



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 29, 2016

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## **TASH Receives International Award for Policy Work Aimed at Education Equity**

*The Zero Project presents TASH with the  
2016 Innovative Practice Certificate in Vienna*

WASHINGTON, DC – Earlier this month, TASH received the Zero Project’s 2016 Innovative Practice Certificate for its policy analysis and alignment work with the SWIFT Center, a U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs national technical assistance center. TASH was selected as one of 98 Innovative Practices and Policies by the Zero Project’s selection committee of renowned disability and accessibility experts.

“It is thrilling to receive an innovation award on an international stage to advance inclusive education,” said Barb Trader, executive director of TASH. “Attended by more than 60 countries, the Zero Project conference showcased an historic commitment world wide to advancing inclusive education for all people. Our focus is on supporting school, district and state leaders to consider, analyze and change policy to support practices that are known to advance equity for all students. We know from research that aligning policy to support practice removes barriers, empowers leadership teams, and improves sustainability of positive reforms beyond a time-limited initiative.”



TASH’s work uses policy as a tool to support the sustainability and scale-up efforts of education agencies to implement practices that improve the academic and behavioral outcomes of all children, including students living in poverty, English language learners, and students with disabilities, including those with significant disabilities and support needs.

The Zero Project, an international non-governmental organization, monitors the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with

Disabilities. The organization deemed TASH’s work “exemplary in the areas of innovation, impact, chances of long-term growth, success, and scalability.” Analyzing the whole policy framework to identify barriers toward inclusion is “outstanding in providing a practical solution to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities.”

To find out more about TASH’s selection, visit the [Zero Project 2016 Report](#). Learn more about the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#).

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*A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, TASH is an international grassroots leader in advancing inclusive communities through research, education and advocacy. Founded in 1975, we are a volunteer-driven organization that advocates for human rights and inclusion for people with the most significant disabilities and support needs – those most vulnerable to segregation, abuse, neglect and institutionalization. The inclusive practices we validate through research have been shown to improve outcomes for all people. More information about TASH can be found at [www.tash.org](http://www.tash.org).*

*SWIFT Center is funded by U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs Grant No. H325Y120005.*