

# 2015 Self Advocate of the Year

## ADONIS REDDICK TO RECEIVE INAUGURAL CATALYST AWARD

It is difficult to advocate for yourself, when the people you are speaking to have a hard time understanding what you are saying. However, that has never deterred Adonis Reddick from patiently educating the St. Louis community about the messages of equality he is trying to convey. On Monday, Oct. 5 Reddick was honored for his commitment to self-advocacy when he was presented with the 2015 Self Advocate of the Year Catalyst Award at The Arc of the US's National Convention in Indianapolis, IN.



“Adonis is an amazing self-advocate,” said Mark A. Keeley, President and CEO of the St. Louis Arc. “He is a role-model of self-determination, living on his own, and working in the community. It was our honor to nominate him for this award.”

Reddick is the co-founder of the Association of Spanish Lake Advocates (ASLA), a group committed to an accessible world based in full inclusion. He is also active in the Coalition of Truth in Independence (CTI), as a member of their leadership team. Through his efforts with ASLA and CTI, he has worked on three major campaigns to change policy with McDonald's, Metro Transit, and St. Louis County in the last two years. Reddick is also a member of the St. Louis Arc's Social Justice and Human Rights Committee.

In addition to his committee work, Adonis has addressed over 50 corporate volunteers this past year by sharing his story and advocating for people of all abilities. Recently, he addressed a group of healthcare professionals to assist them with developing a curriculum for medical students that focuses on providing care to underserved populations, particularly people with disabilities.

“I'm so honored to be receiving this award,” said Reddick. “It's my goal to show the world that living with a disability doesn't end your life – it just opens up different doors. If you choose the right path you will have an awesome life. You have to advocate yourself, and network with the correct people.”

Submitted by Sharon Spurlock, St. Louis ARC

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