ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING THE GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CITIZENS?

Are you the parent of a child with a disability? Are you an individual with a disability? Do you work/live within the disability community?

The GACEC is looking for individuals who embody a combination of personal qualities, skills, and values to effectively support individuals with disabilities and exceptionalities and promote inclusivity. Key qualities include:

- **Empathy and Compassion**: Understanding and respecting the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities while showing genuine care and concern.
- **Patience**: Remaining calm and understanding in complex or challenging situations, especially when progress may be slow.
- **Open-Mindedness**: Embracing diverse perspectives and experiences without judgment.
- **Resilience**: Staying motivated despite setbacks or obstacles in advocacy efforts.
- **Communication Skills**: Ability to convey messages clearly and effectively, whether advocating for individuals or addressing groups.
- **Active Listening**: Understanding the needs and concerns of those you advocate for by listening without interrupting or making assumptions.
- **Problem-Solving**: Thinking critically to find creative solutions to challenges or barriers.
- **Organizational Skills**: Effectively managing advocacy campaigns, events, or individual support plans.
- **Commitment to Inclusion**: Believing in and promoting equal access, rights, and opportunities for people with disabilities.
- **Advocacy for Empowerment**: Encouraging and supporting individuals to advocate for themselves and fostering independence.
- **Respect for Privacy**: Maintaining confidentiality and respecting boundaries while supporting individuals.
- **Dedication to Education**: Staying informed about disability rights, accessibility standards, and available resources.
- **Cultural Sensitivity**: Recognizing how disabilities intersect with other identity factors like race, gender, and socioeconomic status.
- **Flexibility**: Adapting approaches to meet diverse needs and circumstances.
- **Collaboration**: Working well with other advocates, organizations, and community members to achieve goals.

Interested individuals are asked to attend at least two of the Council's monthly meetings as our guests to assist you in getting a sense of how some of the Council's work is conducted and to help you determine if this is a Council that you would like to be a part of. Meeting information is posted on the State of Delaware Public Calendar and the GACEC website.

GACEC members are Governor-appointed. Both federal and state requirements regulate the overall member composition of the GACEC, prioritizing membership to fill vacancies in required categories when they exist. You **do not** have to be a Governor-appointed member to

participate in Council meetings and make a difference. Council is made up of four Issues Committees:

- **Policy & Law**: Analyze federal, state, and local legislation, regulations, and policies that impact persons with exceptionalities in Delaware and submit recommendations for action to the Council. Recommend lay due process hearing panelists to the Leadership Committee for nomination to DDOE.
- **Infant & Early Childhood**: Monitor and review national, state, and local issues related to children from birth to 5 years with exceptionalities and submit recommendations for action to the Council.
- **Children & Youth**: Monitor and review national, state, and local issues related to children and youth from age 5 to 26 years with exceptionalities and submit recommendations for action to the Council.
- **Adult & Transition Services**: Monitor and review national, state, and local issues related to emerging adults and persons aged 14 years to end of life with exceptionalities and submit recommendations for action to the Council. Advise the Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) on the provision of services to incarcerated persons with disabilities in the joint DDOE/DOC prison education program.

Council also includes two Administrative Committees, several Ad hoc committees, and additional opportunities for engagement. Council meets nine times per year in the evening based on a schedule set in advance. Members and participants are asked to prepare in advance of each meeting by reading materials and reviewing the agenda.

If, after attending two meetings, you would like to apply for a Governor-appointed position on Council, please visit the Office of the Governor Boards & Commissions, scroll down the page and choose to Apply Online or Download Application, and follow the directions to complete the application. When prompted to enter Board of Interest, enter **#0099 Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens.**

If you choose to apply, please share your name, contact information, and date of application submission to **Gacec@Delaware.gov.**
This will allow GACEC staff to be aware of your submission. This communication does not alter, impact, or change any decision for appointment, as that decision is at the pleasure of the Governor.