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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education  
**FROM:** Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*  
**DATE:** June 23, 2009  
**SUBJECT:** Recognition of DDS Employees - Suzanne Page and Dr. George Albright

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**PURPOSE:**

Last month at its national forum in Detroit MI, Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, presented awards to Ms. Sue Page, director of the Maryland Disability Determination Services (DDS) and Dr. George Albright, DDS chief medical advisor. The State Board is joining with the Social Security Administration in recognition of these two outstanding employees of the Maryland State Department of Education.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Maryland DDS provides an important public service by responding effectively and efficiently to people in our State who have very significant disabilities and tremendous resource needs while, at the same time, preserving the fiscal integrity of the Social Security trust fund. This unit of the Maryland State Department of Education adjudicates annually approximately 60,000 claims filed by Maryland residents for Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

The Maryland DDS, located in Timonium, has a staff of 247 individuals and an annual operating budget of \$31.9 million.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Social Security Administration presented Suzanne Page and George Albright III, M.D. with two Commissioner Citations for Excellence in Service. This is the highest award given by SSA. The presentations took place on May 19, 2009 at the annual DDS Forum in Detroit, Michigan.



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The first award, accepted by DDS director Sue Page, recognizes the entire Maryland DDS for its commitment to customer service - accuracy, timeliness and productivity – while adjudicating disability claims. “Maryland has consistently been an outstanding example of a state agency that is committed to customer service. SSA recognizes the important role that the Maryland DDS plays in providing much needed relief to the most vulnerable citizens in the state of Maryland” says Laurie Watkins, the Regional Commissioner for the SSA Philadelphia Region.

In recognition of his individual Commissioner’s award, Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick says “Dr. Albright’s leadership over the years has ensured that claims filed by Maryland residents for federal disability benefits receives a thorough, accurate and compassionate review. He is well-respected by medical and lay staff on a state as well as a national level.”

**ACTION:**

Recognition by the State Board of Education of the outstanding accomplishments of two MSDE employees.

NSG/rab