



ADVANCING THE PROFESSION AWARDS DESCRIPTIONS

The six NAWDP *Advancing the Profession* awards recognize workforce development professionals who have made exemplary contributions to our field.

Tom Ahlers System Building Award

The **Tom Ahlers System Building Award** recognizes exemplary contributions to the workforce development system – impacting a large area, such as a region or state. It is bestowed upon workforce development professionals who create impactful programs that exemplify what is possible when customers, stakeholders, and workforce development professionals partner to improve employment opportunities in multiple communities. Ideal candidates will have a track record of creating sustainable workforce development programs that result in highly productive partnerships that result in jobs.

Additionally, ideal candidates will likely have high engagement in the professional that allows them to build relationships across the private and public sectors – corporations, small businesses, nonprofits, schools, and local governments. High engagement also reflects the spirit of the award.

Frequency: Nominations are accepted annually. However, awards are made at discretion of the Awards Committee at NAWDP's annual conference, each spring.

Tom Ahlers Bio: His career spanned four decades during which he became one of the premier workforce development system builders in Indiana. He was adept at helping people understand the relationships among complex interactive systems and how to improve their effectiveness, particularly in what we today call CareerOneStop operations. Tom understood that capacity building takes time, resources, and patience and that it requires the engagement of stakeholders — not simply people who show up because their bosses told them to go. Tom worked tirelessly to make the workforce development system better for customers, stakeholder, and workforce professionals. His ability to get to the heart of an issue, foresee future impact, and patiently explain his position was valuable to the workforce system.

Peter E. Kaiser Leadership Award

The **Peter E. Kaiser Leadership Award** recognizes significant contributions to workforce development.

Ideal candidates are likely to have a strong history of leadership and capacity building in the field of workforce development. They may have created a program from the ground up or successfully taken over the management of an existing initiative. This award is limited to NAWDP members.

Frequency: Nominations are accepted annually. However, awards are made at discretion of the Awards Committee at NAWDP's annual conference, each spring.

Peter E. Kaiser Bio:

Peter E. Kaiser was the president and owner of Kaiser Group, Inc., a company he founded in 1978, which today is known as Dynamic Workforce Solutions, based in Waukesha, Wisconsin. Kaiser Group provided comprehensive solutions in workforce training, staff development, assessment, consulting, management, and administrative services. As Dynamic Workforce Solutions, the company has grown a footprint across six states.

Sar Levitan Research Award

The **Sar Levitan Research Award** recognizes significant research to the field of workforce development, defined as research that leads to improved management and performance outcomes in the execution of workforce programs and initiatives.

Ideal candidates are likely to have authored research that has been field tested in professional use, and proven to have improved a workforce development operation. The research is also likely to have served as a blueprint for the creation of an original workforce program that has been adopted into professional use, is currently up and running, with metrics that prove it is a success.

Frequency: Nominations are accepted annually. However, awards are made at discretion of the Awards Committee at NAWDP's annual conference, each spring.

Sar Levitan Bio:

Sar Levitan was an icon in the evaluation profession. He possessed wisdom, which he freely shared, and his opinion and assessment and advice were constantly in demand. He trained many people in the workforce profession; our stars as well as our rising stars. Frequently one would leave a conversation with Dr. Levitan with these words running through their mind, "I'd really never thought about it in that way." His life's work will continue to positively impact generations of workforce development professionals.

NAWDP Professional Development Award

The **Professional Development Award** recognizes individuals who have been instrumental in designing and implementing professional development initiatives that enhance the knowledge, skills and competencies of workforce development professionals.

Ideal candidates will have created and implemented a training initiative with success substantiated through measurement. Whether a large or small initiative, the significance of the professional development program will rest in its impact. Candidates will be able to prove how the training initiative created ripples of impact in an organization or a community.

Frequency: Nominations are accepted annually. However, awards are made at discretion of the Awards Committee at NAWDP's annual conference, each spring.

Jodi Spiegel Customer Service Award

The **Jodi Spiegel Customer Service Award** recognizes exceptional behind-the-scenes customer services that pushes past internal silos to link different teams and accomplish workforce development project goals within an organization.

Ideal candidates are likely to have created an internal blueprint, change management plan, or training and development plan – and implemented it – to ready their organization to execute workforce development outreach initiatives or client service plans.

Additionally, the ideal candidate has a track record of workforce-development related customer service within and outside of their organization. This award is limited to NAWDP members only.

Frequency: Nominations are accepted annually. However, awards are made at discretion of the Awards Committee at NAWDP’s annual conference, each spring.

Jodi Speigel Bio: Jodi Spiegel worked at the Metro Career Center in San Diego County, as a Workforce Development Advisor, with an emphasis on job development and business services. Ms. Spiegel is described as the epitome of customer service. Business owners and managers trusted her, job seekers relied on her guidance, and co-workers always knew that she would lend a helping hand. She consistently guided her clients to do their best by challenging their assumptions, and engaging them in spirited discussions concerning their careers. Jodi believed that individuals held the capacity to be their best, and needed only her assistance to guide them in developing a vision for their professional future. Clients fortunate enough to have been advised by her, say they left her meetings with a renewed sense of purpose, and a firm and workable action plan.

H.G. Weisman Award

The **H.G. Weisman Award** recognizes exceptional services to NAWDP, and to the field of workforce development.

Ideal candidates are likely to have created a workforce development footprint that redefined, reinvigorated, or initially defined what job-creation partnerships will look like in communities and regions they’ve served, professionally. The ideal candidate will bring a track record of developing one or more workforce development programs that resulted in significant, positive impact – something that put a local community “on the map” and resulted in companies courting the community with jobs.

Additionally, the ideal candidate for this award will have served NAWDP in some capacity, typically in a volunteer leadership or advisory position. This award is limited to NAWDP members only.

Frequency: Awards are made at discretion of the NAWDP Board Chair.