



Media Contact:

For Immediate Release

Michael Kissell of Greensburg receives award from UniqueSource® Products & Services recognizing his abilities in the workplace

HARRISBURG, PA, June xx, 2017 – June 19 was an evening to “Embrace the Abilities” of Pennsylvanians by showcasing the skills and talents that individuals with disabilities bring to the workplace each and every day.

Twenty-six individuals were recognized with UniqueSource Achievement Awards in front of family, friends, co-workers and legislators for the contributions they make in jobs that they choose to have.

“Everyone has their own life story to tell and tonight, we honor each UniqueSource Achievement Award winner for their story,” said Vince Loose, president and CEO of UniqueSource Products & Services. “Not because their story is about their disability, but rather because of their personal mission, commitment and professionalism to not allow their disability to be their story.”

Following the awards ceremony, which took place at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania, guests were treated to an inspiring keynote address from Jessica Cox – a woman who was born without arms and whose many accomplishments include receiving the Guinness World Record for being the first person certified to fly an airplane with only their feet.

Michael Kissell of Greensburg, Pennsylvania was one of the individuals honored with a UniqueSource Achievement Award.

Meet Mike

For the last 15 years, Mike has been employed by Westmoreland County Blind Association and works as a Shredding Laborer. His responsibilities include sorting papers and preparing them for the shredder, shredding documents, sorting x-rays and placing labels on boxes.

Westmoreland County Blind Association has provided him with a job where he can work with friends and a staff that treats him with respect.

Mike says that he enjoys working with his friends and earning his own paycheck. He believes his job has made him more responsible and helped give him the confidence to talk with people in his community.

About Jessica Cox

UniqueSource.com

Jessica Cox has never let the fact that she was born without arms limit her dreams. Instead, she chose to explore the world with her feet. As a child, Jessica studied dance in her hometown of Sierra Vista, Arizona. At the age of 14, she earned her first Black Belt in the International Taekwondo Federation.

After high school, Jessica attended The University of Arizona and earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology. While at UA, she found a club of the American Taekwondo Association (ATA) and resumed training in the sport. She became the first armless person to earn a Black Belt in the ATA.

She has gone on to become certified to fly an airplane, learned to surf and became a certified scuba diver.

Jessica now shares her story with the world and uses her slogan "Think outside the shoe"TM to encourage people to be creative and innovative.

About UniqueSource Products & Services

UniqueSource is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit supplier of products and services dedicated to creating employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. It accomplishes this by partnering with its Members – Pennsylvania nonprofit agencies who employ persons with disabilities – to market and deliver their products and services to customers in both the private and public sectors.

For more information, visit www.UniqueSource.com.

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Photo Caption: (Left) Vince Loose, President & CEO of UniqueSource[®] Products & Services, and Jessica Cox (right) congratulate Michael Kissell (center) on his 2017 UniqueSource Achievement Award. Copyright 2017 Fine Art Photo, Inc.