



Governor Pat Quinn
Director Charles D. Johnson

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Department on Aging will recognize outstanding older workers & their employers in honor of *National Employ the Older Worker Week*

Nomination deadline is August 31; Awards ceremony to be held later this year

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA) Director Charles D. Johnson today encouraged organizations to nominate older employees for their outstanding service. Applications for this year's *National Employ the Older Worker Awards* are available. The nomination forms, as well as the order forms for the October 15 awards luncheon are available by contacting the Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966. Nomination forms must be postmarked no later than August 31, 2010, to be considered.

National Employ the Older Worker Week is the last full week of September (19-25.) The annual observance recognizes the vital role of older workers in the workforce and aims to increase awareness of this labor segment and develop innovative strategies to tap into it. *National Employ Older Workers Week* also showcases the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), which provides on-the-job skills training to individuals age 55 and older with limited financial resources.

“Older workers bring stability, expertise and a sense of continuity to the workplace,” said Director Johnson. “In addition to their wisdom and experience, older workers have embraced new technologies to enhance their value in building a knowledgeable workforce. Illinois is lucky to have such a dedicated group in its workforce and I am honored to recognize their contributions.”

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 26th Annual Older Workers Luncheon and Awards Ceremony on Friday, October 15 at the Northfield Center in Springfield.

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.

(A copy of the Employee Nomination Form follows this release.)

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NATIONAL EMPLOY THE OLDER WORKER WEEK

September 19-25, 2010

EMPLOYEE Nomination Form

Please check the appropriate category per nomination:

- Employee SCSEP/Title V Enrollee

Please use one form per nomination: Make additional copies if submitting more than one nomination.

This award recognizes the accomplishments of Public/Private Sector Employees and SCSEP/Title V Service Enrollees. Nominees will be recognized for their dedicated efforts in acquiring knowledge and/or skills to succeed in the workplace. All awards will be presented during the NEOWW Awards Luncheon on **Friday, October 15, 2010**.

Please indicate how your nominee exemplifies each of the following award criteria; each of the criteria is of equal weight in the selection process.

Please describe the nominee's work ethic in detail (i.e., attendance, attitude, dependability, punctuality, quantity and quality of work and adaptability).

P l e a s e Type <u>or</u> Print	
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Employee Nomination

Please describe any significant personal and/or daily obstacles the nominee has to overcome in order to participate in the workforce.

P l e a s e Type <u>or</u> Print	
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Please describe any special qualities exhibited which make him/her a good nominee (i.e., community involvement, volunteerism, motivation and leadership).

P l e a s e Type <u>or</u> Print	
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Name of NOMINEE _____	Phone: _____
Nominee's Home Address: _____	City: _____ Zip Code: _____
AGE: _____	NUMBER OF HOURS WORKED PER WEEK: _____

Name of Employer: _____
Phone: _____
Nominator: _____
Employer's Address: _____
City: _____ Zip: _____

Nominations postmarked after August 31, 2010, will not be considered.

NATIONAL EMPLOY THE OLDER WORKER WEEK

September 19-25, 2010

EMPLOYER Nomination Form

Employer of the Year

Please check the appropriate category per nomination:

Public Employer **Private Employer** **Host Agency - SCSEP/Title V**

Please use one form per nomination: Make additional copies if submitting more than one nomination.

This award recognizes the accomplishments of Public/Private sector companies and Host Agencies which utilize older workers in the workplace and have shown an innovative approach to older worker training. Nominees will be recognized for their dedicated efforts in acquiring knowledge and/or skills to succeed in the workplace. All awards will be presented during the NEOWW Awards Luncheon on **Friday, October 15, 2010.**

Please indicate how your nominee exemplifies each of the following award criteria; each of the criteria is of equal weight in the selection process.

Please describe benefits the nominee offers to persons 55 years of age and older (i.e., sick/vacation time, life/health insurance, flex time, job sharing, retirement options, upgrading/training, family leave, and other).

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Please describe how the nominee has demonstrated a commitment to hire and retain older workers in the workforce (i.e., flex time, job sharing, and percentage of older workers in the workplace and utilization of older worker programs in the community, family leave.)

P l e a s e Type <u>or</u> Print	
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Employer Nomination

Describe any other special qualities that make this employer worthy of this award.

P l e a s e Type or Print	
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Name of NOMINEE: _____	Phone: _____
Business Address: _____	City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Name of Employer: _____	Phone: _____
Agency: _____	
Agency Address: _____	City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Nominations postmarked after August 31, 2010, will not be considered.