

AbilTY Connection Awards Night Hosted by Briggs & Stratton

The evening of October 5 was set aside to acknowledge, thank and praise the efforts of all the individuals who make up the AbilTY Connection program. This included the protégés who work hard all year, the mentors and family members who support the protégés in a multitude of ways, the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation who fund the efforts, and the dedicated volunteers who serve on the AbilTY Connection committees.

Awards Night is designed to acknowledge the protégés who have met the required criteria by writing a statement of need, obtaining recommendations through teachers or counselors, and submitting the documentation by a defined deadline. This year, the eight protégés who met the criteria and received a \$500 award each were Adam Blazak (Waukesha), KP Datta (Milwaukee), Laurie Fenske (Brookfield), James Kinter (Cudahy), Chris LeBombard (Milwaukee), Christ Neidle (Milwaukee), Noelle Romashko (Waukesha) and Larry Taylor (Milwaukee).

The protégés were recognized during the evening and the mentors, who are so important in providing direction and training, were presented an “Attitude is Everything” pin. Rich Kolbe (Executive Chair, Business Advisory Council) and Thayre Faust (Resource Chair) of Briggs and Stratton, were also acknowledged for their unparalleled support over the years.



*AbilTY Connection Mentors (l to r) **May Huang** (Northwestern Mutual), **Steven LaPidus** (Manpower), **Bob Burger** (Aquent), **Deanna Nguyen** (Assurant Health), **Jodie Gentz** (Harley Davidson)*



*AbilTY Connection Awards Night attendees (l to r) **Chris LeBombard** (protégé), **KP Datta** (protégé), **James Kinter** (protégé), **Laurie Ocepek** (US Bank), **Adam Blaszak** (protégé), **Thayre Faust** (Briggs & Stratton), **Laurie Fenske** (protégé), **Noelle Romashko** (protégé), **Larry Taylor** (protégé)*