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Early Care and Education Awards
Announcement

Virginia Shrode Presented with Early Care and Education Award

Awards Recognize Individuals and Businesses Making a Difference for Young Children

[Indianapolis, IN – April 4, 2014] The Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children, Inc., (Indiana AEYC), a membership organization representing more than 2,200 teachers and other professionals who work with or on behalf of children from birth to age eight, announced today the winners of its 2014 Early Care and Education Awards.

The Indiana Early Care and Education Awards, which are presented based on Indiana AEYC member nominations, recognize the best in the early childhood profession and are given at the Indiana Early Childhood Conference to those who provide education, early intervention services, and resources to all young children. The award is also presented to those who serve and act on behalf of all young children and their families to assure their rights and well-being. Awards are presented annually in the following categories of Hoosier Educator (Preschool/Early Elementary, University/Higher Education), Flo Kerckhoff Award, Christine L. Fisher Early Childhood Professional Award, Corporate/Industry, and Legislative.

Indiana AEYC is proud to announce that Virginia Shrode has been presented with a 2014 Indiana Early Care and Education Award in the Hoosier Educator, Preschool/Early Elementary category. This award is presented to an educator whose exemplary practices embody the practical application of Indiana AEYC standards and who shares those methods to make a difference in the lives of young children and their families.

Virginia (Ginny) Shrode is preschool special education teacher with the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation. Ginny has over twenty years of experience teaching preschool. Her inclusionary early childhood classroom is set up so that all children can learn through a Reggio inspired environment. Ginny carefully plans for children's individual development in all areas--physical, social, cognitive, emotional. She serves as a cooperating teacher for early childhood interns, practicum students, and others for the University of Southern Indiana. Ginny models positive guidance and her classroom practices exemplify the best of what it means to have a developmentally appropriate

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classroom. Ginny is enthusiastic and continues to try new ideas and truly is a reflective teacher, always questioning and observing to make her classroom warm, inviting, and joyful for all children.

Other award winners include:

- **Hoosier Educator Awards** (Preschool/Early Elementary) – **Stephanie Bevacqua**
- **Hoosier Educator Awards** (Preschool/Early Elementary) – **Michelle Roberts-Schneider**
- **Hoosier Educator Awards** (University/Higher Education) – **Kathy Campbell**
- **Hoosier Educator Awards** (University/Higher Education) – **Ni Chang**
- **Hoosier Educator Awards** (University/Higher Education) – **Zeynep Isik-Ercan**
  Awarded to an educator who has demonstrated the exemplary development of learning experiences, materials or curricula for instructing pre-service or in-service teachers and improved the profession of early childhood in Indiana.
- **Flo Kerckhoff Award** (University/Higher Education) – **Treshawn Anderson**
  Awarded to a graduate student to promote her or his professional development in early childhood education or parent education.
- **Legislative Award** – Representative **Kevin Mahan** and Senator **Greg Walker**
  Awarded to an individual or individuals whose efforts have improved the quality of life for children by promoting legislation that supports or protects children, or whose efforts have improved the communication between the political and early childhood sectors for addressing issues related to health, education, and welfare.
- **Industry/Corporate Award** – **United Way of Central Indiana**
  Awarded to an organization that demonstrates a recognition of the importance of supporting employees' needs to have quality services for children, or to an organization that provides a resource for obtaining or securing services for young children and their families.
- **Christine L. Fisher Early Childhood Professional Award** – **Sarah Latham**
  Awarded to an early childhood educator whose exemplary practices embodies the application of physical movement, literacy and art with young children. Christine L. Fisher was an exceptional early childhood educator and leader who made the world a better place for young children, early childhood professionals who work with and on behalf of young children and all who came in contact with her.
- **Indiana Early Care and Education Award** – **Governor Mike Pence**
  The Indiana Early Care and Education Award is a special Award unveiled in 2014.

About the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children, Inc. (Indiana AEYC):

As the state affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Indiana AEYC is a statewide, nonprofit organization with 16 chapters and more than 2,200 members. Indiana AEYC has a 50-year history of promoting and supporting quality care and education for all young children, birth through age eight, in Indiana. Our mission is accomplished by concentrating on offering professional development for those in the early care and education field, offering support and recognition for early childhood programs, and championing public policy pertinent to young children.