

**SCHOOL OF REHABILITATION SERVICES AND COUNSELING
ALUMNI AWARDS: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2023**

The School of Rehabilitation Services and Counseling (SRSC) at UTRGV is pleased to recognize distinguished school alumni who have made significant contributions in the field of rehabilitation counseling, both regionally and nationally. In recognition of our school alumni, this announcement serves as a call for nominations for the following two awards: The Beatrice Wright Regional Alumni Award and the Justin Dart National Alumni Award. Please find below the criteria for each award.

THE BEATRICE WRIGHT REGIONAL ALUMNI AWARD

This award is named after an advocate who worked tirelessly to improve services for people with disabilities. Dr. Wright advanced the idea that disability is not a problem centered within the individual, but rather a problem rooted in the psychological, social, and built environment in which people with disabilities live. This award honors alumni who have made a significant contribution within the region to the field of rehabilitation counseling, be it through education, publications, research, policy or legislative efforts, leadership, service or advocacy.

THE JUSTIN DART NATIONAL ALUMNI AWARD

This award is named after “the father of the American Disabilities Act.” In his lifetime, Mr. Dart received several awards, among them the Presidential Medal of Freedom, this nation’s highest civilian award. He toured the country at his own expense to advocate for disability rights and to spread his vision of “the revolution of empowerment.” Toward this end, this award recognizes school alumni who have made significant contributions on a national level to the field of rehabilitation counseling, be it through publications, research, policy or legislative efforts, leadership, service or advocacy in the advancement and equality of people with disabilities.

Criteria for these awards:

Each recipient should:

- Be a recognized leader in advancing quality rehabilitation services
- Demonstrate a commitment to advocating for the rights of people with disabilities
- Demonstrate a commitment to multiculturalism, as evidenced through regional involvement (for the regional award) or national involvement (for the national award)
- Be an acknowledged role model, mentor, and example

To Apply: If you are interested in nominating someone for this award, please download the online application form from the school website <https://www.utrgv.edu/rehab-counseling/index.htm>

Self-nominations will not be accepted. Submit, **as one PDF document**, the completed application, a summary as to why you are nominating the nominee, 1 letter of support, and the nominee’s CV.

Separate documents will not be accepted. Prior recipients must wait three years to be considered for the same award. Preference will be given to nominees who have not been previously awarded.

Complete PDF packets are due no later than **June 02, 2023** via e-mail to the awards committee chair (Rommel Johnson, rommel.johnson@utrgv.edu). Award recipients will be notified four weeks after the application deadline and will be acknowledged during SRSC’s Annual 2023 Conference later this summer (Date TBA).

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