



Elaine Buchsbaum, *Chair*  
Alison M. Lozano, Ph.D., M.P.A., *Executive Director*

## Press Release

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **New Jerseyans Who Improve Communities for Those with Disabilities Honored at the NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities' Sixth Annual Community Building Awards**

On **Wednesday, April 23 at 11:00 am**, the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities (NJCDD) will once again honor individuals and organizations that have shown leadership in promoting community inclusion for people with developmental disabilities at the annual **Community Building Awards Luncheon**. The event will be held at the **New Jersey Adventure Aquarium** in Camden, NJ.

#### **The Recipients of the 2014 Community Building Awards are:**

*Colleen Frasier Self Advocate Award* – Emily Anne Schaefer; Flemington, NJ  
*Elizabeth Boggs Family Member Advocate Award* – Zinke McGeady; Jackson, NJ  
*Lifetime Achievement Award* – Herbert D. Hinkle; Lawrenceville, NJ  
*Access Above and Beyond Award* – Freeholder Vincent H. Nestore, Jr.; Deptford, NJ  
*Exceptional Policymaker Award* – US Congressman Frank Pallone; 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
*Inclusive Education Award* – Strive Program, Ridgefield Memorial High School; Ridgefield, NJ  
*Multi Media Award* – Alexandra Jackman; Westfield, NJ

In addition to honoring seven award recipients, the NJCDD will present a tribute to Elaine Buchsbaum, the Council's Chairperson, who is scheduled to resign from her position this July after serving as the Council's Chair for over seven years. Furthermore, the NJCDD is pleased to welcome Marlene Sallo, staff director for the United States Commission on Civil Rights, as this year's keynote speaker.

Marlene Sallo was appointed Staff Director of the US Commission on Civil Rights by President Barack Obama on June 4, 2013. Before her appointment, she was Special Assistant to Martin R. Castro, the Chairman of the US Commission on Civil Rights. She came to the Commission from the National Council of La Raza where she was a Juvenile Justice Policy Fellow advocating for the reform of juvenile justice systems. Prior to relocating to the Washington, DC area, she worked for the Children's Law Center at the University of South Carolina School of Law training attorneys and child protection employees on federal legislation pertaining to child welfare and special education.

Ms. Sallo spent much of her career in Florida working to advance the wellbeing of children and families. Prior to attending law school, Ms. Sallo was a coordinator with the Florida Foster Care Review Project, a

case manager working with children and their drug-addicted mothers, and a special education teacher. As a lawyer, she worked with the Florida Department of Children and Families litigating child abuse and neglect cases. She also worked for Disability Rights Florida, the statewide-designated protection and advocacy system for persons with disabilities where she represented and advocated for the educational rights of children with disabilities. She has been a guest lecturer, author, and presenter on issues such as the school to prison pipeline, special education needs of children in foster care, and the effective and equitable delivery of services for juvenile offenders and their families.

The Community Building Awards are intended to show encouragement, support, and recognition to those who have exhibited an exceptional commitment to promoting community inclusion for people with developmental disabilities in New Jersey. Eight award categories were created to honor the hard work and dedication of these community leaders.

Each year, the NJCDD looks to the public to help us identify visionary public policy makers, inclusive media outlets, diligent advocates, and devoted educators from all across our state. The Council believes such individuals or organizations should be commended and given the acknowledgment they deserve.

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