unusual approaches, supportive services, as justification for the nomination.
- A description of any outstanding private sector/business community, organized labor, and government based involvement.

- **Description of the "EXCEPTIONAL" service to DISABLED VETERANS that was provided in the local service area and who provided the service (do not include names).**
- Description of how well the veterans programs (DVOP-LVER) are integrated into the full local office or one-stop center being nominated.

The following information may also be included:

- Local office/one-stop center performance on "Veterans Performance Standards," to include the most recent full program year report.
- Supporting data such as that generated by agency reporting systems. Supporting documents should emphasize and verify the excellent services provided to **disabled veterans**.
- Information relating to local office/one-stop center's efforts to publicize services available to **disabled veterans** such as job development and training opportunities, providing speakers for group meetings, etc. Copies of press releases, brochures and other promotional materials developed may be included. *Do not include promotional materials developed by the DOL/ASVET National Office or NVTI.*
- Cooperation between the local office/one-stop center and veterans' organizations. Indicate staff membership and participation in local veterans' organizations. Discuss

cooperative programs, awards or letters of commendation presented to the local office/one-stop center or members of the staff and joint efforts to solve special problems. Include exhibits where possible.

- Statement of results, accomplishments, impact and any other information deemed appropriate to demonstrate the effectiveness of the nomination.
 - *If, in the judgment of the Veterans' Affairs Award Committee, none of the nominations warrants an award, there will be no selection of an award winner for the calendar year being considered.*

Reminder: The criteria for the Mark Sanders Award for Exceptional Service to Disabled Veterans **MUST** focus on services beyond normal expectations provided to **Disabled Veterans**. Many past nominations received demonstrated excellent service to veterans, but did not demonstrate exceptional service for the disabled veteran population.

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