

Dear APSE Chapter Leaders & APSE Members:

It's time to start thinking about individuals, organizations and employers we would like to recognize for their individual and collective contribution to Employment First at the 28th Annual National APSE Conference: "Employment First: The Bridge to Inclusive Communities". The conference dates are June 20-22 2017 at the Downtown Marriott in Portland OR.

Once again APSE would like to honor those who have excelled in the following Award categories:

Professional Award-Individual	Best Practice Award-Organization
Employer (small) Award-Less than 29 employees	Employer (medium) Award-29-249 employees
Employer (large) Award-250 + employees	*Wendy M. Wood Award
*Rebecca McDonald Award	Dave Hammis Innovation Award
"Got Mike Fund" Educational Leadership Award (includes \$1000 scholarship)	Personal Achievement Award-Individual with a disability
Public Policy Advocate of the year Award	

We will pay tribute to all of the nominees at the 2017 National APSE Conference and the **winners will be announced during one of the three awards ceremonies: General Opening session on Tuesday June 20th from 8am-9:30am, the General Session Luncheon on Wednesday June 21<sup>st</sup> from 12:15pm-2pm and at the Chapter Leadership Summit, Monday June 19<sup>th</sup> 2017 at the National Conference.**

Please submit nominations for one or all of the categories. **All award submissions are due by 5 pm (EST) on February 7, 2017.** If you need assistance with this process, please contact Macey Chovaz at macey@apse.org. All Awards are to be submitted: <https://app.wizehive.com/webform/AwardNominations>

Thanks in advance for your consideration; we are looking forward to receiving your submissions!

Respectfully,

**The 2017 National APSE Awards Committee**

**416 Hungerford Drive Suite 224 | Rockville, MD 20850**  
**Phone: 301.279.0060 | Fax: 301.279.0075**  
**[www.apse.org](http://www.apse.org)**

## APSE National Awards Nomination Directions

To Complete the Nomination:

1) Select the category in which you are submitting your nomination online:

<https://app.wizehive.com/webform/AwardNominations>

**Please note:** All nominators must be current APSE members.

2) Type all information on the online Awards Nomination Form:

<https://app.wizehive.com/webform/AwardNominations>

3) Answer the questions addressing the award criteria under each award description.

4) Attach at least one individualized letter of support for your nominee. The letter of support must address the 2017 National APSE award criteria.

5) A photo of the nominee in jpg. **Please note:** nominations without a jpg photo of the nominee will **NOT** be accepted

6) Submit nominations by **5 pm EST, February 7, 2017**. **Please note:** Faxed nominations will not be accepted. Nominations missing anything from 1-5 above will not be accepted. Nominations are to be submitted here:

<https://app.wizehive.com/webform/AwardNominations>

If you have questions, please contact Macey Chovaz at National APSE at [macey@apse.org](mailto:macey@apse.org) or 301.279.0060.

## 2017 National APSE Award Categories

- \_\_\_\_\_ Professional Award...Individual (Nominee must be APSE member)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Best Practices Award...Organization (Nominee must be APSE member)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Employer Award Small... Less than 29 employees
- \_\_\_\_\_ Employer Award Medium...29-249 employees
- \_\_\_\_\_ Employer Award Large...250 or more employees
- \_\_\_\_\_ Personal Achievement Award...Individual with a disability
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wendy Wood Award...Emerging leader (Nominee must be APSE member)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dave Hammis Innovation Award (Nominee must be APSE member)
- \_\_\_\_\_ “Got Mike! Fund” Educational Leadership Award (includes a \$1000 scholarship; Nominee must be APSE member)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Public Policy Advocate of the Year Award (Nominee must be APSE member)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rebecca McDonald Award (Nominee must be APSE member)

**Nomination Submitted By**

(please complete online here: <https://app.wizehive.com/webform/AwardNominations> )

\_\_\_\_\_

APSE Member Number of Person Submitting Nomination:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address of Person Submitting Nomination:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone

Email

**Nominee Information:**

Nominee Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Business of the nominee (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_

Address of Nominee:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(\_\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone

Email

## **2017 National APSE Awards Categories and Descriptions**

### **APSE Professional Award...Individual**

(To be awarded on Tuesday June 20<sup>th</sup> 2017 at the opening General session: 8am-9:30am)

Description: To recognize an individual for outstanding state-of-the-art practices and professional achievements in Employment First as a job coach, job developer, employment specialist, or other agency personnel.

Please answer the following questions:

1. What characteristics make the nominee outstanding in his/her position and in the Supported Employment Field?
2. What specific achievements has the nominee made and explain why they are significant?
3. What do the individuals whom they support and employers say about this nominee's work?
4. Attach a photo and at least 1 individualized letter of support
5. Submit your nomination here:

<https://app.wizehive.com/webform/AwardNominations>

## **2017 National APSE Awards Categories and Descriptions**

### **APSE Best Practice Award...Organization**

(To be awarded on Tuesday June 20<sup>th</sup> 2017 at the opening General session: 8am-9:30am)

Description: To recognize an organization for outstanding accomplishments in promoting state-of-the-art practices in Employment First.

Please answer the following questions:

1. What specific achievements (organizational changes, community leadership) has this organization made in the area of Employment First?
2. What activities does this organization do to promote integrated employment and build partnerships with others to advance Employment First?
3. What do the individuals whom they support, employers, and family members say about this organization's accomplishments?
4. Attach a photo and at least 1 individualized letter of support
5. Submit your nomination here:

<https://app.wizehive.com/webform/AwardNominations>

## **2017 National APSE Awards Categories and Descriptions**

### **APSE Employer Award...Small, Medium, & Large**

(To be awarded on Wednesday June 21<sup>st</sup> 2017 at the luncheon General session: 12:15-2pm)

Description: To recognize employers in the public and private sectors for outstanding achievements in advancing Employment First.

Please answer the following questions:

1. Describe the nominee's Employment First practices.
2. What has the nominee done to ensure that employees with disabilities are fully integrated and supported in their company's workforce?
3. What has the nominee done to encourage other employers to consider hiring candidates with disabilities?
4. What efforts has the nominee made at the local, state, and/or national level to encourage the hiring of individuals with disabilities (e.g., working with legislators, developing partnerships with VR or provider agencies, etc.)?
5. Attach a photo and at least 1 individualized letter of support
6. Submit your nomination here:  
<https://app.wizehive.com/webform/AwardNominations>

## **2017 National APSE Awards Categories and Descriptions**

### **APSE Personal Achievement Award...Citizen with a Disability**

(To be awarded on Wednesday June 21<sup>st</sup> at the luncheon General session: 12:15pm-2pm)

Description: To recognize an individual's personal achievement, through integrated employment or self-employment.

Please answer the following questions:

1. Has the nominee been employed at least 6 months?
2. Describe the nominee's journey or story and how Employment First played a role in the outcome.
3. Attach a photo and at least 1 individualized letter of support
4. Submit your nomination here:  
<https://app.wizehive.com/webform/AwardNominations>



## **2017 National APSE Awards Categories and Descriptions**

### **Public Policy Advocate of the Year Award**

(To be awarded on Tuesday June 20<sup>th</sup> 2017 at the opening General session: 8am-9:30am)

Description: To distinguish an individual who has excelled in grassroots advocacy to ensure that local, state and/or federal policies meet the goal increasing Employment First. The Public Policy Advocate of the Year is someone who inspires others to make a difference by engaging with elected officials and key stakeholders in discussions to promote policies that support the mission of Employment First!

Please answer the following questions:

1. Describe the specific advocacy actions the nominee has taken to advance Employment First at the local, state, regional and/or national level in the past year.
2. Describe how the nominee has built awareness and improved outreach for Employment First and how these efforts have improved employment opportunities in their state.
3. Attach a photo at least 1 individualized letter of support
4. Submit your nomination here:  
<https://app.wizehive.com/webform/AwardNominations>

## **2017 National APSE Awards Categories and Descriptions**

### **Wendy M. Wood Award...Emerging Leader**

(To be awarded on Monday June 20<sup>th</sup> 2017 at the Chapter Leadership Summit: 4pm-7pm)

Wendy M. Wood is the founding Executive Director of APSE. To begin this organization took great vision, effort, determination and risk. To honor her contribution to this organization and to the overall field of supported employment and Employment First, APSE's Board of Directors established this award.

Description: To recognize emerging leaders in developing a vision and creating action toward full inclusion of citizens with disabilities in our society.

Please answer the following questions:

1. Describe an activity, process, or action the emerging leader has accomplished to improve services locally that could be applied regionally or nationally.
2. Describe how the nominee:
  - o Advocates for equitable employment and full social inclusion
  - o Embraces risk and constantly challenges the status quo to improve integrated employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities
  - o Partners with others (employers, agencies, the community at large) to create the energy needed to continue the Employment First movement
3. Attach a photo and at least 1 individualized letter of support from the **Chapter Board**
4. Submit your nomination here:  
<https://app.wizehive.com/webform/AwardNominations>

## **2017 National APSE Awards Categories and Descriptions**

### **Dave Hammis Innovation Award**

(To be awarded on Tuesday June 20<sup>th</sup> 2017 at the opening General session: 8am-9:30am)

Dave Hammis was an incredible innovator in the field of community employment. His creativity and fresh approach to supporting individuals in integrated jobs-whether in a business or through self-employment inspired many of us to see beyond the realities of what we thought possible. To honor his contributions to this organization and to the overall field of supported employment, APSE has established this award.

**Description:** To honor Dave's contributions to APSE and Employment First, this award is offered to individuals or organizations who demonstrate innovation in the area of technology, customized strategies, and/or self-employment for individuals with significant disabilities.

Please answer the following questions:

1. Describe the specific actions that demonstrate the nominee's belief that all individuals, regardless of the significance of their disability, can work.
2. Describe one or more specific examples of how the nominee has taken an innovative approach and applied it to enhance community employment for people with disabilities using technology, customized strategies, or self-employment.
3. Provide at least one example of a specific job the nominee has developed for an individual with a significant disability.
4. Attach a photo at least 1 individualized letter of support
5. Submit your nomination here:

<https://app.wizehive.com/webform/AwardNominations>

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## **2017 National APSE Awards Categories and Descriptions**

### **“Got Mike!” Fund Educational Leadership Award**

(To be awarded on Wednesday June 21<sup>st</sup> 2017 at the Luncheon general session from 12:15pm-2pm)

Dr. Michael McAllister was a tireless advocate regarding employment for all people and a dedicated APSE friend. He was a true lover of life and inspired others to find and follow their dreams. The “Got Mike!” Fund was created in his honor to perpetuate these passions and zest for life, and to help increase opportunities for others to live fully regardless of issues of disabilities they may have. This award has been established to continue his quest for educational advancement.

Description: To honor Dr. McAllister’s contributions to the advancement of integrated employment, and the ongoing educational advancement of professionals interested in the field. We continue his legacy by honoring a graduate student (masters or doctoral) whose leadership and commitment toward integrated employment is seen as outstanding, passionate, and furthering the inclusion of all people in the world of work. Award winners will receive \$1,000.00.

Please answer the following questions:

1. What vision has the nominee set for expanding Employment First?
2. Describe an activity, process, or action the nominee has accomplished to improve educational and/or employment services for individuals with disabilities.
3. Describe how the nominee inspires others and builds partnerships to advance Employment First.
4. Attach at least 1 individualized letter of support
5. Submit your nomination here:

<https://app.wizehive.com/webform/AwardNominations>

## 2017 National APSE Awards Categories and Descriptions

### Rebecca McDonald Award

(To be awarded on Monday June 20<sup>th</sup> 2017 at the Chapter Leadership Summit from 4pm-7pm)

#### APSE Rebecca McDonald Award for ... State Chapter Leader

Rebecca McDonald was a tireless advocate for supported employment and dedicated friend and promoter of APSE. She passed away in August of 1999 after a long and valiant struggle with breast cancer. She was one of supported employment's greatest advocates, serving APSE in various ways for 11 years. She was the organization's founding Vice-President, served as its President for three years, and was an officer for the APSE Foundation until a few months before her death. Rebecca deeply believed in the principles APSE was founded upon, and she supported and encouraged others to give and share resources to make those principles a reality.

**Description:** To honor Rebecca's contributions to APSE and the employment of people with disabilities, this award is offered to **APSE chapter leaders** who demonstrate exceptional leadership, tireless volunteerism and extraordinary commitment to the mission and vision of APSE in their **work with their state chapters**.

Please answer the following questions:

1. Describe how the nominee demonstrated strength in promoting the principles of APSE in their state.
2. What specific actions demonstrate how the nominee has influenced changes in statewide policy?
3. Describe how the nominee has advanced their chapter's role in promoting integrated employment in their state.
4. Attach a photo and at least 1 individualized letter of support from the **Chapter Board**
5. Submit your nomination here:  
<https://app.wizehive.com/webform/AwardNominations>