

Larry Wood Scholarship Award

The Award

In honor of his many years of invaluable service and dedication, Benhaven has created *The Larry Wood Scholarship Award*. The annual award will afford the opportunity for one Benhaven employee to attend a national conference on Autism. This scholarship covers expenses for travel, hotel, conference fees and a per diem for food.

The Larry Wood Scholarship Award recognizes exceptional job performance, commitment to professional learning and growth, and expresses Benhaven's appreciation of the receiving employee for their role in bringing the Benhaven mission to life, being person centered, and by providing high quality direct support to the individuals at Benhaven.

Eligibility

All full-time staff, in good standing, who provide direct support services and have been employed by Benhaven for a minimum of one year are eligible to be nominated for the award. Nominations are accepted from those we support, families, fellow staff, or supervisors who have first-hand knowledge of the nominee's performance.

Process

Nominations should be submitted to the division director by October 23, 2023. The nominating person must submit a paragraph expressing why they are nominating the employee.

The division directors will review the nominees for their division with a small committee made up of the leaders in their division. They will discuss each candidate and select the nominee to represent

their division. The division director will send a written statement framing out why this person was selected along with the original nomination to the executive director. The division director will inform the staff member that they have been nominated to represent their division. The division director will also forward all nominees to the executive director.

An email will go out from the executive director's office asking the selected nominees to submit in writing or through a video a response to each of the following questions:

1. Why are you interested in attending a conference?
2. How does attending the conference apply to your work?
3. How would you share the knowledge you acquire with others?

Response should be received within 1 week from the date of the email. Once the responses are received, the executive director, a representative from the senior leadership team and a representative from the Board of Directors will set up a time to meet with the nominees.

The winner of the scholarship will be determined by November 20, 2023.

Check out these websites to see information about their conferences:

<http://www.autism.outreach.psu.edu/>

<http://www.autismone.org/>

<https://worldautismconference.org/>

<https://www.abainternational.org/events/autism-2024.aspx>

<https://www.autismlegalresourcecenter.com/resources/autism-aba-conferences-2023/>