



**October 25-26, 2023  
Colorado Springs, CO**

Thank you for your interest in the State of the Art Conference **Leadership Awards**.

Please use the following form to nominate a person for one of these awards. Please submit **three examples of leadership in the field** of postsecondary education for individuals with intellectual disability and **two letters of recommendation along with the nomination form**.

Please save this document and email it with the letters of recommendation to Sara Jo Soldovieri at [sjsoldov@syr.edu](mailto:sjsoldov@syr.edu) for Executive Committee review. All nominations are due by **September 1<sup>st</sup>**. We will notify the winners and people who nominated them by September 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Your name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your contact email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee contact email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate which category you are nominating for:**

\_\_\_ **The George Jesien National Leadership Award** (*One who reflects significant national leadership through advocacy, technical assistance or research to further the field of inclusive higher education*)

\_\_\_ **Institute of Higher Education Leadership Award** (*Administrator, program director, faculty or staff member who demonstrates leadership and facilitates progress at an inclusive institution of higher education.*)

\_\_\_ **The Laura Lee Leadership Award** (*A trailblazing self-advocate who currently attends or has graduated from a PSE program for persons with intellectual disability and whose advocacy significantly benefits individuals with disabilities – in their college, community, regionally or nationally.*)

\_\_\_ **Megan Cartier Early Career Scholar Award** (*early career scholar (including graduate students) who, like Megan, demonstrates commitment to and innovation in the field of inclusive higher education through research and service. Special consideration will be given to those whose work demonstrates a sustained commitment to including and centering the voices and lived experiences of those with intellectual disability, a key theme throughout Megan's work.*)

\_\_\_ **State Level Leadership Award** (*One who reflects significant leadership through state-level alliance building, leading efforts to enhance available funding for college students with intellectual disability or program development, and informing state legislation or policy to further the field of inclusive higher education.*)

Please provide three examples of leadership (including 1-2 paragraphs giving history and description)

1)

2)

3)

**Please attach two letters of reference from those who observed the above examples first-hand (professors, program staff, advocacy leaders, etc.)**

Please [visit our website](#) to view past Leadership Award winners.

**The George Jesien National Leadership Award** is named in honor of George Jesien, PhD, a long-time national leader in the disabilities field. In 2013 he retired from the position of executive director of the Association of University Centers on Disabilities. AUCD continues to be a guiding force that advances policy and practice for individuals with developmental and other disabilities as well as their families.

**The Laura Lee Leadership Award** is named in memory of Laura Lee, daughter of Gen and Stephanie Smith Lee, who was a pioneer in inclusive education at the national level. She passed away unexpectedly in 2016.

**The Megan Cartier Early Scholars Award** is given in honor of Megan Cartier, who passed away in 2023. Megan was a doctoral student whose support was pivotal in organizing the first Student Leadership Conferences.