

DMH SOUTHEAST AREA HOLDS FIRST ANNUAL ACE AWARDS



ACE Logo Contest Winner: Christen Boudreau

On June 21st, over 115 staff, providers, award recipients, family and friends gathered to celebrate the ten **Academic, Civic engagement and Employment (ACE)** and **Excellence Award** recipients at the first annual DMH Southeast ACE Awards held at the Conference Center at Massasoit Community College in Brockton. Commissioner Mikula provided the opening remarks, and Robert Ortiz, Fellowship Health Resources Director of Peer Recovery Services-Northeast, delivered the keynote address emphasizing the importance of work, education, and civic engagement in supporting recovery and the significant accomplishments of those being honored.

One ACE Award winner was selected per site for accomplishments in education, employment, or civic engagement. The Southeast Area-wide Excellence Awards were presented for outstanding achievement in each of these categories as well. The Excellence Award in Education was in honor of Fanny Zambuto, founder of CAUSE (Consumers and Alliances United for Supported Education), for her years of advocacy and support of persons served wishing to pursue educational goals. A total of thirty-five nominations were received area-wide.

Nominators shared why individuals were nominated for an ACE Award. One relayed how "education and employment are intertwined in one's recovery" sharing how their nominee no longer needs public assistance living independently in their own apartment having completed a cosmetology program, securing a cosmetology license, and working as a hairstylist. Another nominator shared how their nominee faced a "Managerial Finance Mountain" during a semester at college, and chose "an uphill, arduous road" demonstrating that perseverance and dedication pays off, and thus, paving the way towards a Bachelor's Degree.

The 2017 ACE Award Site Winners:

- **Diane Tremblay** for Civic Engagement and Employment
Brockton Site
- **Juliana MacNeely** for Employment and Education
Cape Cod and Islands Site
- **Marie McPhee** for Civic Engagement and Employment
Fall River Site
- **Derek Eastman** for Employment
New Bedford Site
- **Harrison Kerns** for Education and Employment
Plymouth Site
- **Frank Mundo** for Education, Employment and Civic Engagement
Quincy Site

- **David Arnold** for Civic Engagement
Taunton/Attleboro Site

EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS:

- **Dexter Williams** for Education in Honor of Fanny Zambuto
Brockton Site
- **Carlton Pocknett** for Civic Engagement
Cape Cod and Islands Site
- **Maletta Sanderson for Employment**
Taunton/Attleboro Site

A special acknowledgement was also given to Michael McNeice, owner of Consumer Transportation, for his years of dedication in providing transportation to the mental health community. He also received a citation from State Senator John Keenan's Office.

Support for the ACE and Excellence awards was generously donated by individuals, businesses, and organizations from the wider community, including:

Gabrielle Matukas, Catherine Fountas, Charles Fountas, Irene Fountas, Paul Fountas, Fanny & Domenic Zambuto (CAUSE), NAMI Bristol County MA, NAMI Cape Cod and the Islands, NAMI South Shore, AAA Northeast (Rockland), Rockland Federal Credit Union, Rockland-Hanson Rotary Club, and The Transformation Center.

Acknowledgements: Photography provided by Harrison Kerns, Plymouth ACE Award winner
Music provided by Frank Mundo, Quincy ACE Award winner
ACE Logo Contest artists



Pictured is Harrison Kerns, Plymouth ACE Award winner receiving his certificate from Buddy Baker-Smith, Southeast Area Director.



Pictured is Marie McPhee, Fall River ACE Award winner (center) with her husband, Steven (left), Vanessa Belisle FHR CPS (right), and Ken Ryan FHR Employment Specialist (back).