

**Governor's Office of Disability Affairs
Office of Governor John Bel Edwards
Report to the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council
January 2024**

Farewell from the GODA staff!

It is with tremendous gratitude that we send this final report to the DD Council from the Administration of Governor John Bel Edwards. On behalf of all of us who have served in GODA over the past 8 years, it has been our honor to serve the disability community in this capacity. We are grateful for the trust you placed in us.

Contact information for our GODA Team is on the following page.

Apply to Serve as Executive Director or Assistant Director of GODA

If you're interested in serving as the Executive Director or Assistant Director of the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs, apply at <https://oneteam.la/>. If you are unable to fill out the online form or need reasonable accommodations to participate in the process, please get in touch with them at admin@oneteam.la or disability.affairs@la.gov. We shared with the incoming administration that authentic engagement with the disability community will drive all meaningful progress.

Below are links to valuable information:

Recordings from past GODA Conferences:

2023- <https://bit.ly/GODAconf23sched>

2022- <https://bit.ly/GODAconf22sched>

2021- <https://bit.ly/GODAconf21sched>

Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs minutes and other information:
<https://wwwcfprd.doa.louisiana.gov/boardsandcommissions/viewBoard.cfm?board=259>

GODA Legislative Tracking:

2023- <https://bit.ly/23GODALegis>

2022- <https://bit.ly/22GODALegis>

2021- <https://bit.ly/21GODALegis>

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Public Speaking, Policy Creation, Disability Equity in DEI
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April Dunn

(July 6, 1986 - March 28, 2020)
Senior Coordinator, Governor's Office of Disability Affairs
<https://laddc.org/in-memory-of-april-dunn/>
(Thanks to the DD Council for archiving April's Memorial Webpage.)

2023 GOLD Awards Recipients

| | |
|---|--|
| Patsy Barrett Memorial Award | Ashley Volion, PhD - New Orleans |
| Ken Vince Memorial Award | Mark Raymond, Jr. - New Orleans |
| Distinguish Merit Award | Gale Dean - Shreveport |
| April Dunn Youth of the Year Award | Vivienne Webb - Shreveport |
| Direct Support Professional of the Year | Josh Mougeot - Prairieville |
| Educator of the Year | Gerlinde Beckers, PhD - Independence |
| Elected Official of the Year | Sen. Gerald Boudreaux; Sen. Fred Mills |
| Employer of the Year | JP Morgan Chase - Monroe |
| Family of the Year | The Credeur Family - Youngsville |
| Public Servant of the Year | James E. Mitchell, PhD - Baton Rouge |
| Service Animal of the Year | Mr. T of The Arc Caddo - Bossier |
| Service Provider of the Year | Marilyn Martin - New Iberia |
| Veteran of the Year | Paul Ganucheau - Eunice |
| Volunteer of the Year | Effie Caston - Baton Rouge |

2023 Inclusive Art Contest Award Recipients

Elementary Division

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1st Dru Zittrouer | 2nd Mia Hunter | 3rd Ava Sharp |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------|

Middle School Division

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1st Jordan McGee | 2nd Julian Brady | 3rd Alexa Bowman |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|

Junior High Division

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1st Mya Mollere | 1st Paisley Dempster | 2nd Maryam Habibovic |
| | 3rd Slade Thibodeaux | |

High School Division

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1st Hailey Pourciau | 2nd Annabella Gautreaux | 2nd Elyse Savoie |
| 3rd Landon Destin | Honorable Mention Avynn Cubbage | |

Adult Division

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1st Bonnie Dempster | 2nd Patrice Parks | 3rd Mollin Tinnin |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|

Paisley Dempster was selected as the overall winner and the recipient of the Lynette Fontenot Excellence in Inclusion Award.

Emergency Management Disability and Aging Coalition (EMDAC)

Access the [LA EMDAC Info/Resource google doc](#) at www.bit.ly/EMDACInfo.

EMDAC Lunch & Learn: Home Fire Safety with Louisiana's State Fire Marshall's Office will be Wednesday, January 24 from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm. Register at

<https://bit.ly/EMDAC-FireSafety>.