



November 1, 2013

Dear APSE Chapter Leaders & APSE Members:

It's time to start thinking about individuals, organizations and employers we would like to honor at the **25th Annual National APSE Conference: "Livin' the dream, building the future for Employment First"**. The conference dates are July 1-3, 2014 and the APSE Awards Committee would like everyone to get ready to celebrate at the Hyatt Regency, Long Beach, California.

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**... Less than 29 employees
- **Employer (Medium) Award**... 29-249 employees
- **Employer (Large) Award**... 250 or more employees
- **Wendy M. Wood Award**... Emerging leader
- **Dave Hammis Innovation Award**... Individual or Organization
- **"Got Mike Fund" Educational Leadership Award (includes a \$1000 scholarship)**

The **Rebecca McDonald Award** will be awarded by the Delegates Committee and given at the Chapter Leadership Summit. This person will also be honored at the awards luncheon.

We are paying tribute to all of the nominees at the Awards Ceremony; **the winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony on July 2, 2014, not before.** Additional information regarding the ceremony will follow.

The waves are up and soaring and we are looking for the **Best of the Best** in our field. Please submit nominations for one or all of the categories. **All award submissions are due by 5 pm (EST) on January 31, 2014.** If you need guidance with this process, please contact us.

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

Respectfully,

*Pat Gutowski*

Pat Gutowski  
[poohg1220@aol.com](mailto:poohg1220@aol.com)

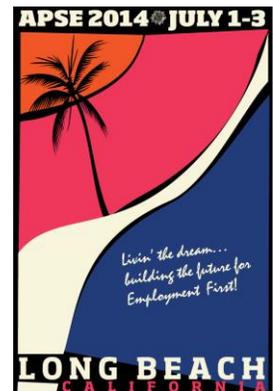
*Vic Gable*

Vic Gable  
[vgable@woodlane.us](mailto:vgable@woodlane.us)

*Tara Asai*

Tara Asai  
[taraasai@gmail.com](mailto:taraasai@gmail.com)

Awards Committee Co-Chairs





## APSE National Awards Nomination Directions

*APSE chapter board members are encouraged to nominate state level award winners for national recognition using the national awards template. 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 **1-3 page double spaced narrative** (no longer than 3 pages) describing why the nominee is deserving of the award selected. The narrative must be an original 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.
- Include a **photo of the nominee** in jpg or pdf
- **Email** to [awards@apse.org](mailto:awards@apse.org) OR **mail** completed nomination packet by no later than **5 pm (EST), January 31, 2014** to:

**APSE Awards Nominating Committee  
416 Hungerford Drive, Suite 418  
Rockville, MD 20850**

**Note: Faxed nominations will not be accepted.**

Completed nomination packets must be received by **January 31, 2014 by 5 pm (EST)** (faxed nominations will not be accepted) to be considered. Complete nomination packets must include:

1. Completed nomination form
2. 1-3 page narrative addressing each of the national award criteria (no longer than 3 pages)
3. One individualized letter of support addressing the national award criteria

If you have questions, please contact Cindi Clark at APSE National at [cindi@apse.org](mailto:cindi@apse.org) or 301.279.0060.





## Annual APSE National Awards 2014 CATEGORIES AND DESCRIPTIONS

**DEADLINE: 5 pm (EST) January 31, 2014**

### **APSE Professional Award...Individual**

**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 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 they support and employers say about this nominee's work?

### **APSE Best Practice Award...Organization**

**Description:** To recognize an organization for outstanding accomplishments in promoting state-of-the-art practices in integrated employment.

Please respond to the following criteria:

1. What specific achievements has this organization made in the area of integrated employment for individuals with disabilities?
2. What changes has this organization made (internally or within their community) to advance integrated employment?
3. What activities does this organization do to promote integrated employment and build partnerships with others to advance integrated employment?
4. What do the individuals whom they support, employers, and family members say about this organization's accomplishments?

### **APSE Employer Award...Small, Medium, Large**

**Description:** To recognize employers in the public and private sectors for outstanding achievements in advancing integrated employment opportunities for citizens with disabilities.

Please respond to the following criteria:

1. Describe the nominee's practices pertaining to employment for individuals with disabilities.
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.)?



### **APSE Personal Achievement Award...Citizen with a disability**

**Description:** To recognize an individual's personal achievement, through integrated employment or self-employment.

Please respond to the following criteria:

1. Has the nominee been employed at least 6 months?
2. Describe the type of work the nominee performs and how has s/he advanced her skills through work.
3. What specific achievements have the nominee made and explain why they are significant?

### **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 (individuals in the field 3 years or less) in developing a vision and creating action toward full inclusion of citizens with disabilities in our society. Nominee must

Please respond to the following criteria:

1. Describe an activity, process, or action the emerging leader has accomplished to improve services locally that could be applied regionally or nationally.
2. Describe how the nominee inspires others and builds partnerships and support of a vision or goal.
3. Describe how the nominee:
  - o **Advocates** for equitable employment and full social inclusion.
  - o **Embraces** risk as part of change and constantly challenges the status quo, improvising, adapting, and overcoming obstacles to the desired outcome, whether individual employment outcomes or broader social goals.
  - o **Partners** with others (employers, agencies, the community at large) to create the energy needed to continue change

### **Dave Hammis Innovation Award...Individual or Organization**

Dave Hammis was an incredible innovator in the field of community employment. His creativity and fresh approach to supporting individuals in integrated jobs-whether in a business or through self-employment inspired many of us to see beyond the realities of what we thought possible. To honor his contributions to this organization and to the overall field of supported employment, APSE has established this award.

**Description:** To honor Dave's contributions to APSE and the employment of people with disabilities, this award is offered to individuals who demonstrate innovation in the area of technology, customized strategies, and/or self-employment for individuals with significant disabilities.



Please respond to the following criteria:

1. Describe the specific actions that demonstrate the nominee's belief that all individuals, regardless of the significance of their disability, can work.
2. Describe one or more specific examples how the nominee has taken an innovative approach and applied it to enhance community employment for people with disabilities using technology, customized strategies, or self-employment.
3. Provide at least one example of a specific job the nominee has developed for an individual with a significant disability.

### **“Got Mike! Fund” Educational Leadership Award...Doctoral Student**

Dr. Michael McAllister was a tireless advocate regarding employment for all people and a dedicated APSE friend. He was a true lover of life and inspired others to find and follow their dreams. The “Got Mike! Fund” has been established in his honor to perpetuate these passions and zest for life, and to help increase opportunities for others to live fully regardless of issues of disabilities they may have. This award has been established to continue his quest for educational advancement.

**Description:** To honor Dr. McAllister's contributions to the advancement of integrated employment, and the ongoing educational advancement of professionals interested in the field. We continue his legacy by honoring a doctoral student whose leadership and commitment toward integrated employment is seen as outstanding, passionate, and furthering the inclusion of all people in the world of work. Award winners will receive \$1000.00.

Please respond to the following criteria:

1. What vision has the nominee set for expanding integrated employment?
2. Describe an activity, process, or action the emerging leader has accomplished to improve services locally that could be applied regionally or nationally.
3. 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 2015 APSE National conference!**