

Governor's Council on Disability

2020 Youth Leadership Award Winner

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

The annual Youth Leadership Award recognizes outstanding Missouri youths (age 16-26) with a disability that have demonstrated exemplary leadership by making a difference in their community.

The Governor's Council on Disability (GCD) selected the following winner and one honorable mention of the **8th Annual Youth Leadership Award** in 2020.

2020 Winners

Winner: Luke Barber



Luke Barber is a passionate leader on the education and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities in Missouri. Luke is studying public policy and social work at University of Missouri St. Louis, where he founded the Able-Disable Partnership, a student club advocating for building modifications and learning accommodations. Luke serves on the St. Louis County Commission on Disabilities and works at Easterseals Midwest where he provides courses on rights, responsibilities, self-advocacy and self-determination for people with disabilities. He connects with legislators regularly to advocate for the rights of the disability community.

Honorable Mention: Olivia Apollo



Olivia Apollo is a leader in her community and at Webster University, where she studies anthropology and international studies, and joined Access U, a career development program for college students with disabilities. Olivia serves as an orientation and connection leader and advocates for accessibility on campus. As a camp counselor for Dream Big, a career exploration camp for youth with disabilities, she had an incredible impact on the participants by empowering them to feel more confident and applying their self-advocacy skills.

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