

The Journal of Inclusive Postsecondary Education would like to recognize the following awardees for their contributions to the field. Each honoree received their award at the 2024 State of the Art Conference in Inclusive Postsecondary Education, held in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Congratulations to the honorees and thank you for your advocacy, research, and work!

Debra Hart Policy & Practice Leadership Award

An individual who facilitates innovation and progress in inclusive higher education in an impactful way on a local, regional, or national level.

Martha Mock, University of Rochester



Martha E. Mock, PhD, is a Professor (Clinical) at the Warner School of Education and Human Development at the University of Rochester. She is also the director of the Center for Disability and Education. Mock has worked alongside and on behalf of individuals with disabilities and their families as a teacher, professor, and advocate for more than three decades. Mock is widely known for her work in college options for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). She is the chair of the Accreditation Workgroup for the National Coordinating Center at Think College at the Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts-Boston. Mock worked in partnership with the City University of New York (CUNY), AHRC NYC, and NYC DOE to expand five college programs for students with IDD through the U.S. Department of Education-funded TPSID grant, which resulted in a credential program CUNY Unlimited. In addition, from 2010 to 2016, Mock led the Western NY TPSID Consortium. Finally, Mock co-founded the New York Inclusive Higher Education Coalition, a group of colleges, agencies, and families interested in promoting inclusive

higher education throughout New York State. Mock holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree in special education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The George Jesien National Leadership Award

An individual who reflects significant national leadership through advocacy, technical assistance, or research to further the field of inclusive higher education.

Denise Rozell, AUCD

Denise Rozell, JD, is the Director of Policy Innovation at the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD). Denise works primarily on issues affecting transition-age youth, postsecondary education, and employment. Denise's policy work also includes a focus on college education for students with intellectual disabilities in partnership with Think College and on employment and transition-age youth in partnership with the University of New Hampshire. Denise has 35 years of experience in disability policy at the federal and state level, working on almost all issues and legislation affecting individuals with disabilities, beginning with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Before joining AUCD, Denise spent 15 years as the Assistant Vice President for State Government Relations at Easter Seals, increasing awareness of and support for disability issues in state government. Denise also worked on state policy and systems change issues, including autism, Medicaid managed care, vocational rehabilitation, Affordable Care Act implementation, and health delivery system reform.



The Laura Lee Leadership Award

A trailblazing self-advocate who currently attends or has graduated from a PSE program for persons with intellectual disability and whose advocacy significantly benefits individuals with disabilities—in their college, community, regionally, or nationally.

Martha Haythorn is a young woman with Down syndrome. She is a graduate of Georgia Tech EXCEL and the Georgia Leadership in Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities Program. Martha is an NDAC Member and part of Gigi's Prep Program, does marketing for Best Buddy Georgia, and serves on the NDSC Big Game Ball Committee. Martha was recently appointed to the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities.



Megan Cartier Early Career Scholar Award

An early career scholar who demonstrates a commitment to innovation in the field of inclusive higher education through research and service, while centering the voices and lived experiences of those with intellectual disability.

Rebecca Smith Hill, PhD, MSW



Rebecca (Becca) Smith Hill is Associate Director for the Center for Transition Research and Leadership at the University of South Carolina (USC). She is a social worker, former middle and high school special education teacher, and adjunct professor at USC. She also serves as Research Coordinator at CarolinaLIFE, an inclusive postsecondary education (IPSE) program at USC. She earned her master's in social work and her PhD in special education with a focus on transition from USC. Her research interests include self-determination, sense of belonging, dignity of risk, identity development, and overall wellness for transition-age young adults. She is also interested in enhancing cultural competency for pre-service teachers and others working with the disability community. Becca leverages her experience in the education and social work fields to use tenets of

participatory action research as a framework for conducting research with emerging adults with disabilities.

State Level Leadership Award - Two Winners for 2024

An early career scholar who demonstrates a commitment to innovation in the field of An individual who reflects significant leadership through state-level alliance building, leading efforts to enhance available funding for college students with intellectual disability or program development, and informing state legislation or policy to further the field of inclusive higher education.

Julie Lackey is the Director of OK IPSE Alliance. The Oklahoma IPSE Alliance has the goal to educate, advocate, assist, and collaborate for inclusive postsecondary education (IPSE) options for students with intellectual/developmental disabilities in Oklahoma. OK IPSE Alliance is a partnership between the Department of Rehabilitation Services, Sooner SUCCESS, and the Oklahoma State Department of Education, and includes leadership from the inclusive postsecondary education (IPSE) programs in Oklahoma as well as leaders from statewide organizations that serve individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities. In addition, she co-chairs the Red River Higher Education Alliance for Oklahoma and Texas.

Julie is also the Founder of LeadLearnLive, a nonprofit which provided the funding, program outline, and consulting to begin the RiverHawks Scholar Program, the first IPSE program in Oklahoma at Northeastern State University, and Opportunity Orange Scholars at Oklahoma State University. Julie is an OKLEND Fellow, as well as a member of the Technical Assistance Team for Think College.

Most importantly, Julie is the parent of a young adult who travels this world to the beat of his own drum!



Mary Hauff is the director of the Minnesota Inclusive Higher Education Technical Assistance Center at the University of Minnesota Institute on Community Integration. As the director, Mary leads efforts to eliminate barriers and expand high-quality postsecondary education opportunities for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities across Minnesota. Working in collaboration with the Minnesota Office of Higher Education, she has been instrumental in driving systemic change to create more inclusive higher education pathways. With more than five years of leadership in this space, Mary has been a key advocate and expert in shaping critical legislation, including the Minnesota Inclusive Higher Education Act and the Minnesota RISE Act, which have had a transformative impact on educational equity in the state.

