JOHN PERFORMANCE, demonstrating one of Home Depot’s core values of “doing the right thing.”

Jimmy enjoys working with DVR because he wants to work and be around his fellow coworkers. He values the independence DVR provides in being able to work on his job performance, clearing tables at Rock Top, a bar and grill, with help from his vocational rehabilitation counselor and his high school transition teacher.

Zayra completed her high school requirements before transitioning to her local high school transition program. While there, Zayra participated in Pre-Employment Transition Services Job Exploration activities and Project-Based Learning experiences. Last May, Zayra begun her job search. Through supports from first Choice Services, a Community Rehabilitation Program, Zayra developed her plan for employment. She interviewed for a job at Rock Top and was hired the next day. Job retention services assisted her in her learning job duties, developing natural supports, and setting up accommodation supports.

Zayra is a senior at Moses Lake High School. She describes herself as “a proud LGBT student.” She successfully landed a job serving customers and clearing tables at Rock Top, a bar and grill, with help from her vocational rehabilitation counselor and her high school transition teacher.

Jimmy began working with DVR in the Silverdale office during his final year of high school as a School-to-Work client and continued to work with DVR after finishing high school. Jimmy worked with several different Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors during his time with DVR. He explored many jobs through the School-to-Work program and ultimately decided on a job goal of working in retail.

Jimmy’s colleagues are naturally supportive and help him out when it is time to clock out and to end his shift independently.

In addition to his employment at Home Depot, Jimmy enjoys his job as a driver with DVR. He drives around the city, clearing tables at Rock Top, which is a customer-friendly job with DVR. Jimmy enjoys his job so much that after his summer employment, he expressed his desire to return.

Jimmy is a young man who understands the value of persistence and positive thinking when seeking a job. He started at Home Depot during the summer in the garden center at Home Depot. Jimmy enjoyed his summer job so much that after his summer employment, he expressed his desire to return.

Jimmy is developing a new job search and landed multiple interviews. He came to every interview dressed appropriately and ready for action. Despite his best efforts, Isaac couldn’t get his foot in the door. One day, Isaac’s employer, a national grocery store, informed him that he was promotoed. Isaac was eager to take on the new position. He applied for the position and within a few weeks, was offered the job. Isaac started work at the store and has been able to work independently.

DVR Services are provided by State and Federal VR Funds. The VR program typically receives 78 percent in Federal funds and 22 percent in State funds. For detailed information on the dollar amount of Federal funds for the program, please visit https://www.govtnow.com/cgipic/basic vrinfo.php.
Angela KAY RECOMMENDS 2018 GOVERNOR’S TOUR \nOur only Don Kay, DVR’s chief of operations, accomplished a significant milestone on Oct. 17, 2018, when he was named the 2018 recipient of the Governor’s Trophy in Memory of Carolyn Blair Brown award at the Governor’s annual Disability Conference in Redmond. Don’s achievement was well-deserved. Much like the late Carolyn Blair Brown, who embraced and faced the adversity put upon her by adult-onset blindness, Don has also embraced his disability and used it for good, dedicating his life to empowering individuals with disabilities to pursue their dreams and be successful in their career goals.

After earning a degree in social work, Don’s lifelong pursuit in serving Washington residents with disabilities began in 1978 when he entered an internship at the Governor’s office, expediting to constitute complaints as well as representing the Office of the Governor at bicentennial events and planning the inaugural Disability Legislative Reception, which is celebrating its 38th anniversary in January 2019. His first position at DVR was as a member of the Independent Living Center’s vocational counselor and, for which the director at the time personally recruited Don. Over his past 32 years at DVR, Don has performed at a very high caliber in the positions of regional administrator, chief of field services, assistant director, and, now, chief of operations.

Looking ahead
This coming year, DVR’s process will include ensuring quality training for DVR staff, seamless integration of DVR services with the Workplace system, improving our expertise in Assistive Technology, and the continued management of DVR’s resources for the benefit of our customers and community.

I wish to thank all of our staff, stakeholders, employers, and partners, for their hard work in support of our customers. It is only through their efforts that DVR’s mission is fulfilled.