



News Release

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BATTEN NAMED DIRECTOR OF DARS' DIVISION OF REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

(RICHMOND, Va.) —Dale “Dee Dee” Batten has been named as Virginia’s new director for the Division of Rehabilitative Services, which offers vocational rehabilitation to assist people with disabilities to prepare for, secure, retain or regain employment.

Batten, a Midlothian resident, was appointed by Commissioner Kathryn A. Hayfield of the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services. She assumed her new role effective Aug. 10, succeeding Hayfield. As director, Batten will oversee the federal-state funded program that employs some 400 people in 31 offices across the Commonwealth to serve 30,000 youth and adults annually.

For the past three years, Batten served as the agency’s first deputy director for workforce development, supervising a team of business development managers to develop relationships with businesses and workforce partners, understand Virginia’s workforce needs and seek qualified job candidates to meet those needs.

Additionally, Batten has coordinated a statewide business development strategy to match DRS job candidates to employers, in alignment with the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. WIOA is designed to help job seekers, including those with disabilities, access employment, education, training and support services to succeed in the labor market and to provide employers with the skilled workers they need to compete in the global economy.

“I am confident that Dee Dee will continue the great work and collaboration she is so well known for in the Commonwealth’s vocational rehabilitation community,” Hayfield said.

Batten has been with DARS since 1984 and previously served as regional director for DRS in central Virginia. During the Warner administration, she assisted in the development of the Virginia Career Readiness Certificate. She holds a master’s degree in vocational rehabilitation counseling and bachelor’s degree in vocational rehabilitation services from Virginia Commonwealth University.

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The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, in collaboration with community partners, provides and advocates for resources and services to improve the employment, quality of life, security, and independence of older Virginians, Virginians with disabilities, and their families. For more information, visit www.vadars.org or follow DARS on Facebook at www.facebook.com/vadars or Twitter at @vadars.