

TO: Council Directors

FROM: Steve Gieber, President

**RE: NACDD Champions of Equal Opportunity (“CEO”) Awards**

DATE: May 21, 2020

Each year NACDD is proud to bestow our “Champions of Equal Opportunity” awards to self-advocates who have been nominated by their DD Council. These awards are given to recognize individuals who share and promote our values of self-determination, independence, productivity and inclusion.

This year, NACDD will again recognize outstanding leaders as “Champions of Equal Opportunity.” Beginning in 2018, we decided to split the award into two separate awards. One for emerging advocates, who are doing amazing things in their state or territory but are just getting started in their advocacy journey. The second award is for more seasoned advocates that are possibly well-known on a national scale. The Committee will select at least one self-advocate, who is “Starting their Journey” in their community and state or territory, and one self-advocate who has a long record of accomplishment of advocacy success, “Champion of Equal Opportunity”.

In the past couple of years we have sadly lost two of our advocate awardees. Ms. Betty Williams received the Champion of Equal Opportunity Award in 2016, and passed in 2018. Because we want to continue to honor the extraordinary work that Betty had done in her career and her life, we are renaming the Champion of Equal Opportunity award to the Betty Williams, Champion of Equal Opportunity Award.

Ms. April Dunn was our 2019 recipient of the Start Your Journey Award. We sadly lost April in the Spring of 2020 to the COVID-19 pandemic. After conversations with her family, we have chosen to honor her memory and her work by renaming the award “The April Dunn, Start Your Journey Award.” We are confident that any recipients of either award will carry on the memory of both extraordinary women and advocates.

As part of our selection process, the NACDD Planning Committee is asking member Councils to consider nominating a self-advocate from your state that has done outstanding work to advance our goals. All nominees will be inducted into our Self-Advocate Leadership Circle. Due to the cancellation of the in-person Annual Conference, we are working with our partners to determine a date for a virtual awards ceremony. More details to come once plans are finalized.

**We invite you to nominate an individual with a developmental disability, residing in your state, who personifies the ideals of self-determination, inclusion, and integration through legislative advocacy, public awareness/engagement, organizational leadership, or some combination thereof.**

Please complete the enclosed nomination form and return it via e-mail to Robin Troutman, rtroutman@nacdd.org by June 15, 2020.

**NACDD Champions of Equal Opportunity Award Nomination Form**

**(Submission Deadline June 15, 2020)**

Nominating Council: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Council Contact Person for this Nomination: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_

Affiliation (if any) of Nominee with your Council: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information for Nominee:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Which award are you nominating this person for:**

 **---- The April Dunn, Start Your Journey Award**

 **---- The Betty Williams, Champion of Equal Opportunity Award**

**Brief Biography (1-3 paragraphs) of Nominee:**

**Narrative: Why you believe this Nominee should be NACDD’s Champion of Equal Opportunity (2-3 paragraphs). Please use the following 3 questions to guide your narrative:**

***>How did the nominee contribute to the leadership of the self-advocacy movement in your state?***

***>How did the nominee empower/support other self-advocates to speak out for themselves?***

***>What has been the nominee’s impact on increasing inclusive opportunities in the community?***