



**Opportunities for Ohioans  
with Disabilities**

**Office of Communications & Legislation**

**John R. Kasich, Governor**

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**News Release**

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**Fifth Third Bank Honored as a Champion of Opportunity**

*Cincinnati based bank awarded the Champion of Opportunity Award in recognition of its commitment to, and leadership in, integrating individuals with disabilities into Ohio's workforce*

**COLUMBUS, OH** – Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) today recognized Fifth Third Bank as a Champion of Opportunity for its commitment and leadership in integrating individuals with disabilities into Ohio's workforce. The Cincinnati-based bank was presented with the Champion of Opportunity Award, part of OOD's annual business recognition program, during a brief ceremony in Cincinnati.

“Fifth Third understands that integrating individuals with disabilities into their workforce is good for the community, the company and good for business,” said OOD Executive Director Kevin L. Miller. “Inclusion and engagement is more than just a policy on paper, it is an active part of the culture and management at Fifth Third.”

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.

“Being awarded the Champion of Opportunity Award is a significant honor for our Company,” said Teresa Tanner, executive vice president & Chief Human Resource Officer at Fifth Third Bank. “This recognition is due, in large part, with our role as an original collaborator on Project SEARCH, a school-to-work internship program for students with developmental and physical disabilities. We operate three Project SEARCH campuses today and are honored to help our students find meaningful careers. We're especially proud of the many Project SEARCH graduates that are now members of our Fifth Third employee family.”

The Opportunity Awards were created to highlight Ohio companies committed to providing employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The 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 work force. For more information and 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 to live independently, gain meaningful employment or receive disability benefits through the Social Security Administration. [www.ood.ohio.gov](http://www.ood.ohio.gov)*

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