

PRESS RELEASE

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April 26, 2012

For Immediate Release

REGIONAL BUS AUTHORITY WEBSITE RECOGNIZED WITH ACCESS APPROVED® LOGO AWARD

Portage/Hammond...Regional Bus Authority (RBA) board and staff accepted an Access Approved® logo award for its website from Lynn Wehrman, president of the Wehrman Collaborative (WeCO), during the RBA's public rally on April 19.

"The RBA strives not only to comply with, but to exceed ADA standards," said Tim Brown, executive director. "When we learned about the WeCo testing, we signed on right away."

WeCo conducted a series of user-experiences testing on the RBA website (www.rba-nwi.org) in late 2011. "Our Certified Test Consultant teams are comprised entirely of people who live with a variety of disabilities," Wehrman explained. "WeCo believes that these individuals are experts at access simply by navigating their lives each day. Using our exclusive Accessibility Test Platform, we put their experiences to work. Our goal is to make web sites and electronic communications more accessible for everyone," she added.

WeCo's Accessibility Test Platform is based upon the Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) promoted by the US Federal Government for compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C) WCAG Guidelines and WeCo's own internally developed Standards of Access, all of which focus on the internet access needs of people living with disabilities.

Based in St. Paul, Minn., WeCo is a mission-based, for-profit organization. Founder Lynn Wehrman, a former web designer and content developer for the Minnesota Department of Transportation, worked as the accessible-communications specialist for the Minnesota DOT's Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan, one of Commissioner Tom Sorel's flagship initiatives. Find more information about the company and award at www.theweco.com.

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