

The Arc of New Mexico Awards Program Categories

Agency of Distinction

Honors a public or private community organization that provides exemplary support and demonstrates a commitment to community inclusion for people with disabilities.

Community Service

Honors an individual or group who has demonstrated commitment to the mission and positions of The Arc by volunteering time locally or on a statewide basis to enhance opportunities for people with disabilities or working on special projects or events.

Exemplary Educator

Honors a New Mexico educator or leader in education who has demonstrated excellence in providing for the education of students with developmental and other disabilities. Nominees for this award may include teachers, principals, administrators, school board members, college faculty or researchers.

Inclusive Employer

Honors a New Mexico employer with an exceptional record of providing inclusive community employment opportunities and accommodations for people with disabilities.

Public Awareness

Honors outstanding efforts by state and local media entities or individuals that create better public understanding of people with disabilities. The award recognizes a variety of broadcast, print, and internet mass media, including – television, radio, newspapers, magazines, books, podcasts, and blogs.

Work Initiative

Honors a person or a group who seeks or has the knowledge, skills and initiative to start and operate his/her/their own business or an employee who has positively contributed to a workplace setting.

Promising Young Leader

Honors an individual (under age 22) or a group whose members are age 22 or younger, who have demonstrated outstanding leadership potential as seen in volunteer efforts on special projects or events that enhance opportunities for people with disabilities in their community.

The New Mexico Self-Advocacy Awards

The Robert LeCompt Jr. Leadership Award

Honors an individual with intellectual or developmental disability that has shown exceptional leadership in their community through community activism and/or public policy.

Tenacious Tommy Award

Honors a self-advocate who tenaciously pursues goals outside of others' expectations. He/she truly breaks the mold and defies the label of 'disabled.' This person is an individual who dares to be different and is not influenced by others' opinions of what is possible and what is not. We reward you for having the courage to be yourself and pursue your own lifestyle.

The Bob Thomas Achievement Award

The Award is given in memory of Bob Thomas and honors an individual with intellectual or developmental disability that has achieved much in their life despite their disability and other challenges.