

TO: Council Directors

FROM: Dan Shannon, President

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

DATE: March 15, 2022

Each year NACDD is proud to bestow our “Champions of Equal Opportunity” (CEO) 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 bestow two separate CEO awards. One for emerging advocates who are doing advocacy work in their state or territory but are just getting started in their advocacy journey and the other is for a more seasoned advocate who has a long record of accomplishments and may be working at the national level as well as working on state or local advocacy efforts.

As you may know, both awards are now named in memory of two past recipients of the awards. Both were incredible women who took their advocacy work very seriously and offered so much to their states and to our national efforts. Ms. Betty Williams received the Champion of Equal Opportunity Award for a seasoned self-advocate in 2016 and sadly passed away in 2018. Ms. April Dunn received our award for newer advocates in 2019. She sadly passed away in

the Spring of 2020 from complications due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of our selection process, the NACDD Planning Committee is asking member Councils to consider nominating a self-advocate(s) from your state who has done outstanding work to advance our goals. All nominees will be inducted into our Self-Advocate Leadership Circle. This year our ceremony will be held on July 20, 2022 as part of our Annual Conference. We hope that our recipients will be able to come in-person, but a virtual option is also in-place as our entire conference will be hybrid this year. The time will be confirmed as we get closer to the event. We ask that all nominees be available to participate in our event either in person or virtually so that they may all be inducted into the Self-Advocate Leadership Circle.

**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 May 20, 2022.

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

**(Submission Deadline May 20. 2022)**

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?***