

# Table of Contents

<b>OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>BG.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>JH.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>JS .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>OUTSTANDING YOUTH NOMINATIONS.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>CL.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>DJ.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>CC .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>EXPECTIONAL EDUCATOR NOMINATIONS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>TD.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>FH .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>SD.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>LB.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>PRIDE OF THE CITY NOMINATION .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>TB.....</b>	<b>5</b>

## OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

### BG

- Makes friends with anyone
- Great listener; people can easily talk to him and he helps them solve problems
- Challenges himself
- Has successfully transitioned into mainstream classes

Nominated by Jennifer Laurence – Tempe High School

### JH

- Grown immensely during his time at Tempe HS
- Went from hating to read to loving it and reading everything he can get his hands on
- Loves and has a great deal of knowledge related to dinosaurs, history, science, etc.
- Learning to work in a team environment
- Easy going
- Cheers others on

Nominated by Jennifer Laurence – Tempe High School

### JS

- Friendly
- Will go out of his way to say Hi to someone
- Makes friends with everyone, including sports heros
- Has helped others get out of their shell
- Loved by everyone

Nominated by Jennifer Laurence – Tempe High School

## OUTSTANDING YOUTH NOMINATIONS

### CL

- Great sense of humor
- He helps entertain the class
- Went from feeling he didn't need or want friends to being friends with everyone
- Creative
- Becoming a team player
- Volunteers to answer questions
- Has become a part of the family

### DJ

D. is a strong and determined boy who loves to learn and tell jokes. When he came to Believe I Can Academy he would not do anything on his own. He was scared and dependent on adults to help him. After we started a mantra, "I am smart, I am brave, I can do it!" he began making the steps to be independent. He kept working, asking his friends for help and saying his mantra. Now he does not want help, unless it is positively and absolutely necessary. He would not try anything hard and did not want to do academics, especially if it was hard. Now D. can read, he continues to get 100% on his spelling tests and he is the leader in math. He loves learning about

### CC

C. came to Believe I Can Academy with limited academic and social skills, she is non-verbal and liked to be alone. On the first day she started at BICA we began working on social skills and following simple directions. Now she has friends and real relationships with others. She uses her talker all of the time!! She allows her friends to help her and support her when she needs it. During COVID she showed us all she can read, do math and is always listening to what is going on around her. She also let us know how much she loves music, beatboxing and making beats on her aug. com . She wants to be a DJ when she grows up. She loves dancing, karaoke, going on walks with her friends. She now takes turns with her friends and loves getting her hair done!! She has overcome so much and continues to push through her fears. She is also a practical joker and very silly!

## EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATOR NOMINATIONS

### TD

T. has worked in Tempe for over 20 years. He worked at ACCEL as the lead behavior coach for over 5 years. At ACCEL he helped change the lives of many individuals with severe behaviors and developmental disabilities. He always encouraged the students and staff to stay positive and strive for their personal best. He worked at McClintock as the night security guard while working at Compadre as a behavior coach/support staff. While at Compadre he supported many individuals believe in themselves and their future. He helped a homeless student gain the resources she needed to find housing and scholarships. This student went on to ASU in the honors program. He also supported a young man who was struggling in school and did not have a strong male role model to encourage him to strive for his personal best. This young man went on to community college and is doing well. He began working at McClintock and became the athletic departments equipment manager where he was able to coach, support and encourage not only academic success, but physical success as well. At any point of the school day you could find a student in their for guidance or encouragement. He always kept his door open for staff and students to find a place to regroup, rest, be encouraged or just chat. He also had a pantry with food and clothes for students and staff in need.

### FH

F. is a speech therapist for several schools within the Tempe footprint. They are an advocate for the children whose voices would otherwise go unheard due to special needs.

As a speech therapist / pathologist they are responsible for finding ways to help children communicate to the world around them. Many times these children are also impaired in other ways, and they must work to overcome those impairments to give children a fighting chance. Fin/Iria works tirelessly often times researching new developments and practices beyond the ones currently in play to find ways to help children in need. Fin/Iria is often the 1st adult to notice when a new medication may be negatively impacting a child (as they have direct contact with them on such a regular basis in a developmental role). Having this foreknowledge allows them to communicate with teachers, parents and other service providers early on, so that all can be aware of potentially life-changing events.

### SD

Believe I Can Academy was created to provide a place for students to meet and exceed their expectations. When they arrived at Believe I Can Academy they were struggling individually and had great potential. It took someone to recognize their individual challenges and pull them through and recognize their greatness. Sarah always sees what students can do and recognizes potential no one else identified. One student came to BICA unable to walk. Sarah saw the potential in this young man and with the help of a friend on each side of him he began to walk on his own. He now pushes through any obstacle and is determined to be independent.

## LB

L. has created an opportunity for all students to feel welcome and successful at Believe I Can Academy. She has been instrumental in the access to activities for all ability levels during our public festivals. She supports and facilitates personal excellence with each and every student at Believe I Can Academy. She is in-tune with the students, one of which demonstrated her ability to read. Laura was working with her and asked her what the answers were to the work she was doing and she answered every question correctly by pointing. This was the beginning to adapting and changing the way this student learned.

She has volunteered her time during COVID to create a safe and fun space for individuals to grow at Believe I Can Academy. She is always ready to make posters and cards to uplift the community.

## PRIDE OF THE CITY NOMINATION

### TB

#### 6. Description of Nominee and Criteria

T. has been a TIRELESS advocate of people with IDD etc. He works with other athletes to include athletes with disabilities to do various races and events.

T. is a man so humble that you would not even know that he road his bike across the entire country until you sat down with him and asked what is the craziest thing he had done. Countless hours of his week are spent thinking about how he can make someone's day better. He pushes others to be great whatever that may be.

T. has dedicated his life to including people with and without disabilities put their limits, try new things and excel athletically and in life!

T. runs a non-profit called 2gether We Live.

*2Gether We Live provides positive life experiences for underserved populations, including those with disabilities, illness, and wounded veterans, all through the strength of loving volunteers.*

*Life without limitations. Through the kindness of volunteers anything is possible*

T. has faced challenges with funding, typical start up growing pains, building trust with families and balancing all this with family. T., or team members, interact directly with all kinds of people including people with disabilities. Tim is often seen towing someone around in Tempe Town Lake in a raft during a swimming race of even a triathlon!