



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

Press Release

Date: Friday, April 5, 2013

Contact: Jonathan Waller; Jonathan.Waller@njcdd.org; 609-633-8280

For Immediate Release

The NJCDD Celebrates those who Promote Community Inclusion at its Fifth Annual Community Building Awards Luncheon

Trenton – On Wednesday, April 24 at 11:30 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 **Lafayette Yard Marriott Conference Center** in Trenton, NJ.

In addition to honoring nine award recipients, The Council is pleased to welcome Kathleen Martinez, assistant secretary of the Office of Disability Employment Policy at the US Department of Labor as this year's keynote speaker.

Kathleen Martinez was nominated by President Barack Obama to be the third Assistant Secretary for Disability Employment Policy and was confirmed by the US Senate on June 25, 2009. As head of the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), Ms. Martinez advises the Secretary of Labor and works with all DOL agencies to lead a comprehensive and coordinated national policy regarding the employment of people with disabilities.

Blind since birth, Ms. Martinez joined ODEP with a background as an internationally recognized disability rights leader specializing in employment, asset building, independent living, international development, diversity, and gender issues.

The Recipients of the 2013 Community Building Awards are:

Colleen Frasier Self Advocate Award – Myrta Rosa

Elizabeth Boggs Family Member Advocate Award – Walter Bender & Gail Frizzell

Lifetime Achievement Award – Kate Blisard

Distinguished DD Systems Change Award – The Military 360 Project

Access Above and Beyond Award – Spring Oaks Assisted Living

Exceptional Policymaker Award – US Senator Frank Lautenberg

Fellowship in Inclusive Education Award – The Newell Elementary School First Grade Classroom Team

Multi Media Award – The New Jersey ReelAbilities Film Festival

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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