

Two Kansas Groups Named Equal Access Leaders

(Hays, May 28th) The education advocacy group Kansans for Equal Access to Transition Services (keatsks.org) has announced two honorees for its fourth annual Equity and Access Leadership Awards. "I brought 14 nominees to our panel of judges this year," explained Robb Scott, the founding director of KEATS, "but two organizations stood heads and shoulders above the rest." This year's leadership award winners are SKIL Resource Center Inc., a southeast Kansas based group that provides peer counseling services, independent living skills training services, and home and community-based services, driven by and focused on persons with disabilities, their families, and communities, and Seeds of Hope, a Garden City based group that helps incarcerated and recently released individuals successfully transition out of the corrections system to lead safe, stable, productive lives and become contributing members of their families and communities.

"These two organizations are natural partners of hundreds of like-minded individuals and similar advocacy groups across the state of Kansas who selflessly provide assistance, motivation, guidance, and passion to make a positive difference for people of all ages and all walks of life to find pathways to work, independence, and dignity as members of Kansas communities," said Scott, who started the KEATS awards in 2012 to highlight innovative programs and inspire new ideas for building a more inclusive society and economy in Kansas.

"In sharp contrast to the bleak news coming from our state's political leaders, who have basically bailed on their own civic responsibilities," said Scott, "groups like SKIL Resources Inc. and Seeds of Hope are determined not to give up on the future of Kansas."

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