

2006 ANNUAL INCLUSION AWARD WINNERS

Bob Aldridge Advocate of the Year - Nancy Pope, Disability Resource Association, Crystal City

Ms. Pope is a powerful and constant advocate who is involved in all aspects of community inclusion. She works with approximately 50-60 special needs students and their families providing IEP preplanning, direct IEP meeting representation and follow along monitoring for each student. Using the independent living philosophy, she teaches and nurtures both students and parents self-advocacy skills.

Ms. Pope also is a member of the State Independent Living Housing Committee to address shortages in public housing and advocates for universal design.

Educator of the Year - Dave Daniels, Hazelwood West Senior High School, Hazelwood

Dave Daniels is the Modern Media teacher at Hazelwood West High School. He promotes and implements inclusive practices in his classroom every day. Mr. Daniels involves and engages every student, both regular and special education, by providing a safe, comfortable and open learning environment. He matches special education students with non-disabled peers in groups to promote acceptance of each other's differences. Mr. Daniel genuinely cares about his students and makes them feel that they belong.

Employer of the Year - Laclede Groves Senior Living Center, St. Louis

Laclede Groves Senior Living Center's goal is to assist students with a smooth transition into the adult world of work. As an employer for the Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP), they have provided placement to over 50 students. Students have worked in therapy, dietary, laundry, and housekeeping departments. Natural supports are put in place for all students by pairing them up with staff to act as role models and mentors. The students learn lessons that last a lifetime and some of them have even found permanent employment after graduation.

Excellence in Universal Design and Technology Award of the Year - sComm, Inc., Independence

sComm, Inc., co-founded by Jason and David Curry, has developed a communications device for deaf people to use to communicate with hearing people without an interpreter. The device is called the UbiDuo. sComm designed the UbiDuo hardware and software to make it as functional as possible for the deaf and hard of hearing and those with whom they interact. The device has software design features for people who also have low vision. The device is portable and battery-powered, making it convenient to carry along for private or business use.