

AWARD CEREMONY - OCTOBER 06, 2023

NOMINATION PROCESS

April-July

SELECTION PROCESS

August

WHY NOMINATE AN EMPLOYER OR INDIVIDUAL?

- Shine a spotlight on organizations and individuals making a difference.
- Showcase achievements and share best practices.
- Acknowledge employers successfully creating inclusive workplaces.
- Acknowledge teams for their hard work and creativity.

2022 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Governor's Trophy: Ivanova Smith

Direct Support Professional: Mary Sabetto

Small Private Employer: Restoration Management Company

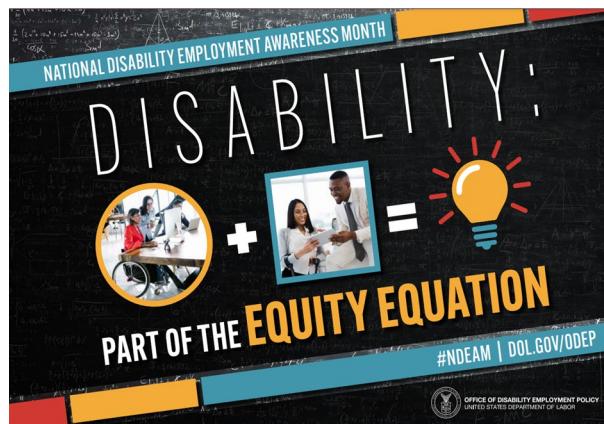
Medium Private Employer: JCPenney Marysville

Large Private Employer: ABM Business & Industry

Small Non-Profit Employer: Spectrum Studios

Large Non-Profit Employer: Seattle Children's Hospital

Youth Employer: Walgreen's Sedro-Woolley



GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES & EMPLOYMENT

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TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE AWARDS PROGRAM

Visit esd.wa.gov/gcde/projects/awards



THE GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES & EMPLOYMENT (GCDE)

GOVERNOR'S EMPLOYER AWARDS

Presented to outstanding employers, workplaces with best practices, and individuals who have demonstrated efforts to recruit, hire, and advance employees with disabilities.



GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES & EMPLOYMENT (GCDE)

GCDE comprises 25 volunteer members appointed by the governor. The majority are individuals with a wide range of physical, mental, or sensory disabilities.

Representatives from various state agencies and disability organizations serve as associate members. The Committee is supported by a staff of four state employees.

WHAT DOES THE COMMITTEE DO?

GCDE's mission is to provide statewide advocacy and leadership to empower the disability community to obtain equality of opportunity and maximum independence.

The Committee is nationally recognized and sought out for its expertise in the broad spectrum of issues affecting people with disabilities. Policies and programs developed and implemented by GCDE have been cited as best practices by federal agencies such as the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission and the Department of Justice. GCDE has won more than **\$18 million** in competitive federal funds to serve people with disabilities in Washington state.

WHAT ARE THE GOVERNOR'S EMPLOYER AWARDS?

The Awards recognize best practices that positively shape employment opportunities for workers with disabilities. We celebrate employer achievements for recruiting, hiring, and advancing workers with disabilities.

AWARDS NOMINATION PROCESS

An individual, business, agency, or organization may submit nominations for themselves or others. For more information, or to request a nomination form in alternate formats, visit: esd.wa.gov/gcde/projects/awards or contact staff at 360-890-3778.

SELECTION PROCESS

Each year, a distinguished panel of Committee members, previous award recipients, and business representatives select the award recipients.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services



Employers wishing to inquire about sponsoring the 2023 awards event, please email us at GCDEAwards@esd.wa.gov.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Toby Olson Lifetime Impact Award

honors an individual who has demonstrated a lifetime commitment to increasing the equality of opportunity and independence for individuals with disabilities.

Private and Non-Profit Employers are recognized for their efforts to recruit, hire, and advance individuals with disabilities.

Small (99 or less employees)

Medium (100 to 499 employees)

Large (over 500 employees)

Public Employers are governmental entities (city, county, state, federal, or municipal) recognized for their efforts to recruit, hire, and advance individuals with disabilities.

The Governor's Trophy in Memory of Carolyn Blair Brown

honors an individual with a disability who has developed or influenced programs, services, legislation etc. that dramatically enhance the empowerment of individuals with disabilities.

Direct Support Professional is a career achievement award recognizing exceptional professionals who work directly with individuals with intellectual, developmental, and psychological disabilities to ensure full inclusion in their community with supported employment.

The Youth Employer honors a private, non-profit, or public employer for their efforts to sponsor programs and activities promoting employment preparation and job skills training for youth with disabilities to ensure full inclusion in their community with supported employment.