



Tapping People Potential  
Romney Associates, Inc.

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## Massachusetts Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) Holds First Annual Diversity Conference

### **Patricia Romney, Ph.D presented with DMR's first Diversity Leadership Award on October 18, 2006.**

(October 31, 2006, Amherst, MA) The Department of Mental Retardation held its first annual Statewide Diversity Conference on Wednesday 18, 2006 in Worcester. One hundred and ninety people attended the conference and initial reviews have been very positive. Conference workshops centered on working with diverse individuals and families, and a panel of African American, Latino, Asian American and Russian family members and social workers lauded DMR for the care their family members have received through the Department.

At the conference, Dr. Patricia Romney of Romney Associates, Inc. in Amherst was presented with DMR's first Diversity Leadership Award in recognition of her pioneering work. Dr. Romney. At the presentation, Commissioner Gerald Morrissey cited Dr. Romney for her "outstanding contributions" as a management consultant and her commitment to the goals of DMR. Civil Rights Officer, Jerry Scott congratulated Dr. Romney for her dedication and for always "keeping her eye on the prize." In accepting the award Dr. Romney, who is also Visiting Associate Professor of Psychology at Mt. Holyoke College, said that "DMR has served as my model for excellence in diversity initiatives. Their dedication and commitment to diversity is inclusive and it is sustained."

The Department inaugurated its diversity work in Western Massachusetts in 1994 under the auspices of a Diversity Leadership Team led by then Western Massachusetts Regional Director, Steven Bradley, and staff members, Karen Rucks and Candace Cassin.

Mr Bradley is currently Vice President, Government and Community Relations for at Baystate Health System. Dr. Romney served as the lead external consultant to the Initiative. In 1999 under the leadership of Commissioner Morrissey's and Gerald Scott, the Romney Associates team expanded diversity work cross the state. Diversity committees were formed and diversity training and executive coaching for diversity were carried out in The Department's major regions. The Romney Associates Team comprised of Rosie Castaneda, JoAnn Jones, Paul Wiley, and Rita Hardman, worked with DMR from 1994 until 2002. Romney Associates can be reached at [www.romneyassociates.com](http://www.romneyassociates.com)

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