

New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities  
**Community Building Awards**  
Honoring Leadership and New IDEAS for Inclusive Communities

In cultivating a culture of community inclusion it is important to provide incentive, support and recognition to people and organizations that further inclusive values. In this spirit the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities has established an annual awards program to encourage individuals to undertake activities that create inclusive communities and show appreciation to those exhibiting exceptional commitment and advocacy in building a new world.

### **TIME LINES**

Application Deadline	March 1, 2010
Notification Date	March 15, 2010
Awards Luncheon	April 15, 2010

### **AWARDS LUNCHEON**

The Awards Luncheon will take place at the Trenton Marriott on Lafayette Street, Trenton, New Jersey. Invitations for awardees and guest will be sent after notification date.

### **DOCUMENTS**

There is a maximum of one nomination per category, per nominator. Please use the enclosed standard Nomination Entry Form. Send only pages 9 -11 with additional documentation only if required. Entry forms are also available on the Council's website: [www.njcdd.org](http://www.njcdd.org)

### **AWARD CATEGORIES**

Colleen Fraser Self-Advocate Award  
Elizabeth Boggs Family-Member Advocate Award  
Lifetime Achievement Advocacy Award  
Distinguished DD Systems Change Award  
Access Above & Beyond Award  
Exceptional Policymaker Award  
Multi-Media Award  
Fellowship in Inclusive Education Award

## AWARDS & CRITERIA

### **1. Colleen Fraser Self-Advocate Award**

The Colleen Fraser Self-Advocate Award honors a self-advocate who has shown outstanding efforts in advocating on behalf of themselves and other individuals.

#### **Criteria**

Nominee should be someone who has been a leader in their community by creating, promoting or implementing on-going advocacy activities, and taking necessary risks in their community or on the state or federal levels. Nominee should be someone who regularly lends their experience, expertise and effort to improve the community of and for people with developmental disabilities and their families. Community service, advocacy or volunteer work “above and beyond” expectations is a valued asset.

#### **Additional Information Required for this Nomination**

- A. Describe the nominee’s commitment to advocacy and how the nominee has performed “above and beyond” expected levels of performance.
- B. Describe how the nominee has demonstrated leadership, creativity and expertise while advocating for individuals and families.
- C. Explain how the nominee has demonstrated compassion, integrity and high standards.
- D. Letters of recommendation: 2 letters of recommendation must be included. Those making the recommendation should describe their affiliation with the candidate and provide their name, title, organization, address and telephone number.

### **2. Elizabeth Boggs Family-Member Advocate Award**

The Elizabeth Boggs Family-Member Advocate Award honors a family member of an individual with a developmental disability who has shown outstanding advocacy efforts in the area of developmental disabilities.

#### **Criteria**

Recipient of this award is a family member who has been instrumental in leading or implementing disability advocacy activities in their community or on the state or federal levels. The award recipient should be a family member who lends their

experience and takes the risks needed to improve the community for people with developmental disabilities and their families. Community service or volunteer work is a valued asset for this award. The nominee is a family member who has worked on disability issues in the following areas or combination of areas: Education, Employment, Transportation, Housing and other related areas.

#### **Additional Information Required for this Nomination**

- A. Describe the nominee's commitment to advocacy and how the nominee has performed "above and beyond" expected levels of performance.
- B. Describe how the nominee demonstrated leadership, creativity and expertise while advocating for individuals and families.
- C. Explain how the nominee has demonstrated compassion, integrity and high standards.
- D. Letters of recommendation: 2 letters of recommendation must be included. Those making the recommendation should describe their affiliation with the candidate and provide their name, title, organization, address and telephone number.

### **3. Lifetime Achievement Advocacy Award**

The Lifetime Achievement Advocacy Award recognizes an individual for a lifetime commitment and contribution to inclusive communities.

#### **Criteria**

This is the highest honor bestowed by the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities and is only given after careful consideration and deliberation by the Awards Committee. The Award may be given posthumously.

Individuals must demonstrate exceptional effort, commitment and determination in their professional and/or personal lives. Nominees can come from an individual or from any group: professional or parent/family. Nominees must represent an exceptional role model for people with developmental disabilities and their families and professionals in building community.

#### **Additional Information Required for this Nomination**

- A. Resume or Bio of candidate summarizing work experience; awards received; service at the local, state and national levels;

publications; and service to other grassroots and professional organizations.

- B. Letters of recommendation: 2 *or more* letters of recommendation must be included. Those making the recommendation should describe their affiliation with the candidate and provide their name, title, organization, address and telephone number.
- C. Letters of recommendation should focus on the quality and distinction of the candidate's lifetime achievement rather than a single contribution.

#### **4. Distinguished DD Systems Change Award**

The Distinguished DD Systems Change Award honors an individual or organization that has made outstanding contributions over the past year toward real systems change and positive outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

##### **Criteria**

The nominee must have demonstrated how modifying, altering, reorganizing, dissolving and/or creating systems or policies have resulted in positive change to serve or support people with developmental disabilities and their families. Systems can be at the local, county, state or the federal level in one or more of the following areas:

- Education (*all levels*)
- Employment (*all levels*)
- Transportation (*availability*)
- Housing (*accessibility, affordability and/or availability*)
- Health Care (*accessibility and/or availability*)
- Child Care Services (*accessibility and/or availability*)
- Self-Direction and Personal Choice (*all levels*)

##### **Additional Information Required for this Nomination**

- A. Describe the nominee's commitment to advocacy and how the nominee has performed "above and beyond" expected levels of performance.
- B. Describe how has the nominee has demonstrated leadership, creativity and expertise while advocating for individuals and families.
- C. Explain how the nominee has demonstrated compassion, integrity and high standards.

- D. Letters of recommendation: 2 letters of recommendation must be included. Those making the recommendation should describe their affiliation with the candidate and provide their name, title, organization, address and telephone number.

## **5. Access Above and Beyond Award**

The Access Above and Beyond Award honors businesses and venues that have surpassed what is required by law for equal access.

### **Criteria**

The Access Above and Beyond Award honors businesses that have gone above and beyond in the name of accessibility. The Access Award takes a holistic view of a business. Assessments are made on the physical property, while also assessing any attitudinal barriers that may exist, understanding the way their staff deliver a service, recognizing if it is inclusive and encouraging changes needed to improve where necessary.

### **Additional Information Required for this Nomination**

A. Describe the nominee's commitment to accessibility.

B. Describe how the nominee has performed "above and beyond" expected levels of performance, for example:

- Arrangements made to enable easy access to payment facilities
- Assistance with packing when shopping
- Restaurant provides non-fixed seating
- Staff training in providing assistance to customers with disabilities
- Customer information signs to have large clear print in contrasting colors to the background
- One to One assistance throughout shopping in the store

C. Letters of recommendation: 2 letters of recommendation must be included. Those making the recommendation should describe their affiliation with the candidate and provide their name, title, organization, address and telephone number.

## **6. Exceptional Policymaker Award**

The Exceptional Policymaker Award honors someone who has made outstanding contributions in public policy, legislation or administration with the result of greatly enhancing the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

## **Criteria**

This award will be given to a state or local elected official (including mayors, legislators, and governor) whose exceptional vision and/or action has dramatically expanded or enhanced community inclusion for people with developmental disabilities in their local community, state or region. The award recipient should be someone who lends their experience and takes the risks needed to improve the community for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

## **Additional Information Required for this Nomination**

- A. Demonstrated leadership, vision, action and innovation in community inclusion
- B. Explain how the person's efforts address key issues and needs facing people with developmental disabilities and their families in New Jersey.
- C. Explain the outcome, including real evidence of positive outcomes for people with developmental disabilities and their families in New Jersey.
- D. Letters of recommendation: 2 letters of recommendation must be included. Those making the recommendation should describe their affiliation with the candidate and provide their name, title, organization, address and telephone number.

## **7. Multi-Media Award**

The Multi-Media Award honors mainstream media for accurate and inclusive representations of people with developmental disabilities.

## **Criteria**

Entries will be judged by a panel composed of members of the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities and communications professionals on the following:

1. **Journalistic quality:** Display creativity and originality while fostering public understanding of people with developmental disabilities: use of person-first, non-offensive and affirmative language, and maintains high journalistic and technical standards.
2. **Understanding of people with disabilities:** Demonstrates the accomplishments and contributions of people with developmental disabilities; recognizes the needs and preferences of people with developmental disabilities; positively portrays them as valued citizens living typical and

productive lives; having choices; participating in relationships; being involved in integrated settings; in age-appropriate activities and having opportunities to develop and grow.

3. **Depth and continuity of coverage:** Choice of topic applies to the full spectrum of people with developmental disabilities even if showcasing one element or issue; demonstrates consistent and accurate reporting that raises public awareness of those issues.

#### **Additional Information Required for this Nomination**

- A. Sample of the media piece (DVD, audio tape, copy of article, etc.) in a universal format.
- B. Letters of recommendation: 2 letters of recommendation must be included. Those making the recommendation should describe their affiliation with the candidate and provide their name, title, organization, address and telephone number.
- C. Tapes should be no longer than 60 minutes in length and contain complete programs or series, or a synopsis of a longer series. If no tape is available, a script of a program that was aired is acceptable. Television entries must be submitted on PC compatible DVDs. Radio entries must be submitted on CDs.

### **8. Fellowship in Inclusive Education Award**

The Fellowship in Inclusive Education Award honors an individual or group of individuals who encourage the inclusion of students with disabilities in all areas of school life, including academic and non-academic activities. The goal of the Fellowship Award is to develop a diverse network of educators who actively embrace the principles of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

#### **Criteria**

Fellows must engage in educational practices that reflect a commitment to providing children with disabilities access to a meaningful education and to meaningful relationships with their peers in general education settings.

1. Describe the practice you are nominating, including the length of time the practice has been in place and the number of students with and without Individual Education Plans (IEPs) participating in the program or practice.

2. The recipients must specify how the financial award will be used to continue or expand their exemplary practice.
3. The practice may not be a separate practice involving students who receive special education services and supports.
4. There must be direct involvement with peers without disabilities.
5. The practice must involve collaboration between general education and special education staff.
6. The practice must be an ongoing inclusive practice, not a single special event.
7. The practice must have its foundation in the general education program.
8. The practice must incorporate long term goals building to the achievement of life outcomes.

**Additional Information Required for this Nomination**

- A. There is administrative support for the practice.
- B. The practice works from a strengths based model.
- C. Adaptations are the norm, not just practiced for individual children.
- D. The practice demonstrates high expectations for achievement for children with disabilities.
- E. The practice promotes equal membership.
- F. The practice can be replicated in other schools or settings.

## Community Building Awards

*Honoring Leadership and New IDEAS for Inclusive Communities*

### Nomination Entry Form

Also available on the website: [www.njcdd.org](http://www.njcdd.org)

Award Category: [check only one]

Entry Deadline: Feb. 8, 2010

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colleen Fraser Self-Advocate Award           | <input type="checkbox"/> Access Above and Beyond Award           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Boggs Family-Member Advocate Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Exceptional Policymaker Award           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Achievement Advocacy Award          | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Media Award                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Distinguished DD Systems Change Award        | <input type="checkbox"/> Fellowship in Inclusive Education Award |

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NOMINEE: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person *(if organization)* \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee/Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee/Contact E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Role: \_\_\_\_\_

Maximum of one nomination per category, per nominator.

**If required under the Award Category, attach explanations, documentation and information to this form.**

NOMINATOR: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

*(professional, family, etc.)*

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail or Fax Entries to:**  
NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities  
PO Box 700  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0700  
FAX: 609-292-7114

**Inquiries to:**  
Jane Dunhamn  
609-984-3379

**By Courier:**  
NJ Council on DD  
20 West State Street - 6th Floor  
Trenton, NJ 08608  
609-292-3745

**PLEASE SEND ONLY PAGES 9 -11, plus your documentation.**

