

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Department on Aging Announces *National Employ the Older Worker Week*

Outstanding workers & employers recognized at luncheon later this year

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA) Director Charles D. Johnson today announced the agency is accepting nominations for its annual *National Employ the Older Worker Award*. The nominations are an opportunity for organizations to recognize older employees who should be honored for their outstanding service. The nominations forms, as well as the order forms for the awards luncheon to be held in September, are available by contacting the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 or logging on to the website at www.state.il.us/aging/. Nomination forms must be postmarked by June 30 to be considered.

“Illinois is very grateful to have such an abundance of wonderful older adults who continue to work to make our state and this country a better place for future generations,” said Director Johnson. “These individuals not only have wisdom and experience, but they put their heart into what they do. They truly serve as an inspiration to all age groups.”

Awards will be presented to older adult workers who are employed in both public and private sector jobs. This also includes workers that are funded through Title V and the Older Americans Act, which assists low-income seniors who are looking and able to re-enter the workforce. Awards will also be presented to businesses and companies that regularly employ workers age 55 and older.

IDoA will present the awards during the 24th Annual Older Workers Luncheon and Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, September 17 at the Northfield Center in Springfield. The annual awards luncheon is held in conjunction with *National Employ the Older Worker Week* observance, which is September 21-27 this year, to honor outstanding older workers and their employers. Individuals from around the state will be recognized and honored by IDoA for their continued dedication and passion for serving in Illinois.

For more information about program services to assist older adults in Illinois and their caregivers, call the Department on Aging Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 or for TTY (hearing impaired use only) call 1-888-206-1327.

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