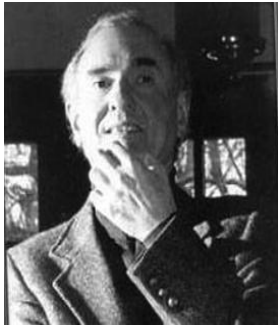


Psychology Interest Network's Wolfensberger Valor Award

Purpose and Focus

The Psychology Interest Network (PIN) seeks to recognize an outstanding mental health and/or psychology professional whose advocacy, practice and/or research related to people with disabilities embodies the courageous spirit of Wolf Wolfensberger and amplifies the inherent dignity of all people. This award may also be used to recognize mental health and/or psychology professionals who have faced significant adversity in their pursuit of justice for all people.



Dr. Wolf Wolfensberger was a major contributor to the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities in the 20th century. He originated Social Role Valorization and the Normalization Principle, concepts that strongly influenced policy and practice in the US and Canada regarding the treatment of people with disabilities. As a stirring and controversial speaker, his advocacy consisted of the basic premise that all people have value.

The concept of valor is often reserved for military courage. Yet “great courage can be applied to those who actively fight for the rights of others. Wolf

Wolfensberger epitomized this quality, and this award recognizes this bravery found within our field.



Award Criteria

Nominee's courageous actions should be well documented according to the procedure outlined below.

Nominees do *not* have to be members of AAIDD or PIN to receive this nomination.

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

Nominations should include sufficient information that demonstrates a nominee's accomplishments and bravery which may include the following:

- | | |
|--|--|
| a. a resume/curriculum vita | d. a description of professional and practical experiences related to the field of developmental disabilities. |
| b. a brief biographical statement | e. a rationale for consideration of the nominee whose bravery rises above typical work expectations. |
| c. a description of articles writings...etc. | |

Nominations for PIN's Wolf Wolfensberger Valor Award recognition should be submitted to the [AAIDD PIN Award Committee Chair](#) by **Friday, February 27, 2026**.