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EMPLOYMENT FIRST:
Maximizing **Success** and
Improving Employment **Outcomes**
for **Special Populations**

Employment Conference Focusing on Individuals with Special Needs

First-of-its-kind event being held in the Rochester area

Rochester, NY (March 10, 2016) Rochester Rehabilitation is hosting the first-of-its-kind employment conference in Western New York on Thursday, April 28, 2016 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sponsored by Wegmans, *Employment First* is being held at the Radisson Rochester Riverside at 120 East Main Street in downtown Rochester. The conference will focus on employment outcomes for special populations, including individuals with a disadvantage, those in poverty, people with disabilities, refugees, and veterans.

The conference will offer workshop sessions for both human service providers and other employers. It will feature evidenced-based, best practice models and highlight successful partnerships between non-profit vocational employment programs and local businesses. More than 200 conference participants from upstate New York are expected to attend this event.

The Keynote Speaker will be Robert Egger, a nationally-known non-profit leader, author, speaker, and activist. Mr. Egger spent 24 years as the President of the DC Central Kitchen, the country's first "community kitchen," where food donated by hospitality businesses and farms is used to fuel a nationally recognized culinary arts job training program. Since opening in 1989,

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the Kitchen has produced over 30 million meals and helped 1,500 men and women – including former addicts, felons, and those with barriers to employment – gain full time work.

Register for *Employment First* by contacting Jen Bellows at jbellows@rochesterrehab.org or via phone at 585-473-2052. Information can also be found at www.rochesterrehab.org. The conference fee is \$100 per person (\$80 per person for groups of three or more from the same organization).

About Rochester Rehabilitation

Rochester Rehabilitation has served the Rochester area community since 1919 with an array of physical, mental health, and employment services. It offers an outpatient mental health clinic, Ventures Personalized Recovery Oriented Services (PROS), and an extensive array of vocational programming services. The agency also has a driver evaluation and training service (DriveOn) and operates three business ventures that employ more than 150 workers with and without disabilities. Rochester Rehabilitation has a long and successful history in helping people with disabilities, veterans, refugees, and those living in poverty and facing other disadvantages.

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