



Dear APSE Member,

It's that time of the year again when we need to start thinking about individuals, organizations and employers we would like to honor at the 21st Annual National APSE Conference: *Employment First: Not just a Slogan*. The Conference dates are June 8-10 2010, and the APSE Awards Committee would like everyone to get ready to celebrate the *City Lights, Southern Nights* in Atlanta, Georgia.

Once again APSE would like to honor those who have excelled in the following categories:

- **Professional Award**...Individual
- **Best Practices Award** ... Organization
- **Personal Achievement Award**...Individual with a disability
- **Employer (Small) Award**...25 employees or less
- **Employer (Large) Award**...26 employees or more
- **Rebecca McDonald Award**...State chapter leader
- **Wendy M. Wood Award**...Emerging leader

We are continuing our new tradition of honoring all of the nominees at the Awards Ceremony; **the winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony not before**. Additional information regarding the ceremony will follow.

We are looking for the **Top of the Line**, the **Cream of the Crop**, and the **Best of the Best** in our field. Please submit nominations for one or all of the categories. **All award submissions are due by March 5, 2010**. If you need guidance with this process, please give us a call.

Looking forward to hearing from all of you. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Respectfully,

Pat Gutowski
732-541-4400
poohg1220@aol.com

Vic Gable
419-352-5059
vgable@woodlane.us

Awards Committee Co-Chairs

APSE • 451 Hungerford Drive • Suite 700 • Rockville, MD • 20850



APSE National Awards Nomination Directions

APSE chapters are encouraged to nominate state level award winners for national recognition using the national awards directions. APSE members are encouraged to self-nominate or nominate other members they feel excel in any of the categories. (See Categories & Descriptions pages in this document)

To Complete the Nomination:

- Select the category in which you are submitting your nomination (see Nomination Form).
Please note: All nominees must be current APSE members with the exception of those nominated for the Personal Achievement Award and the Employer Awards.
- Type or legibly print all information on the Awards Nomination Form.
- Write a one-page narrative describing why the nominee is deserving of the award.
The letter must be an original letter and not a copy from previous nomination and should address the award criteria listed under the award description.
- Attach at least one individualized letter of support for your nominee. The letter of support must address the national award criteria.
- Email to cindi@apse.org OR mail completed nomination packet by no later than **March 5, 2010** to the following address:
APSE
451 Hungerford Drive, Ste. 700
Rockville, MD 20850
- If your nomination does not meet the following criteria, the nomination will not be considered for the Award. The Nomination packet must include:
 1. Completed nomination form
 2. One page narrative addressing each of the national award criteria
 3. At least one individualized letter of support
 4. Submission by March 5, 2010

If you have questions, please contact APSE Awards Committee Co-Chairs:

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APSE National Awards Nomination Form

Select Category:

- Professional Award...Individual
- Best Practices Award...Organization
- Employer Award Small...(25 or less employees)
- Employer Award Large...(26 or more employees)
- Personal Achievement Award...Individual with a disability
- Rebecca McDonald Award...State chapter leader
- Wendy Wood Award...Emerging leader

Nomination Submitted By:

Name of APSE member submitting this nomination		APSE Membership Number (must be current)	
Street Address	City	State	Zip
Telephone	Email		

Nominee Information:

Reminder: All nominees except Personal Achievement Award & Employer Award must have a current APSE membership.

Name of Nominee		APSE Membership Number (if applicable)	
Street Address	City	State	Zip
Telephone	Email		

Send nomination form, required one page narrative addressing national criteria, and letter(s) of support by mail, fax or email to APSE by March 5, 2010.

APSE
451 Hungerford Dr. Suite 700
Rockville, MD 20850
Fax: 301-251-3762
Email: cindi@apse.org

Need an APSE Membership Number - please email cindi@apse.org

Annual APSE National Awards 2010

CATEGORIES AND DESCRIPTIONS

DEADLINE: March 5, 2010

APSE Professional Award...Individual

Description: To confer recognition on an individual for outstanding best practices and professional achievements as a job coach, job developer, employment specialist, or agency personnel.

Please consider all of the following criteria when writing your narrative as to why this individual is deserving of this recognition.

Criteria:

- What makes this individual exceptional in their area?
- What have their achievements been and why are they significant?
- What do the persons served/employers say about this individual's accomplishments?

APSE Best Practices Award...Organization

Description: To confer recognition on an organization for outstanding accomplishments in promoting best practices in integrated employment.

Please consider all of the following criteria when writing your narrative as to why this organization is deserving of this recognition.

Criteria:

- What makes this organization exceptional in their area?
- What have their achievements been and why are they significant?
- What do the persons served/employers say about this organization's accomplishments?

APSE Employer Award...Small (25 or less employees) and Large (26 or more employees)

Description: To confer recognition on employers in the public and private sectors for outstanding achievements in enhancing employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Please consider all of the following criteria when writing your narrative as to why this employer is deserving of this recognition:

Criteria:

- Describe the nominee's practices pertaining to employment for persons with disabilities.
- What has the nominee done to ensure that employees with disabilities have been fully integrated and supported in the company's workforce?
- Has the nominee made a concerted effort on the local, state, and/or national level to encourage other employers to hire people with disabilities?

APSE Personal Achievement Award...Citizen with a disability

Description: To confer recognition of an individual for outstanding achievement in employment. This award is to recognize personal achievement, model employment or self-employment.

Please consider all of the following criteria when writing your narrative as to why this individual is deserving of this recognition.

Criteria:

- Has the nominee been employed at least 6 months?
- What makes this individual exceptional in their area?
- What have their achievements been and why are they significant?
- Explain the type of work the nominee performs.

APSE Rebecca McDonald Award for APSE... State Chapter Leader

Rebecca McDonald was a tireless advocate for supported employment and dedicated friend and promoter of APSE. She passed away in August of 1999 after a long and valiant struggle with breast cancer. She was one of supported employment's greatest advocates, serving APSE in various ways for 11 years. She was the organization's founding Vice-President, served as its President for three years, and was an officer for the APSE Foundation until a few months before her death. Rebecca deeply believed in the principles APSE was founded upon, and she supported and encouraged others to give and share resources to make those principles a reality.

Description: To honor Rebecca's contributions to APSE and the employment of people with disabilities, this award is offered to successful APSE chapter leaders who demonstrate the spirit of volunteerism and extraordinary commitment to the mission and vision of APSE in their work with their state chapters.

Please consider all of the following criteria when writing your narrative as to why this individual is deserving of this recognition.

Criteria:

- Describe how the Chapter leader has demonstrated strength in leading their State Chapter and the promotion of principles of APSE.
- Describe actions that demonstrate how this person has influenced changes in statewide policy.
- Describe how this person has built their chapter's profile.
- What vision has the nominee set for supported employment?

Wendy M. Wood Award...Emerging Leader

Wendy M. Wood is the founding Executive Director of APSE. To begin this organization took great vision, effort, determination and risk. To honor her contribution to this organization and to the overall field of supported employment, APSE's Board of Directors established this award.

Description: To recognize emerging leaders in moving toward complete involvement of people with disabilities in our society.

Please consider all of the following criteria when writing your narrative as to why this individual is deserving of this recognition.

Criteria:

- **Advocate** – The nominee is an advocate for full and equitable employment and social inclusion.
- **Risk and Initiative** – The nominee embraces risk as part of change and constantly challenges the status quo, improvising, adapting, and overcoming obstacles to the desired outcome, whether it be individual employment outcomes or broader social goals.
- **Agent for Change** – Through the course of this nominee's action, change is affected, impacting the lives of one or many.
- **Partnerships** – The nominee recognizes that partnerships create the energy and collaboration necessary to make change.
- Describe an activity, process, or action the emerging leader has accomplished to improve services locally that could be applied regionally or nationally.
- Describe how the nominee inspires others and builds partnerships and support of a vision or goal.

All National APSE Award winners will receive a complimentary registration for the 2011 APSE National conference.