



The Ohio Rehabilitation Association Let's Celebrate Individuals and Organizations with Awards! Celebrating 70+ years!

The Ohio Rehabilitation Association, founded in 1954, has a long and rich history in the field of rehabilitation. Our officers, leadership and membership should be quite proud of our achievements and contributions to the field. During our careers, many of us have been fortunate to be mentored by skilled and dedicated colleagues; inspired by persons with disabilities who have overcome obstacles; or had opportunities to contribute to the success of local business enterprises by providing creative job development options or supportive job coaching. ORA members and donors are invited to nominate those individuals, agencies and companies who have made significant contributions in our field.

Let's make 2025 meaningful and memorable for those who deserve recognition and accolades! The nomination categories are noted below. Inquiries may be sent to awards@ohiorehab.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

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THE EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR (LARGE AND SMALL EMPLOYERS) AWARDS

These awards are presented to one large employer (200 or more employees) and one small employer (fewer than 200 employees). The purpose is to recognize employers who have intensively hired and successfully incorporated employees with disabilities into the workforce. Any employers, public or private, are eligible for these awards.

Eligible for these awards would be employers who demonstrate: (a) outreach and recruiting procedures targeted toward persons with disabilities, (b) management policies that demonstrate ample opportunity is given applicants with disabilities to compete for job openings, (c) ample opportunity for transfer, promotion and retention of employees with disabilities, (d) proper matching of jobs with capabilities, (e) reasonable accommodations, including job reengineering or modification of machines or duty assignment, (f) wages and fringe benefits equal to or comparable to rates paid to other workers, (g) orientation and training for supervisory staff, (h) if unionized, any labor-management that facilitates employment of persons with disabilities, (i) leadership in promoting job opportunities in the nominee's community and statewide through active participation in areas affecting people with disabilities.

THE ORGANIZATIONAL AWARD

The Organizational Award is presented to an organization with an outstanding record of service to persons with disabilities. The organization may be one whose principle objectives are in the rehabilitation field or one that, regardless of its major objectives, has demonstrated effective concern for the care, treatment, education or rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

Eligible for this award would be an organization that has made a contribution to the well-being or rehabilitation of persons with disabilities in activities over and beyond the purpose for which the organization was established. Nominees eligible for the award would be (a) an organization that has established a unique service program to better serve persons with disabilities, (b) an organization that has, through its initiative and creativity, developed programs which have contributed significantly to the rehabilitation movement or (c) an organization that has acted as a catalyst in the community to better integrate, coordinate and develop services to persons with disabilities. The award recipient may be nominated for its past or present program of activities and contributions.

THE BELL GREVE AWARD

The Ohio Bell Greve Award was established by the Ohio Rehabilitation Association to honor Bell Greve, a woman educated as a lawyer, who had a great emotional investment in persons with disabilities. She pioneered in rehabilitation through mobilizing local resources to establish the Cleveland Rehabilitation Center. This award may be presented to a person who has shown unusual initiative or creativity in the development and/or administration of a service program of demonstrated value for persons with disabilities. The program concerned must have contributed to an increased public awareness regarding persons with disabilities.

Eligible for the award would be: (a) the administrator of a rehabilitation or closely allied program, (b) the director of a workshop or other rehabilitation facility, (c) a research worker, case worker, or supervisor whose efforts have largely been responsible for the development of a new or original program of services, or (d) any person in a program or facility who has significantly participated in its development and implementation of the initiative.

THE DORIS BRENNAN AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

This award was established by ORA to recognize a person with a disability that has shown extraordinary drive, determination and resourcefulness in overcoming barriers to his/her independence. In 2001, ORA designated this award in memory of Doris Brennan, whose contribution to the field of rehabilitation, specifically to disability rights and independent living, exemplify the spirit of this award. Eligibility for this award is based on innovation and initiative in working toward independent community integration.

Eligible for the award would be a person: (a) who has shown exceptional ingenuity, motivation and persistence in establishing a network of rehabilitation supports, (b) has demonstrated such qualities in mobilizing his/her own inner resources toward realizing and working toward his/her own potential, or (c) has demonstrated the most diligence and resourcefulness in contributing to his/her own rehabilitation.

THE EXCELLENCE IN MEDIA AWARD

This award is to recognize an outstanding, accurate and balanced approach in presenting to the public the abilities of persons with disabilities, the problems encountered by persons with disabilities or the needs and concerns of persons with disabilities. Eligible for this award would be newspapers; radio; print; theater productions and other media material which highlight persons with disabilities and their achievements.

THE GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

The NRA Governmental Affairs Award was established in 1981. The Ohio (ORA) Governmental Affairs and Public Service Award is like NRA's in that it is to be presented to a public official who has demonstrated leadership in improving rehabilitation services for people with disabilities through legislative action.

Eligible for this award would be an individual who has exercised creative and effective political leadership by advocating, creating, and supporting legislative initiatives involving persons with disabilities, e.g., mayor, court official, city councilman, state senators, and congressional representatives.

ORA DISTINGUISHED RANK OF FELLOW AWARD

This award is to be given to an individual who has demonstrated years of faithful service and leadership to ORA through any segment or combination of segments of association activities or life. Emphasis is placed on both the length of service and levels of service.

The award is given only to persons showing outstanding service or leadership, both qualitatively and quantitatively, who has provided outstanding membership effort and leadership for a period of 10-15 years, e.g., or who has been exceedingly active in chapter, division and/or committee efforts and has demonstrated leadership for a similar period of time. Sustained ORA membership is required.

SUBMITTING YOUR NOMINATION...

We will request that you complete our Nomination Form with the Nominator's contact information and the Nominee's contact information and indicate which Award Category best fits the Nominee.

Then, on a separate sheet of paper (in narrative form) we will ask you to state why you believe this individual or organization should receive the award. Statements should be specific as to the nature, scope and importance of the contribution made by the Nominee to the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. You may add explanatory statements and/or corroborating materials from other individuals or organizations. All statements must be signed.

The Nominator will then submit their Nomination Form and supporting material to the Awards Committee by the deadline stated on the Nomination Form.