



Dear APSE Chapter Leaders & APSE Members:

Each year, APSE honors individuals, organizations and employers for their individual and collective contribution to Employment First. We invite nominations for the 30th Annual National APSE Conference: “Gateway to Inclusive Employment”. The conference dates are June 18-20, 2018 to be held at the Hyatt Regency at the Arch in St. Louis, Missouri.

APSE would like to honor those who have excelled in the following award categories:

Employer Award	Best Practice Award-Organization*
Wendy M. Wood Award*	Public Policy Leader
Rebecca McDonald Award*	Dave Hammis Innovation Award*
Lois Curtis-Person with a Disability	

APSE encourages the nominations of self-advocates in all award categories. We will recognize all award nominees at the 2019 National APSE Conference.

Please submit nominations as many of the categories as you would like. **All award submissions are due by 11:59 pm (EST) on Friday, February 15, 2019.** If you need assistance with this process, please contact Cassy Beckman at [cassy@apse.org](mailto:cassy@apse.org). All awards are to be submitted online: <https://app.wizehive.com/webform/AwardNominations>

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

Respectfully,  
**The 2019 National APSE Awards Committee**



## APSE National Awards Nomination Directions

Prior to beginning your online submission, it is strongly recommended that you prepare the nomination information in a separate document, and then paste this information into the online submission form – <https://app.wizehive.com/webform/AwardNominations> After submission you will receive a confirmation email within 24 hours. If you do not receive a confirmation email, your nomination has not been received. It is your responsibility to re-submit or contact the APSE office about your nomination.

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 2019 National APSE award criteria.

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

6) Submit nominations by **11:59 pm EST, February 15, 2019**. **Please note:** Faxed, e-mailed or mailed nominations will not be accepted. Nominations missing anything from 1-5 above will not be accepted. Nominations are to be submitted here: [Award Nominations Form](#)

If you have questions, please contact Cassy Beckman at National APSE at [cassy@apse.org](mailto:cassy@apse.org) or 301-279-0060.



## **2019 National APSE Award Categories**

- Best Practices Award-Organization (Nominee must be APSE member)
- Employer Award
- Lois Curtis Award-Person with a Disability
- Wendy Wood Award-Emerging leader (Nominee must be APSE member)
- Dave Hammis Innovation Award (Nominee must be APSE member)
- Public Policy Leader
- Rebecca McDonald Award (Nominee must be APSE member)



## **2019 National APSE Awards Categories and Descriptions**

### **APSE Best Practice Award-Organization**

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

### **APSE Employer Award**

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

### **Lois Curtis-Person with a Disability**

To recognize an individual's personal achievement in advocating for inclusive, individualized, community-based employment and/or independent living.

Lois Curtis paved the way for people with disabilities to live in their own communities while receiving the services they need. June 22, 2019 will mark the 20th anniversary of the Olmstead Decision. The plaintiffs in the case were Lois Curtis and Elaine Wilson (deceased December 4, 2005), two women who were diagnosed with disabilities and had been treated in both institutional and in community-based settings. The case rose to the level of the Supreme Court and the court decided that "unjustified isolation" of a person with a disability is a form of discrimination under Title II of the ADA. Lois spent 18 years living in an institution. Since the Olmstead Decision went into effect in 1999, Lois has been able to live in an apartment she shares with a woman who helps her with activities of daily living. Today, Lois says her life is a better life.

### **Public Policy Leader**

To distinguish an individual who has excelled in grassroots advocacy to ensure that local, state and/or federal policies meet the goal of increasing Employment First. The Public Policy Leader 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!

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



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

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.

### **Dave Hammis Innovation Award**

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.

Dave Hammis was an incredible innovator in the field of community-based and customized employment. His creativity and fresh approach to supporting people in inclusive workplaces---whether at 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 APSE and to the overall field of customized employment, APSE has established this award.

### **Rebecca McDonald Award**

To honor Rebecca's contributions to APSE and the employment of people with disabilities, this award is presented to an **APSE Chapter Leader** who demonstrates exceptional leadership, tireless volunteerism and extraordinary commitment to the mission and vision of APSE within their state chapter.

Rebecca McDonald was a tireless advocate for supported employment and a dedicated friend and champion of APSE. She passed away in August of 1999 after a long and valiant struggle with breast cancer---this year will mark 20 years since her passing. 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.