



Nomination for Champion of the IDEA Award

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was enacted by Congress in 1975 to ensure that all children with disabilities are entitled to a free appropriate public education to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living. Prior to IDEA, over 4 million children with disabilities were denied appropriate access to public education. Many children were denied entry into public school altogether, while others were placed in segregated classrooms, or in regular classrooms without adequate support for their special needs.

Who is eligible?

A nominee can be an individual, business, organization or agency residing or located in the state of Mississippi which has made sustained and significant efforts to ensure the rights of Mississippi's children with disabilities to a free, inclusive, appropriate public education are protected and advanced. They serve as an inspiration to others through their persistence to achieve excellence in education under IDEA law. Their efforts may have been as volunteers, self-advocates, or as part of their professional activities.

How to nominate?

Applicants can either self-nominate or be nominated by another individual or group. A selection committee will review all nominations. We will select one individual, business, organization or agency. Each nomination must be submitted on a separate form. Incomplete forms will be considered ineligible for assessment. Winners will be announced at the 2017 MS disAbility MegaConference. **Nominations must be in by Friday, April 21, 2017.**

Please return forms by email to Keishawna A. Smith, ksmith@ihl.state.ms.us or by mail to P.O. Box 1671, Jackson, MS 39215.

NAME OF NOMINEE: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR NOMINEE:

MAILING ADDRESS:

PHONE:

EMAIL: _____

THE NOMINEE IS A:

- VOLUNTEER SELF ADVOCATE
 PROFESSIONAL ADVOCATE BUSINESS OR AGENCY
 OTHER

When making your nomination, please provide a short statement describing how your nominee embodies being a “Champion of the IDEA” through their efforts. You may attach an additional sheet if needed.

NOMINATED BY:

Name/Organization:	
Contact Phone Number:	
Email:	
Relationship to Nominee:	
Signature:	
Date:	