

Psychology Interest Network's Wolf Wolfensberger Valor Award

What's in a name?

Dr. Wolf Wolfensberger was the originator of Social Role Valorization and the Normalization Principle, concepts that strongly influenced disability policy and practice in the US and Canada. He was widely recognized as a major contributor to the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities in the 20th century. He had a reputation for being a stirring and controversial speaker in the sense that he strongly advocated for those with intellectual disabilities from the basic premise that all people have value.

The concept of valor is often reserved for military courage. Yet “great courage in the face of danger” can rightfully be applied to those who advocate for vulnerable populations. Certainly, a man who epitomized this quality is Wolf Wolfensberger. Therefore, this award recognizes that bravery found within our field while continuing to honor a courageous pioneer.

Purpose and Focus of the Recognition

The Psychology Interest Network (PIN) of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities is pleased to seek nominations for the Wolf Wolfensberger Valor Award. Through this award, the PIN seeks to recognize and acknowledge an outstanding mental health and/or psychology professional who embodies the courageous spirit of Wolf Wolfensberger through practice and/or research that amplifies the inherent dignity of all people. This award may also be used to recognize mental health and/or psychology professionals that have faced significant adversity in their pursuit of justice for all people.

Award Criteria

Nominee's courageous actions should be well documented according to the outlined procedure below. Nominees do *not* have to be members of AAIDD or PIN.

1. Demonstrates sound judgement, courage, ability, and the use of learned skills even in the face of adversity and risk to professional standing, in act or acts that promote justice.
2. Demonstrates through their own research, clinical practice, or political activism a commitment to advancing social inclusion for people with developmental disabilities.
3. Demonstrates, in one's personal and professional life, the commitment to standing against discriminatory and oppressive practices.
4. Demonstrates, in one's personal and professional life, a commitment to listening to and respecting the voices of people with developmental disabilities and their families.

Nomination Procedure

1. Nominations for PIN's Wolf Wolfensberger Valor Award recognition should be submitted to the AAIDD PIN Award Committee Chair by March 10, 2023.
2. Nominations should include sufficient information that demonstrates a nominee's accomplishments, which may include the following:
 - a) a resume/curriculum vita
 - b) a brief biographical statement
 - c) a description of articles published, writings, etc.

- d) a description of professional and practical experiences related to the field of developmental disabilities
 - e) a rationale for consideration of the nominee's valor that rises above typical work expectations.
3. No less than three members of the PIN Executive Committee will review all nominations and offer a recommendation to entire Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will make the final decision for this award.
 4. The award will be presented at PIN's luncheon during the national AAIDD Annual Meeting.
 5. The award recipient will be asked to deliver a short presentation upon receiving the award.

The Process of Evaluating Nominations

1. Determination of eligibility for consideration.
 - a. Does the nomination satisfy the overall and award-specific guidelines for eligibility? Yes/No
 - b. Is the nomination complete? Yes/No
2. Assessment of merit.
 - a. If a candidate is deemed eligible through Step 1, the merit of his or her nomination should be evaluated with respect to the following categories through the narrative, letters of reference, resume/vita/history, and any additional supporting documentation.
 - b. Remember, scoring below is intended to assist the process, not be the final determination. Valor has subjective elements that cannot be fully captured in any rubric or comparison of candidates.

Evaluation Criteria	Max	Score
1. Significance of contribution Relatively minor significance (5) Important (10) Important and growing (15) Profound without growing impact (20) Profound and growing in impact (30)	30	
2. Quality and thoroughness of contributions Normal effort (1) Above normal effort (5) Skilled effort (10) Excellent in every way (20)	20	
3. Duration of significant effort 3 to 4 years (2) 5 to 7 years (4) 7 to 9 years (6) 10 or more years (7 to 10)	10	
4. Geographic range of contribution Local (2) State (4) National (20) North American Continent (25) International (30)	30	
Total	90	

3. Committee discussion and decision.
 - a. No less than three members of the PIN Executive Committee will discuss scores generated by members, using above rubric as a guide. Selection is offered to the PIN's entire Executive Committee.
 - b. Executive committee makes final decision for this award.
 - c. The award recipient will be notified by PIN in April.

Design Elements

The gold medallion's rim is inscribed with the words "AAIDD Psychology Interest Network Wolf Wolfensberger Valor Award" and Greek Psi symbols. The obverse has a stylized monogram which can be seen as two W and a V with a "pin". The AAIDD logo rests below the monogram. The medallion is supported on a multicolored ribbon featuring the same words found on the medallion.

