

Contact: Emma H. Gully
480.858.2307
emma_gully@tempe.gov

February 14, 2013

TEMPE MAYOR'S DISABILITY AWARDS CELEBRATES 25 YEARS Recognizing Achievement, Access and Ability

Tempe, AZ – Tempe Community Council and the City of Tempe is currently accepting nominations for the 25th Annual Tempe Mayor's Disability Awards. Forms are available online at www.tempecommunitycouncil.org or via request by calling (480)858-2300. Submissions must be submitted or postmarked by Friday, March 22, 2013 at 4: 00PM to Tempe Community Council. Mail: 34 E. 7th Street, Building A. Tempe, AZ 85281 Fax: 480-858.2319 or Email: emma_gully@tempe.gov.

Since 1988, the [City of Tempe](http://www.cityoftempe.gov) and [Tempe Community Council](http://www.tempecommunitycouncil.org) have collaborated together to highlight the accomplishments of people with disabilities as well as spotlight individuals, businesses and organizations that promote the advancement and equal opportunity of the disability sector. The hope is that this annual event will inspire others to emulate the honorees and provide a fully accessible Tempe for everyone. The City of Tempe Commission on Disability Concerns, along with the City of Tempe and Tempe Community Council, will honor award recipients in a ceremony in the Tempe History Museum on Thursday, April 25 from 3:30-5:30pm.

Award nominations in each category are open to qualifying individuals/organizations:

Outstanding Workbridge Student Employee – Recognizes a Tempe Union High School District (TUHSD) graduating senior in the Workbridge program who has demonstrated excellent dedication and performance as a student, employee or volunteer. Each year 10-12 recipients are selected in this category. Nominations must come from a TUHSD school administrator, teacher, or staff member with two additional recommendations from an employer and/or community partner.

Workbridge Employer of the Year – Recognizes a business/organization that employs a TUHSD Workbridge student(s) and has a business location in Tempe. Nominations must come from a TUHSD teacher or staff member.

Youth Ability Award – Recognizes a young person with a disability, aged 12-18, who has overcome challenges and/or helped advance the rights of individuals with a disability.

Adult Ability Award – Recognizes an adult with a disability, aged 18+, who has overcome challenges and/or helped advance the rights of individuals with a disability.

Exceptional Educator of the Year – Recognizes a teacher, school staff or support person who has provided exceptional education and support opportunities to individual(s) with a disability.

Emerging Leader Award – Recognizes an individual, aged 14-30, who is an emerging leader in this community by raising awareness and/or improving outcomes for people with a disability.

Business Leadership Award – Recognizes a corporation/business that has improved access for disabled customers/employees/visitors and/or created increased employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Accessibility Award – Recognizes a constituency, architect, developer, builder, planner, group or City department that has removed barriers and created full access to public/private buildings, outdoor space, thoroughfares, etc., for the full inclusion of individuals with a disability and/or made life easier through accessible transportation options.

Valued Community Service – Recognizes an individual or organization that has made a significant contribution by providing and/or improving personal and community support for individuals with a disability; including, but not limited to, providing independence through more choice, information and control, advocacy efforts, or improving the social participation of all people.

Pride of the City – Recognizes an individual, group or organization who has demonstrated a lifetime of commitment to those with disabilities and helped advance the full inclusion of all people in our community.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- All nominees must work, live and/or impact people in Tempe.
- All nominations must have current and accurate contact information for both nominee and nominator with a complete description of the full scope of activities, breadth of influence or achievement.
- Nominations are reviewed by an independent committee based on written submissions, community impact, and scored using a rubric and point system.

About Tempe Community Council

Tempe Community Council (TCC) is a community-based nonprofit with a 40-year history of encouraging resident interaction and commitment to human services in Tempe. TCC brings our community together – including government, nonprofits, faith groups and residents – to provide support to Tempeans in need, to plan for present and future needs, and to build a lasting foundation for future generations.

About the Commission on Disability Concerns

The mission of the Commission on Disability Concerns is to advocate disability issue awareness, equal access and full community integration and to seek resolution of the concerns of people with disabilities for the benefit of all the people of Tempe. Commission meetings are held the 1st Thursday of the month at the Tempe Public Library. Meetings begin at 6:30pm in the 2nd floor boardroom and are open to the public.

###