

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Date: April 21, 2004

To: Counselors, Teachers, Parents, & Professionals

From: The Pennsylvania Governor's Committee on
Employment of People with Disabilities
Labor and Industry Secretary Stephen Schmerin, Chair

(Nomination application is attached)

2004 Youth Leadership Award Nominations

The Governor's Committee on Employment with Disabilities (GCEPD) wishes to recognize the accomplishments of Pennsylvania youth with disabilities with a Governor's Committee Youth Leadership Award. This award will be presented at our 51st Annual Conference this Fall.

We are seeking candidates who demonstrate outstanding leadership potential in:

- Academic Achievement
- Extra Curricular Activities
- Community Service
- Work or Vocational Experience

The GCEPD is a board of 25 volunteers from all parts of Pennsylvania, representing many diverse constituencies that work with the Department of Labor & Industry staff, particularly the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, under the leadership of Secretary Stephen Schmerin. As both a committee and as individual members, the Board members of the GCEPD work to promote employment opportunities for people with disabilities. Like any other large social problem, the high rate of unemployment for people with disabilities requires efforts on many levels. Board members regularly become involved with legislation, economic development concerns, service coordination, agency performance standards, and consumer outreach. In having a broad approach, the Board as both a collective organization and a collection of individual dedicated members can reach people in the community where they live, learn, and work.

It is our pleasure to offer an opportunity to recognize four students with disabilities later this year.

Candidate applications must be received by June 30, 2004 to be eligible for selection – so start nominating!

2004 Pennsylvania Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities

Youth Leadership Award Application

Eligibility

- Candidates must be attending high school in grades 9 through 12 or a non-graded equivalent life-skills program to age 21 within Pennsylvania.
- Candidates will discuss their disability in their narrative response.

Awards

Four areas will be recognized:

- **Academic Achievement** based on academic excellence, aptitude, and career vision.
- **Extra Curricular Activities** based on demonstrated participation, leadership, and time commitment to the activity.
- **Community Service Activities** based on demonstrated participation, leadership, and time commitment to the activity.
- **Work or Vocational Experiences** based on experiences, responsibilities assumed, and initiative demonstrated in a work activity.

Each selected award recipient and a guest will be hosted at our annual Conference and will receive their award during the program.

Evaluation Criteria

Submissions will be judged by selected members of the GCEPD and other members-at-large for quality of the submission and supporting materials as related to the individual achievement. All selections by the judges are final. No video tapes will be accepted.

Submission Requirements

Each submission narrative must specify the award sought and cannot exceed 750 words. Letters of support, recognitions, or other materials that demonstrate the exceptional nature of the candidate can be attached to the narrative. All submissions must have a cover sheet that clearly states:

- The Candidates Full Name
- Address
- Telephone Number
- Date of Birth
- Educational Facility/School
- Nominator (with contact information)
- Desired Award Category

Completed submissions received by June 30, 2004 will be considered. Please send submissions to:

Carl Marshall
GCEPD
c/o Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
1521 North 6th St.
Harrisburg, PA 17102

For questions, call 717-783-3129 or e-mail carmarshal@state.pa.us

Checklist

- Did I complete the cover sheet?
- Is my narrative 750 words or less?
- Did I enclose letters of support, copies of awards, articles, or other materials?