North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities

2024 Leadership and Advocacy Awards

awards@nccdd.org

Subject: NC Leadership Achievement Award Document - T Land

Dear Nomination Committee,

I am writing to endorse T. Land, a deeply passionate, intuitive innovator who goes above and beyond to create equitably inclusive employment, social, leadership, and humanitarian opportunities for Autistic, Neurodivergent, and Intellectually Disabled persons. His ambition, intelligence, vision, and drive are irrefutable. I have had the pleasure of working alongside T for over 4 years, as a member of the Board of Directors for CANDOR (formerly Autism Support and Advocacy Center) in Durham. What I have witnessed in T is the embodiment of everything the prestigious NCCDD NC Leadership Award represents.

T Land takes special care to elevate the lived experiences of Autistic/Disabled individuals from their unique perspectives. The Autistic Perspective Series, panel discussions on thought provoking topics, is a safe space for panelists to discuss diagnosis, identity, intersectionality and their challenges. Individuals, family members and professionals from cross disciplines have found the series to be informative, and thought provoking. The popularity of the series has drawn attendees from 10 states and 3 countries.

Partnerships are key. CANDOR’s Torchlight Residency Program, a collaboration between a local residential program and Durham City Public Schools provides internships centering the Arts for Autistic/Disabled high school students and training to the community on Neurodiversity Disability Justice and Allyship. Students are able to showcase their work through publications and local art exhibits. All program Facilitators are local Autistic/Disabled Artists.

T’s tireless work ethic, and innate ability to uplift and inspire those around him are not just admirable traits – they're a call to action. He doesn't just do a job; he elevates the human spirit.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jackie Pilgrim

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