

2026 Developmental Disabilities Network Champion of Inclusion Award

On October 22, 2026, Disability Rights Rhode Island (DRRI) will be hosting a special film premiere to celebrate our work and the Rhode Island disability community.

At that event, we will also be announcing our 2026 DD Network “**Champion of Inclusion**” Award. We are currently soliciting nominations from the community for this very special award! Winners will be selected by members of the RI DD Network – DRRI, the RI DD Council, and the Sherlock Center for Disabilities.

Who is a Champion of Inclusion? It is any individual or employer who lives out the principles of inclusion for people with disabilities in a way you think should be recognized. Examples:

- Providing people with disabilities equal access to jobs, opportunities and resources.
- Fostering an inclusive environment, creating space for individuals with disabilities to be seen, heard, and valued as equal partners.
- Advocating for people with disabilities to have genuine choice and agency.

This list is neither exhaustive nor prescriptive. Previous champions include John and Connie Susa, and Deb Kney. We want to hear your recommendations for the **2026 Champion of Inclusion!**

Please send your confidential nomination, with the name and contact information for your nominee, along with a brief explanation of why your nominee should be the **2026 Champion of Inclusion**, to mmurray@drri.org. Include your name, email, and phone number so we can contact you if needed.
