

Governor's Council on Disability

2019 Inclusion Award Winners

Winners exemplify standards of excellence in enhancing life for individuals living with disabilities

The Inclusion Award and one Honorable Mention are presented annually to recognize private and public employers, individuals, and organizations that have successfully included people with disabilities in education, employment, housing, leisure activities, universal design and website accessibility.

The Governor's Council on Disability (GCD) selected the following award winner and honorable mention for the **29th Annual Inclusion Award** in 2019.

2019 Winners

Winner: Artists First, St. Louis



Artists First is an inclusive art studio empowering artists of all abilities and bringing art to the community as a means of integration, healing, support and finding common ground. Through innovative art programs, Artists First supports more than 225 individuals and connects them to the resources they need to grow socially, intellectually, and emotionally through creative self-expression. Artist First's participation in over 45 community events in 2019 provided opportunities for genuine community involvement and allowed artists with disabilities to be integrated into the art community and labor market.

Honorable Mention: BCI Skills Center, St. Peters



Boone Center, Inc. established BCI Skills Center in January 2019 as a first-of-its-kind vocational training facility for people with disabilities. BCI Skills Center partners with local businesses that embrace diversity to create custom programs to prepare individuals living with disabilities for employment. Upon graduation, students move directly into the integrated workforce and earn competitive wages.

For additional information, please contact the Council at 573-751-2600 or by email at gcd@oa.mo.gov