



# Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities 2019 Annual Awards



The Mayor-President's Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities recognized community members improving the lives of those living with disabilities. Honorees were celebrated on November 20 at the 12th Annual Awards Ceremony.



The Lafayette Mayor-President's  
**AWARENESS  
COMMITTEE**  
FOR CITIZENS WITH  
**DISABILITIES**

# 2019 Annual Awards



## UL LIFE Program – Distinguished Merit

for their work as the first post-secondary program in the state to offer students with intellectual disabilities a chance to audit traditional college courses in order to broaden their knowledge and gain invaluable skills for independence while engaging in campus life and interacting with student mentors.





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## Yvette Landry – Educator of the Year

for her years of work overcoming language barriers for students with disabilities through the teaching of sign language at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (UL).





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## Sonic Drive-In – Employer of the Year

for their work to recruit, hire and accommodate each individual's needs and promote success. Their employment practices provide employees with disabilities with extended training time, work around scheduling conflicts, and promote confidence and provide social interaction on a daily basis.





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## **Dr. Jennifer Tetnowski – Outstanding Direct Support Professional**

for her work with individuals who struggle with aphasia, a condition which limits a person's speech. As a speech pathologist and professor at UL, Dr. Tetnowski is positively influencing the lives of many in this community. She frequently attends support groups and social events to bond with the individuals she serves, and she started her own event to help the attendees.





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## **\*William Romero – Youth of the Year**

for his work on a Disability Awareness Forum that he coordinated with help from his nominators. William wanted to host this event to give his fellow students an idea of what it is like to live with a disability while in high school in hopes of giving and gaining perspective.





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## \*Ali Hebert – Outstanding Individual with a Disability

for her service to The National Alliance on Mental Illness Club (NAMI) at UL, where she was involved for four years. In that time, not only did she spread awareness around campus, but also in the community through her personal donations to NAMI and the creation of a social media page to serve as a platform for individuals with disabilities to come together.





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## **Maggie Johnson – Volunteer of the Year**

for her inclusionary efforts on the UL Campus through the UL Beacon Club, which works to bring inclusion and acceptance to the forefront for UL students with disabilities. She personally recruited talented artists for the club's first inclusionary art show last year. Her positive attitude and eagerness to help while conquering her own challenges is a motivation to those around her.







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## The DREAMS Foundation – Vickie Nettles Advocacy Award

for its work to create opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The DREAMS Foundation has assisted over 100 families to offer activities for individuals with disabilities to participate in so that they can learn their limits and overcome them. In addition, the Foundation recently founded a manufacturing company that currently employees 18 people with disabilities.





# Governor's Office of Disability Affairs 2019 GOLD AWARDS

\*All winners of the ACCD Awards are submitted at the state level for the Governor's Outstanding Leadership in Disabilities (GOLD) Awards to be presented by Governor John Bel Edwards in a ceremony on December 10, 2019 in the Old State Capitol Building.

Ali Hebert and William Romero won GOLD awards in their respective categories.

- \*Youth of the Year – William Romero
- \*Outstanding Individual with a Disability – Ali Hebert





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# 2019 Annual Awards

Entering its 12th year, the Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities was established to give a greater voice to citizens living with disabilities in Lafayette Parish. The committee's purpose is to serve in an advisory capacity to Lafayette Consolidated Government, and works to: develop and channel information regarding disabled persons to the citizens of the community through the introduction of special activities; work with all aspects of community life so that persons with disabilities will realize the rights and responsibilities afforded to all citizens; receive recommendations, requests, and citizen complaints regarding problems affecting the disabled and; help increase opportunities for employment for persons with disabilities.

For more information on the committee visit [www.lafayettela.gov/dac](http://www.lafayettela.gov/dac).

