2015 PNWEF AWARDS - CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Pacific NW Employment Forum Awards 2015

June 8, 2015

Dear APSE Members:

It’s time to start thinking about individuals and organizations in our field that we would like to honor for their efforts and contributions in advancing Employment First from policy to practice. Awardees will be recognized at the Awards luncheon during the 3rd Annual Pacific NW Employment Forum: “Planting Seeds”.

Nominations are being accepted to honor achievements in the following categories:

- **Professional Employment Services Award** – Recognizing an individual who exemplifies the best of Employment Supports.
- **Employment Mentor Award** – Recognizing a supervisor, manager, lead staff, or advocate who exemplifies the best in mentoring Employment Supports.
- **Employee Advocate Award** – Recognizing an individual with a disability employed in his/her local community and is a recognized leader for Employment First.
- **Community Partner Award** – Recognizing a Services Coordinator, Personal Agent, Educator, or VR Counselor who exemplifies best practices in Employment Services and/or transition from school to work.
- **NEW!! Public Policy Advocate of the Year Award** – Distinguishing an individual who has excelled in grassroots advocacy to ensure that local, state and/or federal policies meet the goal of increasing Employment First.
- **NEW!! Employer Award** – Recognizing employers in the public and private sectors for outstanding achievements in advancing Employment First.

All nominations are due no later than 12:00pm on July 17, 2015. Thank you in advance for taking the time to submit your nominations.

Respectfully,

**Ann Coffey**

Awards Committee Chair
AWARDS NOMINATION DIRECTIONS

All nomination submissions and packets must be complete, and meet all eligibility criteria, to be considered for recognition. Incomplete submissions will not be accepted.

- Select the Award Category for your nomination by referring to the ‘Awards Category Descriptions’ pages. **NOTE: Only current APSE members may submit nominations.**

- Complete the Nomination Form and include all requested information.

- Write a 1-3 page double spaced narrative describing why the nominee is deserving of the award selected. The narrative must be an original and not a copy from previous nominations and should specifically address the award criteria questions listed under the award description. **NOTE: Narratives exceeding 3 pages will not be accepted.**

- Attach at least one individualized letter of support for your nominee that specifically addresses the award criteria.

- Email to oregonapse@gmail.com – OR – Mail the completed nomination packet **no later than 12pm, July 17, 2015** to the address below. **NOTE: Faxed nominations not accepted.**

APSE Awards Nominating Committee
c/o Ann Coffey – United Cerebral Palsy
305 NE 102nd Ave., Suite 100
Portland, OR 97220

!!!NEW!!! --- ELECTRONICALLY FILLABLE NOMINATION FORM AVAILABLE!!!

Instructions for downloading and using the fillable form:
1 - Click the form links below.
2 - Save the form to your computer.
4 - Fill out form and resave to include with your completed nomination packet.

Click here to download the fillable NOMINATION FORM

If you have questions, please contact: APSE PNWEF Awards Committee Chair - Ann Coffey
Phone: (971) 235-9543 or Email: acoffey@ucpaorwa.org
AWARDS CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS
DEADLINE: 12pm (PST) July 17, 2015

**Professional Employment Services Award**

**Description:** To recognize an individual for outstanding state-of-the-art practices and professional achievements in integrated employment as a job coach, job developer, employment specialist, or other employment agency personnel. Please respond to the following criteria:

1. What specific contributions has the nominee made in the field?
2. What characteristics make the nominee outstanding in his/her position?
3. What specific achievements have the nominee made and explain why they are significant?
4. What do the individuals whom s/he support and employers say about this nominee’s work?

**Employment Mentor Award**

**Description:** To recognize an individual for outstanding state-of-the-art practices and professional achievements in integrated employment as a mentor or supervisor. Please respond to the following criteria:

1. What specific contributions has the nominee made in the field?
2. What characteristics make the nominee outstanding in his/her position?
3. What specific achievements have the nominee made and explain why they are significant?
4. What do the individuals whom s/he support, staff, and employers say about this nominee’s work?

**Employee Advocate**

**Description:** To recognize an individual with a disability who is employed in the community and is a leader of Employment First. Please respond to the following criteria:

1. Has the nominee been employed at least 1 year?
2. How does the employee serve as a role model for others who are interested in seeking community employment?
3. What specific achievements have the nominee made and explain why they are significant.
4. What do others say about this nominee’s advocacy skills for Employment First?

**Community Partner Award**

**Description:** To recognize an individual for outstanding collaboration and state of the art practices and professional achievements in supporting individuals with disabilities to achieve integrated employment. Please respond to the following criteria:

1. Describe an activity, process, or action that the individual has accomplished to improve services locally that could be applied regionally.
2. Describe how the nominee builds partnerships and a vision for employment for the people s/he serves.
3. What specific achievements have the nominee made and explain why they are significant.
4. What do the individuals whom s/he support, families, employers, and other community partners say about the nominee’s work?
**NEW!!! Public Policy Advocate of the Year Award**

**Description:** To distinguish an individual who has excelled in grassroots advocacy to ensure that local, state and/or federal policies meet the goal of increasing Employment First. The Public Policy Advocate of the Year is someone who inspires others to make a difference by engaging with elected officials and key stakeholders in discussions to promote policies that support the mission of Employment First! Please respond to the following criteria:

1. Describe the specific advocacy actions the nominee has taken to advance Employment First at the local, state, regional and/or national level in the past year.
2. How has the nominee changed policies, practices and/or funding to advance Employment First at the local, state, regional and/or national level?
3. Describe how the nominee has built awareness and improved outreach for Employment First and how these efforts have improved employment opportunities in their state?

**NEW!!! Employer Award**

**Description:** To recognize employers in the public and private sectors for outstanding achievements in advancing Employment First. Please respond to the following criteria:

1. Describe the nominee’s Employment First practices.
2. What has the nominee done to ensure that employees with disabilities are fully integrated and supported in their company’s workforce?
3. What has the nominee done to encourage other employers to consider hiring candidates with disabilities?
4. What efforts has the nominee made at the local, state, and/or national level to encourage the hiring of individuals with disabilities (e.g., working with legislators, developing partnerships with VR or provider agencies, etc.)?
NOMINATION FORM

Select Category (check one):

_____Professional Employment Specialist Award
_____Employment Mentor Award
_____Employee Advocate Award
_____Community Partner Award
_____Public Policy Advocate of the Year Award
_____Employer Award

Nomination Submitted By (please print legibly):

Name of APSE member submitting this nomination   APSE Membership # (must be current)

Name of Agency of member submitting this nomination

Street Address   City   State   Zip

(____)_________________________   ___________________________
Telephone   Email

Nominee Information (please print legibly):

Name of Nominee   APSE Membership # (if applicable)

Name of Agency of the nominee

Street Address   City   State   Zip

(____)_________________________   ___________________________
Telephone   Email