

South Dakota Governor Presents Strider Sports with Distinguished Service Award
Highlights impact of Strider Balance Bikes for individuals with special needs

Rapid City, SD (September 13, 2016) — South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard recognized [Strider Sports Int'l., Inc.](#), the world's premier manufacturer and marketer of no-pedal balance bikes, with the Distinguished Service Award for its contributions to the rehabilitation and employment of South Dakotans with disabilities at the 2016 Governor's Awards today.

Since its inception in 2007, Strider Sports International Inc. has donated over \$600,000 which includes cash and bikes to organizations that benefit children and adults, including individuals with disabilities. The Strider Bike line-up includes the 12" model for younger riders and the 16" and 20" models, developed in the last couple of years for older children and adults with balance and coordination challenges, such as Down syndrome and autism. Research in 2015 showed that [riding a Strider Bike helped children with Autism Spectrum Disorder \(ASD\)](#).

"Strider Sports Int'l has done amazing things for our program at Rapid City Central High School," said Amy Heuston, a Special Education teacher who submitted a letter of reference for the award application. "They not only have given us thousands of dollars in bikes and helmets, but have given their time and love to our students with severe/profound disabilities. Strider Bikes have made ENORMOUS impacts with many of our students, and in many skill areas."

Heuston uses 13 Strider Bikes in her classroom and has seen benefits in PT, OT, Speech, Behavioral and Social, as noted in [5 Areas of Impact Strider Bikes Have with My Special Education Students](#).

Physical therapists such as Kim Burke, PT, MPT, of Lifescape, use Strider Bikes, "to empower children and adults with disabilities to lead fulfilling lives," as she wrote in her letter of reference. "Strider Bikes have been a great tool that continues to challenge balance, strength, endurance, motor planning, etc., in a fun and functional way."

Many people with special needs never learn to ride a two-wheeled bike because of challenges with balance and coordination. Strider has worked with several organizations to change that, such as the Special Olympics Young Athletes Program. Starting in 2015, the Strider Cup Racing Series included Special Needs Races for individuals of all ages and abilities.

The Governor's Awards ceremony is co-sponsored by the Boards of Vocational Rehabilitation, Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired, the Statewide Independent Living Council and the Department of Human Services.

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ABOUT STRIDER SPORTS INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Founded in 2007 and headquartered in Rapid City, SD, Strider Sports designs efficient, no-pedal balance bikes for children as young as 18 months, as well as for older riders with special needs. Strider's mission is to simplify a bike to its essence, so proper size, weight, and simplicity combine to eliminate any fear of riding and instill confidence in the rider. Strider No-Pedal Balance Bikes are industry-leading training bikes that help children as young as 18 months learn to ride effectively on two wheels. Strider also manufactures balance bikes for individuals with special needs and for seniors wanting to stay active later in life. The patented Strider Balance Bikes focus on the fundamentals of balancing, leaning, and steering without the distractions and complications of pedals or training wheels. Strider Bikes are now distributed in

more than 75 countries worldwide. In 2015, Strider sold its one-millionth bike. Through its charitable Rider Fund, Strider Sports has donated over \$250,000 in cash and over \$350,000 in Strider products since 2008. To learn more and to find a retailer in your area, visit www.StriderBikes.com, like them on [Facebook](#), and follow them on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).