



Maine Developmental Disabilities Council

Invites you to participate in the

2017 Inclusion Awards

~Creative Expression Contest~

“Maine Developmental Disabilities Council is committed to creating a Maine in which all people are valued and respected because we believe communities are stronger when everyone is included.”

What are the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council (MDDC) Inclusion Awards?

The MDDC Inclusion Awards provide awards to schools, teachers, and high school students who demonstrate an exceptional concept of a world in which all people are valued members of the community. The contest is open to high school juniors and seniors who reside in Maine.

The MDDC Inclusion Awards encourage the growth and development of individual students and supports Maine’s Guiding Principles to encourage students to become “a responsible and involved citizen who:

1. Participates positively in the community and designs creative solutions to meet human needs and wants
2. Accepts responsibility for personal decisions and actions
3. Demonstrates ethical behavior and the moral courage to sustain it
4. Understands and respects diversity
5. Displays global awareness and economic and civic literacy
6. Demonstrates awareness of personal and community health and wellness”

The contest asks students to develop original pieces of work (visual art, creative writing, audio/visual, etc.) that respond to the question:

How does the full inclusion of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities in all aspects of community life (school, work, recreation, etc.) benefit the community and its members?

Application Deadline: February 15, 2017

Creative Expression Mediums:

Using the question above as inspiration, students are encouraged to create and submit a piece of original work in any of the following mediums:

- **Visual Art:** painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, etc.
- **Creative Writing:** short stories, poetry, scripts, etc.
- **Audio/Visual/Media:** musical composition, video, animation, etc.

Please note – the potential forms of creative expression that can be used for this contest are infinite – you are limited only by your imagination, not by the descriptions listed here.

Submissions

- **Visual Art:** Initial submission of entries in this category will be in the form of photographs of the artwork. Students are encouraged to take and submit multiple photos of their artwork from different angles and distances to fully capture the details and impact of the piece. After the initial review, top ranked pieces will need to be submitted in their original format for the final evaluation process.
- **Creative Writing:** Must be submitted in text format, however this can be generated through any means including any appropriate assistive technology (AT), for example, talk-to-text software or YouTube's closed captioning feature.
- **Audio/Visual/Media:** Must be submitted in an electronic format that is accessible through standard computer programs. Entries can be emailed or saved and submitted on a cd, dvd, or flash drive.

Contest & Entry Guidelines

- The contest is open to high school students who reside in Maine and are currently enrolled in 11th or 12th grades. Enrollment can be in public, private, charter, or home schools.
- Each individual may submit up to 3 entries in total regardless of medium(s) used.
- Entrants must include an official entry form for each piece of work that is submitted.
- Entries are to be submitted either:
 - Electronically to: maineddcom@gmail.com or
 - By mail to: Maine Developmental Disabilities Council
Attn: Erin Howes
225 Western Ave, Suite 4
Augusta, ME 04330
- The deadline for entries is **February 15, 2017 at midnight EST**. Entries submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Awards

The MDDC Inclusion Awards will provide monetary prizes as listed below. Top entries will also be included in a book to be published by MDDC.

In order to be eligible to receive a monetary award, recipients must be able to commit to attending the awards ceremony to be held at 1:00 on May 23rd at the Maine State House in Augusta.

Student Prizes

First Place	\$1,000
Second Place	\$750
Third Place	\$500
Honorable Mention	\$250

Additional Prizes

For the Teacher of the student awarded first place	\$500
For the School with the highest percentage of eligible students submitting essays	\$2,500

Timeline

The timeline below presents a general outline of the process for the MDDC Inclusion Awards.

Application Available	November 15, 2016
Entry Deadline	February 15, 2017
Award Announcement (via email and website)	April 15, 2017
Awards Ceremony	May 23, 2017
Selected Works Published	Summer 2017

Evaluation and Scoring

A review panel comprised of individuals with developmental disabilities, family members of individuals with developmental disabilities, MDDC staff, educators, and advocates will be assembled to evaluate and score contest submissions. Each piece of work will be individually evaluated by multiple reviewers and scored using a standardized rubric designed specifically for this contest. The final score for each piece of work will be the average of the reviewers combined scores.

Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation of submitted works will include (but may not be limited to) the following elements:

- Interpretation and clarity of the theme of inclusion as expressed by the piece of work.
- Creativity and originality in the depiction of the theme of inclusion.
- Quality of composition and overall design of the piece of work as based on the theme of inclusion.
- Overall impression of the piece of work. What is the effect of the work in general? How does the piece of work impact the viewer/audience in relationship to the theme of inclusion?
- Does the work express ideas, concepts, and approaches related to inclusion that are unique, innovative, and creative?

About MDDC

The purpose of MDDC, as required under the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, is to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of, and have access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, integration, and inclusion in all facets of family and community life. MDDC is a partnership of people with disabilities, their families, and agencies which identifies barriers to community inclusion, self-determination, and independence. MDDC acts to effect positive change through advocacy, training, demonstration projects, and support for other inclusive and collaborative systemic change activities. For additional information, individuals can visit our website at www.MaineDDC.org.