

## **The Coordinating Center Honored at Kennedy Center for Helping Local Youth with Disabilities**

*The HSC Foundation Hosts Annual LEAP Awards Evening*

October 2009--When young people with disabilities become adults, it can be an extremely difficult transition. The Coordinating Center was honored by the HSC Foundation at the LEAP Awards Evening at the Kennedy Center on October 15, 2009 for its role in helping youth in the expanded Washington Metropolitan area ease that transition.

The Coordinating Center is one of 22 community partner organizations that worked with the HSC Foundation this year. The HSC Foundation provides funding to these partners to purchase goods and services that the youth would otherwise not be able to afford.

The system is efficient because it allows The Coordinating Center and the 21 other partners to immediately recognize the need, then deliver goods and services promptly to youth ages 14 to 26. The immediacy of the program prevents the issue from spiraling into a problem that could have permanent effects.

“If we supplied these goods and services ourselves, the application process would take too long,” said Jessie MacKinnon, Vice President of Program and Partnership Development at the HSC Foundation. “Our community partners can identify when someone is in need and act quickly to make sure the snag in the transition is resolved. The Coordinating Center allows us to continue helping those with disabilities become successful adults.”