

President Obama Names Self-Advocates as Appointees to PCPID

On November 4, President Barack Obama announced his intent to nominate **Julie Ann Petty** and **Lauren Elizabeth Potter** as members to the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities (PCPID).

President Obama said, "I am grateful that these talented and dedicated individuals have agreed to take on these important roles and devote their talents to serving the American people. I look forward to working with them in the coming months and years."

Julie Ann Petty is a project trainer for Partners for Inclusive Communities at the Arkansas University Center on Disabilities. Ms. Petty's work at the Center on Disabilities focuses on educating those with intellectual disabilities on health and safety. She is also co-chair of the Alliance for Full Participation, a nationwide coalition of self-advocacy disability organizations. Previously, Ms. Petty served as state coordinator for Arkansas People First (1998-2007), national chairperson of Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (2006-2008), and a policy analyst for the Human Service Research Institute (2007-2009). Ms. Petty received her Bachelor of Arts. in Journalism from the University of Arkansas.

"I am very excited to be appointed to the Presidents Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities," Ms. Petty said. "I've been working in the self-advocacy movement for more than 13 years now, and I think it will help me bring perspectives to PCPID from all around the nation. I hope I can help make a difference in the lives of people with ID."

Lauren Elizabeth Potter is a cast member on the FOX television program Glee where she plays the part of Becky Jackson. Ms. Potter also serves on the Board of Best Buddies International, has participated in the Abilitypath.org campaign against bullying, partnered with the Special Olympics in their "End the Word" campaign, and is currently lending her name and fame to numerous organizations, including the Down Syndrome Association and the American Association of People with Disabilities. Her disability rights advocacy has earned her awards from The Down Syndrome Association of Los Angeles, the Arc, and the Full Life Festival. Ms. Potter is a graduate of Polytechnic High School in Riverside, California and she is currently a student at Irvine Valley College.

"It is a huge honor to have been selected by President Obama to serve on the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities," Ms. Potter said. It is important to me that people with intellectual disabilities are represented and treated fairly and are given the same opportunities as every other American. The possibilities are endless for anyone and that is what I hope to help bring to this committee — a real life example that with a supportive community and an encouraging country we all can live the American dream!"

For more information about each nominee, read the attached ACF press releases. To learn more about PCPID, visit its website: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/pcpid/>

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