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Local Leaders, Teachers to be Honored at Early Care and Education Awards Event

On March 5, 2010, community leaders, early childhood professionals and advocates will gather to celebrate the dedicated individuals working to ensure that the Triangle's children are receiving the highest-quality early care and education.

Child Care Services Association's 9th Triangle Child Care Awards Breakfast will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at The William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education in Chapel Hill, NC.

At the event, the Child Care Services Association Public Service Award will be presented to Mr. Jim Goodmon, president and CEO of Capital Broadcasting Co., in recognition of his long-standing commitment to young children in the Triangle. The Dorothy B. Graham Child Care Leadership Award will be given to Ms. Florianna Thompson, an early childhood education instructor at Wake Tech Community College, for her outstanding leadership in improving early care and education in the Triangle. In addition, the Mary Y. Bridgers Child Care Provider Award will be presented to one early care and education provider and three finalists in recognition of their professional commitment and outstanding care to children.

"North Carolina is fortunate to have so many great early childhood educators, leaders and advocates. This event gives us the opportunity to honor a few of the most outstanding proponents of high-quality early care and education working in the Triangle. The dedication and foresight of these leaders has improved the lives of thousands of children and has helped make the Triangle one of the greatest places to live," Sue Russell, president of Child Care Services Association, said.

Founded in 1974, Child Care Services Association (CCSA) is a nationally recognized nonprofit working to ensure affordable, accessible, high-quality early care and education for all children and families. The organization accomplishes its mission through direct services, research and advocacy. CCSA provides a nutrition program for children in child care settings, free referral services to families seeking child care, and quality improvement assistance to child care businesses. CCSA's T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project provides educational scholarships to early childhood educators throughout North Carolina and is licensed in 20 other states. The Child Care WAGE\$® Project provides salary supplements to early care and education providers across the state and is licensed in three other states. For more information please visit www.childcareservices.org.

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