 IN-APSE Kirles/Byrkett

Consumer Advocacy Award

### **2024 Annual Nomination Form**

# SUBMITTED BY:

Name of person making the nomination

Mailing address City, State, Zip

## Area code and daytime phone APSE Membership Number (if applicable) Relationship to Nominee

## NOMINEE:

Name of Nominee Area code and daytime phone

Title Company

Mailing Address City, State, Zip

# Email Address

# DEADLINE

Complete this form and submit it with the letter of support by email by **January 12, 2024**

Submit to: **Jonathan Kraeszig Jonathan.kraeszig@fssa.in.gov**

**PURPOSE**

To recognize outstanding community employment advocacy efforts in Indiana by, and for, individuals with disabilities.

**BACKGROUND**

In 2009 IN-APSE and the disability community lost 2 individuals that truly exemplified the word "*advocacy".* George Kirles and Sharon Byrkett.

George was employed at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community for 14 years before his retirement in 2009. He was an active long-time board member of IN-APSE and also served as a member of Indiana Self Advocates. Those who knew and worked with George, truly saw his passion and desire to promote independence and full inclusion for people with disabilities.

Sharon was an advocate for people with disabilities on and off the job. Through the years, she was active on many committees and boards including IN-APSE, AccessABILITY (formerly known as IRCIL) and the Governor’s Council for People with Disabilities. She was a support group facilitator for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and raised countless dollars for cancer research through the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

In George and Sharon’s spirit of advocacy and in remembrance of all who came before them and who will follow in their steps in promoting community employment for all individuals with disabilities the IN-APSE Consumer Involvement subcommittee has established this award. Secondly, we hope this award will help spread the word on employment advocacy efforts in our state and encourage others to get involved.

The award recipient will be recognized annually as part of the IN-APSE awards ceremony.

The award winner will be provided:

* recognition at the annual conference (at awards dinner and in conference material)
* free admission to the IN-APSE conference
* A 1-night stay during the annual conference at the conference facility
* A $100 pre-paid credit card (which can be used for food, gas, and other expenses while attending the conference)
* A 1-year membership to IN-APSE

**ELIGIBILITY**

Any individual with a disability or family member of a person with a disability who:

* Exhibits the spirit of community advocacy in the area of community employment opportunities. Examples include, but are not limited to:
  + Active with legislative issues
  + Contact their legislators on regular basis
  + Community access projects
* Is a person who is making a difference in their community
* Is a resident of Indiana

## EVALUATION

## NOTE: When answering these questions, please include as many specific examples as possible to help “tell the story” of why this individual deserves to win this award. Please use a separate sheet of paper if necessary.

1. Please list all organizations, action group(s), or legislative bodies the individual has been actively involved with over the last year? *(Please note they do not have to be employment related groups)*

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1. Describe the advocacy activities, processes, and/or actions the individual has accomplished to promote community employment for persons with disabilities and the name of the organizations that are directly associated with these efforts. This could include, but is not limited to:

(Attach separate sheet of paper if necessary)

* active with legislative issues
* contact their legislators on regular basis
* community access projects

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3. Describe how this individual inspires others and builds partnerships to advocate for community employment. (Attach separate sheet of paper if necessary).

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***All nominations must include one letter of support from at least one of the following individuals (please attach to this form):***

* Peer Advocate
* Supervisor/Coworker
* Support Staff (e.g., VR Counselor, Employment Specialist, Case manager, etc.)

**THANK YOU!**