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DR. JAN MCCARTHY, FIRST PRESIDENT OF INAEYC, HONORED BY NEW EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER DEDICATED IN HER NAME BY INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Dr. Jan McCarthy played a pivotal role in shaping early childhood education both at Indiana State University (ISU) and through her leadership in the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (INAEYC).

Yesterday, Indiana State University dedicated the new Early Childhood Center to her and her legacy.

During the event, Dr. Hanan Osman, Executive Director of INAEYC, shared the following opening remarks:



Pictured from left to right: Dianna Wallace, Dr. Jan McCarthy, and Dr. Hanan Osman

INAEYC Leadership

- McCarthy served as **president of the Indiana AEYC** (now INAEYC) during 1969–70, while she was Dean of the Early Childhood Department at ISU.
- Her leadership helped solidify INAEYC's role in professional development, accreditation, and public policy advocacy for early childhood education across Indiana.

Foundational Milestones

- **Hosted the Midwest AEYC Conference (1968):** With her involvement, just before McCarthy's presidency, INAEYC held its first major regional conference in Indianapolis, signaling its growing influence in the Midwest.

- **Strengthened Organizational Infrastructure:** Under McCarthy's leadership, INAEYC began refining its governance structure, transitioning from members-at-large to a **Board of Regional Representatives**, which allowed for more localized representation and strategic planning.
- **Terre Haute Headquarters:** During her tenure, INAEYC operated with a corporate address in Terre Haute, aligning with her role at Indiana State University and helping to centralize early operations

Strategic Direction

- While the formal designation as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit came later in 1982, McCarthy's presidency helped lay the groundwork for INAEYC's eventual incorporation and tax-exempt status.
- Her leadership emphasized **collaboration between educators, policymakers, and families**, a philosophy that continues to guide INAEYC's mission today.

Legacy Impact

Though many of INAEYC's major expansions—such as the launch of statewide conferences, accreditation support, and scholarship programs—occurred after her presidency, McCarthy's early leadership helped establish the credibility and organizational structure that made these later achievements possible.

Her presidency marked a turning point from grassroots organizing to a more formalized, strategic association poised for statewide impact.

National Impact

- Beyond Indiana, McCarthy also held national roles, including serving as president of the **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)** and chairing the **National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education**.

INAEYC previous and current Executive Director joined the dedication!

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