



Annual AWARDS 2018

Recognizing Excellence in Service to Individuals with Disabilities

vaACCSES is pleased to announce its annual awards to recognize staff, Community Partners and Employers for their professional efforts and dedication to improving the quality of life for individuals with disabilities. There are three types of awards to be given:

Staff of Member Agencies: Three or more individuals statewide will be recognized for their dedication, innovation, flexibility, leadership and collaboration in the service of individuals with disabilities. ANY staff member (except the Corporate CEO/Executive Director) may be nominated. Staff can represent those who directly serve individuals with disabilities or may represent staff behind the scenes in Human Resources, Finance, Operations or other parts of your organization.

Community Partner: One or more individuals or organizations will be recognized. Criteria for this award includes fostering community inclusion of individuals living with disabilities, providing service to individuals with disabilities that has provided a benefit beyond the reason for the service or providing significant contributions to the lives of individuals with disabilities in conjunction with one of the member agencies. Community Partners can be an outstanding community volunteers.

Employer: One or more Business, Corporation or Governmental Employers will be recognized for their dedication to providing employment opportunities to individuals with a disability. The nominee must be currently providing employment either directly or via contract to at least one individual with a disability or be a current customer of an ESO's facility based work program. Depending on the nominations received, subcategories may be developed in order to recognize the maximum number of employers.

Nominations are to be submitted to:

Karen Tefelski, vaACCSES by: **COB on Friday, August 3, 2018**

- Via E-Mail : ktefelski@vaaccses.org
- Please submit entries electronically. Please scan and attach documents to email.

Criteria for nominations:

- Only representatives of vaACCSES member organizations may submit nominations.
- Nominated Staff must be an employee of a vaACCSES member organization.
- All staff is eligible for nomination except for Corporate CEO's / Executive Directors.
- A detailed description of how individuals with disabilities are positively impacted by the nominee is required to accompany all nominations.
- Additional Letters of Support and/or testimonials of support are strongly encouraged. Letters or statements may be submitted by anyone familiar with a nominee's accomplishments (individuals with disabilities, family members, CSB case managers, DRS Counselors, colleagues, etc.). Any support documentation is helpful so that the volunteer reviewers are able to understand why you believe your nominee is most deserving.
- Awards will be presented during the Annual Collaborations Conference on September 23-25, 2018 which is being held at the Norfolk Sheraton Waterfront Hotel. Recipient expenses are the responsibility of the organization submitting the nomination.

We look forward to receiving your nominations.

Provide the following information:

AWARD: **Staff** **Community Partner** **Employer**

**Nominee –
Individual
or Business
Name**

Phone

**Contact
Person
(Community
Partner or
Employer
only)**

**Title of
Nominee or
Contact
Person**

**Mailing
Address**

**Member
Agency**

E-mail

Fax number

**Nomination
Submitted
by**

**Day time
phone**

**Mailing
Address**

**Member
Agency**

E-mail

Fax number

Please attach email letters, typewritten or legible handwritten documentation and letters of support and/or testimonials as to the reasons why the nominee should be recognized with this award. Decisions are based on the materials received, so the more information/details provided, the better the volunteer review panel will be able to understand why you think your nominee is the most deserving. Nominations are to be submitted to:

Karen Tefelski, vaACCSES Executive Director by: **COB on Friday, August 3, 2018.**

- E-Mail : ktefelski@vaaccses.org. Please scan and attach documents to the email.

Award recipients will be selected by a volunteer panel of vaACCSES members. The nominator will be notified prior to the conference if their nominee has been selected.

***Deadline for submission is COB Friday, August 3, 2018.
Awards to be presented at the 2018 Virginia Collaborations Conference - Norfolk***

vaACCSES Annual Awards

Guidelines for consideration

Please use the following information to help you elaborate on the qualities demonstrated by your nominee in any of the three categories.

STAFF

Demonstrates **Dedication and Flexibility**:

- Goes beyond the position description;
- Takes initiative; whatever it takes attitude
- Overall vision of the organizational goals
- Has positive outcomes / positive change occurred that improved the quality of life for an individual(s) with a disability

Demonstrates **Innovation**:

- Example(s) of “out of the box” thinking
- Takes risks with positive results
- Thinks on their feet

Demonstrates **Leadership**:

- Individual is respected by peers
- Good communicator
- Has vision and is a role model/excellent representative of the member agency
- Ambassador of new ideas and is a strong advocate for individuals with disabilities

Demonstrates **Collaboration and Partnership**:

- Is sensitive to collaborating partners (family, caregivers, funding agents, etc.) includes employers and community members
- Keeps team members informed
- Recognizes the whole person / holistic approach
- Fosters and encourages community inclusion
- Sees challenges as opportunities instead of barriers

COMMUNITY PARTNER/EMPLOYER

- Commitment to the inclusion of individuals with disabilities;
- Commitment to creation of jobs and/or other employment/volunteer opportunities for individuals with disabilities;
- Visionary business partner or unique partnership allowing integration;
- Does not see challenges as deterrents and looks for opportunities from every challenge;

For more information contact:
Karen Tefelski at ktefelski@vaaccses.org or
Marilyn Morrison at mmorrison@vaaccses.org