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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 29, 2015

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Grant will take VODEC's Adult Transition Program (ATP) students to Iowa's Capitol Building

Council Bluffs- On April 8th VODEC's ATP students will be traveling to the Iowa State Capitol Building for advocacy training by ID Action staff to enlighten the students on effective ways to make a change within the Iowa Legislature and appropriate ways to engage with their Representatives. The students will also have an opportunity to go to the capitol building to watch a floor debate and attend a committee meeting to observe the legislature at work. "With the ID Action grant our students will have a great firsthand look at how they can take an active role in our government and advocate for themselves through their elected representatives." said Michael Points, ATP Coordinator.

Arrangements are being made for the students to meet Senator Michael Gronstal and Representatives Mary Ann Hanusa and Charlie McConkey. "The students will learn the importance of building relationships with their legislators and why their voices are important and need to be heard." said Steve Hodapp, VODEC's CEO. "This exciting trip will allow our students to participate in an ID Action opportunity called *Capitol Day*." Experiences from *Capitol Day* will aid the students in their future self-advocacy efforts.

The this trip is funded by a grant from the ID Action program which provides grant funds, advocacy training and support to local advocacy groups who are interested in meeting with their legislators at the capitol and advocating on behalf of disability-related issues. ID Action is a program of the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council).

Launched in 2002, ID Action is a non-partisan initiative to encourage Iowans with Disabilities to increase their participation in civic and political participations. Over 8,500 ID Action registrants are working to make a positive impact across Iowa. For more information about ID Action, please visit www.idaction.org or call 1-866-432-2846.

For additional information about VODEC services please contact either Daryn Richardson at daryn@vodec.org or Clarissa Conolley at cconolley@vodec.org. You can also reach Daryn or Clarissa at 712.328.2638.

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