**Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired**

**2021 Excellence Awards Nomination Instructions**

Do you know an individual or organization who has made an

important contribution in the lives of people who are blind or

visually impaired in Wisconsin? Consider nominating them for a Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired (WCBVI)

Excellence Award.

Award categories:

**Community Volunteer Service** – awarded to an individual who has provided dedicated and exemplary volunteer service,

benefiting those who are blind and visually impaired in affiliation with a community organization or business. Examples include low vision support group leaders and individuals who have successfully started and maintained innovative programs.

**Community Partnerships and Collaborations** – awarded to organizations who have made significantly positive impacts for those living with vision loss. Examples include service organizations such as Lions Clubs, Rotary Clubs and special interest clubs/groups.

**Community Giving** – awarded to individuals or organizations who have made financial contributions to the Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired to support the fulfillment of our

mission, as well as having a strong relationship with the Council and adhering to our core values. Candidates are chosen by the Council’s Gratitude Work Group.

**Exceptional Accommodations in Employment** – awarded to employers with a strong commitment to hiring those who are blind or visually impaired and who support the success of these employees by providing exceptional accommodations.

**Public Policy Award** – awarded to a member of a state agency or legislator who has played an exemplary role in assisting the Council to advance our legislative priorities in transportation,

employment, education, healthcare/long term care and civil rights. Candidates are chosen by the Council’s Advocacy Work Group.

**Lifetime Service Award** – awarded to an individual for lifetime achievement for exemplary volunteer service in the blind and

visually impaired community. This award differs from the other volunteer service award in scope and longevity.

Guidelines for submissions:

1. A completed nomination form, in MS Word or other similar format, for each nominee must be sent to [LWerbeckes@WCBlind.org](mailto:LWerbeckes@WCBlind.org) by **Friday, April 16, 2021.** The nomination form follows these instructions.
2. Nominees can include individuals and businesses, organizations or agencies whose primary mission is not serving the blind and visually impaired. For example, organizations whose mission is to employ people who are blind and visually impaired do not qualify for an award.
3. All nominees must have helped to promote the dignity and empowerment of people who are blind and visually impaired within the state of Wisconsin.
4. All nominations are reviewed by the Awards Work Group of WCBVI.
5. The Awards Work Group will decide which nominees will be selected for these excellence awards.
6. If a nominee is in consideration for the Lifetime Service Award, the work group will contact the nominator to ask for additional references.
7. Anyone nominating an individual or organization will be notified of their nominee’s standing. Award recipients will also be notified.
8. Award recipients and their nominators are invited to the Council’s annual Excellence Awards and Scholarship virtual event on a date to be determined.

If you have any questions, please contact Denise Jess, CEO/Executive Director at [DJess@WCBlind.org](mailto:djess@wcblind.org) or 1-800-783-5213.

**Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired**

**2021 Excellence Awards Nomination Form**

Please complete all questions, citing examples whenever possible. Nomination forms must be in MS Word or other similar format; not handwritten. All nominations are due, using this form, by **Friday, April 16, 2021** to [LWerbeckes@WCBlind.org](mailto:LWerbeckes@WCBlind.org).

**Nominee’s Contact Information**

Name:

Address (street, city, state & zip):

Phone and best time to call:

E-mail address:

NOTE: If the nominee currently lives outside of the state of Wisconsin, please explain their connection to the blind and visually impaired community of Wisconsin.

**Your Contact Information – in case the work group has any further questions.**

Name:

Phone and best time to call:

E-mail address:

The Council offers awards in several areas, which are listed below. Please use this list as a reference when responding to the following questions. The Awards Work Group will determine which award is most appropriate for your nominee.

Award categories:

* Community Volunteer Service
* Community Partnerships and Collaborations
* Community Giving
* Exceptional Accommodations in Employment
* Public Policy
* Lifetime Service

See the descriptions of each award in the attached instructions.

Questions:

1. What has the nominee accomplished to promote the dignity and empowerment of people who are blind or visually impaired in the state of Wisconsin? Please include specific examples, such as projects, group affiliations, important dates and accomplishments.
2. How has the nominee provided leadership and fostered community involvement, collaboration or innovation?
3. If you could use only six words to describe this individual or organization, what words would most clearly encompass them and their impact in enhancing the lives of people who are blind and visually impaired?
4. Is there anything else you would like the committee to know when considering this nominee for an excellence award?