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## Governor honors businesses employing disabled

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By Matt Russell **CONNECT**

MONTGOMERY, AL (WSFA) - Governor Bentley welcomes business leaders, honoring them for providing opportunities for those with disabilities. Bentley held the 2014 Alabama Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities Awards Ceremony at the State Capitol.

Bentley says only 17% of Alabama's disabled are employed. "We need to increase that number," said Governor Bentley. "And I appreciate companies willing to do that because they are truly some of their best workers because they show up for work, they come to work, they work hard, they take pride in what they do."

The day was also spent honoring those men and women with disabilities able to achieve employment. As Governor Bentley put it: "I think the way we ought to look at it not as disability but abilities, and in anyone who is given the opportunity to have a job and work, it just makes you feel good about yourself, but these individuals is just really work hard and do a great job."

Bentley says he doesn't think businesses that haven't employed disabled people are excluding them-- they just need reminding as to how valuable the disabled can be as employees.

Peggy Anderson, a representative with the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services says "People with disabilities are qualified. Sometimes they do the job the same and sometimes they do it differently. What we ask of businesses is to give them a chance."

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