



Iowa Commission of Persons with Disabilities Awards Program Nomination Criteria

Awards will be presented to recipients in October,
National Disability Employment Awareness Month

The Iowa Commission of Persons with Disabilities has eight award categories. Each honors individuals or organizations for their contributions toward public awareness in employing people with disabilities. The deadline for each nomination is **4:30 pm on Friday August 7, 2009** and should be submitted to:

**Division of Persons with Disabilities
Lucas State Office Bldg.
Des Moines, IA 50319**

Or via e-mail to:

jackie.wipperman@iowa.gov

Individual Awards

1. The Governor's Award

Purpose: This is the State's highest honor to the Iowan with a disability who has done the most to enhance the empowerment and employment of individuals with disabilities. This individual should have demonstrated outstanding achievements in the world of work and significant contributions that increase public awareness of Iowans with disabilities.

2. Commissioners' Award

Purpose: To recognize extraordinary and meritorious service of a service worker (public or private non-profit agency employee) who has substantially contributed to advancing meaningful employment for persons with disabilities. This individual will have demonstrated their understanding and achievements through their commitment for advocacy of equitable wages and job responsibilities. Results are long-term with individual satisfaction.

3. Distinguished Service Award

Purpose: To recognize extraordinary and meritorious service of a volunteer who has substantially contributed to advancing meaningful employment for persons with disabilities.

4. Youth Service Award

Purpose: This award can be given to a youth with or without a disability. This person demonstrates initiative that enhances the quality of life for persons with disabilities. This could be in a school or community project as a paid or volunteer position. The person who is selected serves as a role model, peer, and mentor to help persons with disabilities gain access to the workforce.

5. Outstanding Entrepreneur Award:

Purpose: To recognize an entrepreneur with a disability who has displayed outstanding leadership, technical skills in their field, and initiative necessary to successfully own and operate a for profit business.

Organizational Awards

6. Employer of the Year Awards – Large and Small

Purpose: To recognize large and small employers who have made outstanding contributions in the employment of lowans with disabilities. A philosophy of supporting employment opportunities that is exhibited through recruiting, accommodating, employing and advancing persons with disabilities is viewed as strength. Workplace efforts related to the Americans with Disabilities Act, including architectural, programmatic, and communication are key elements. Businesses who focus on the ability of the employees (rather than the disability) are excellent nominees. Promotion of business opportunities for people with disabilities within the business community are also important elements. (Small: less than 200 employees; Large: more than 200 employees)

7. Media Awards

Purpose: To recognize communications and communicators for accurately and progressively portraying the employment of people with disabilities. The recipient will have effectively portrayed people with disabilities as independent and productive through the use of words and images, focusing on stories about persons first and their disability second. Awards may come from the following categories: **Television, Radio, Photojournalism, Print, and Special Contributions (Public Service Announcements/programming, documentary, news/features, advertising, articles, and editorials)**

8. Local Committee of the Year Award

Purpose: To recognize and honor a specific activity, event or project that demonstrates excellence regarding the employment of persons with disabilities.

NOMINATIONS:

Complete the Official Nomination Form

Write a 3 to 5 paragraph summary of how this individual/company/group has exemplified and contributed to the success of employment of persons with disabilities.

Please include:

- number of years of service
- past honors and/or awards
- club and/or organization affiliation
- personal/company successes
- personal information (if appropriate)
- attach newspaper articles, if possible

Include no more than three letters of support/recommendation with each nomination.

Awards will be presented at an afternoon ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda on Friday, October 9, 2009 at a 2:00 pm ceremony.

If you need additional information, contact: jackie.wipperman@iowa.gov or 1-800-652-4298.

Official Nomination Form

Check the Award Category

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Governor's Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Commissioner's Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Distinguished Service Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Media Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Service Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Committee of the Year Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employer of the Year Award | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entrepreneur of the Year Award | |

Nominee Information

Nominee _____

Name of Organization _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone: (work) _____ (home) _____

E-mail: _____

Sponsor Information

Nominator _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone: (work) _____ (home) _____

E-mail: _____

Please submit form and supporting documentation no later than
4:30 pm on August 7, 2009 to:

Division of Persons with Disabilities
Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319

Or via e-mail to:

jackie.wiperman@iowa.gov

Write a 3 to 5 paragraph summary (below) of how this individual/company/group has exemplified and contributed to the success of the employment of persons with disabilities. Please include appropriate information: numbers of years of service, past honors and/or awards, club and/or organizational affiliation, personal/company successes, and personal information if appropriate. Attach newspaper articles if applicable.

Summary of Qualifications