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Contact: Beth Moss, 608-266-5038 office, 608-215-0466 cell, Beth.Moss@Wisconsin.gov

Representative Adam Neylon Celebrated Disability Employment Awareness at Waukesha Business

Waukesha, WI –Representative Adam Neylon recently visited Mark Burmeister at Rogan’s Shoes on Sunset Drive as part of the Take Your Legislator to Work Campaign, organized each year by the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities.



Rep. Neylon holds the cord for Mark while he vacuums in Waukesha.

When asked how he felt about his Take Your Legislator to Work visit, he stated, “This program is a great way for Wisconsin legislators to get a first-hand understanding of how people with disabilities contribute to our economy. Mark is a valued employee at Rogan’s Shoes on Sunset Drive in Waukesha, and I was thrilled to meet and spend time with someone who cares so much about his work.”



The campaign coordinates visits between legislators and their constituents with disabilities. During the visit, Danny’s legislators saw community-integrated employment in action and learned more about the value it brings to the employee, employer and greater community.

According to Rogan’s Shoes store manager Kelly Marks, Mark is a great asset to the store. They depend on him to keep the store clean, and he does the entire job on his own with a periodic check in from a job coach. When asked what he likes best about his job, Mark answered, “Mopping and vacuuming. I like to keep the store clean.” Mark relies on natural

supports, or support from his co-workers and boss just like employees who do not have a disability. “Kelly helps with the extension cord so customers don’t trip when I vacuum on Wednesdays. Kelly helped make my daily schedule to follow.” About Rep Neylon’s visit, Mark said, “It felt good. I was proud showing all my jobs.” Mark lives a very independent life. According to his Mom Shirley, who lives in Cedarburg, Mark “gets anywhere he needs to go by Waukesha city bus. He knows the routes like the back of his hand.” Mark is a great example of a person who worked for over 30 years in a sheltered facility, and then, when given the opportunity to train and then work out in the community, he has embraced that opportunity and is now happily earns minimum wage and

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lives independently. He is a model employee, rarely missing work, and he plans to stay at Rogan's for many years to come.

When people with disabilities work in the community at a competitive wage, they are less likely to rely on publicly-funded programs. And, 87% of customers say they would prefer to patronize businesses that employ people with disabilities.

For more information go to www.wi-bpdd.org.

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