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# Infinitec North honors Tommy Jankowski

Tommy Jankowski, Niles, a student in Des Plaines School District 62 through the MTSEP/LICA program, was one of 10 Chicago area students who received honors April 26 for their outstanding use of assistive technology designed to promote independent living for people with disabilities. Infinitec North, a division of United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Chicago (UCP), presented the honors at its fourth annual awards dinner at The Cotillion in Palatine.

Also honored were: Sifat Baig, District 211, NSSEO; Christopher Beach, District 54, Schaumburg; Madison Frayer, District 50, Woodland; Malia Victoria De La Garza, District 50, Woodland; Rachel Ann Kator, District 225, NSSED; Christopher Sawka, District 125, SEDOL; Allison Van Schindel, District 31/34, NSSED; Michael Vukson, District 211, NSSEO; and Nicol Yarmolkevich, District 15/21, Palatine.

All were nominated by teachers, therapists and selected by a committee of assistive technology experts for outstanding school and community accomplishments resulting from their mastery of assistive technology.

"As these remarkable young people remind us, disabilities are less important than abilities — what people are capable of doing, given tools and opportunities," said Dr. Paul Dulle, UCP President and CEO. "These real-life examples show how important it is to look beyond the wrappers we are all born with, and what's truly important."

Using assistive technology, one of the honorees, Christopher Sawka, told the group that the difference between ordinary and extraordinary is the little "extra" that parents, siblings, teachers, social workers and therapists put into creating "life without limits" for people with disabilities.