



...ensuring affordable, accessible, high quality child care for all young children and families.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NC Leaders in Early Childhood Education Honored at Annual Awards Ceremony**

DURHAM, N.C. - On Friday, June 22, Child Care Services Association (CCSA) hosted its Annual Awards Celebration and Auction at the Durham Marriot. The event, which brought together over 150 child care advocates, honored leaders in the early care and education community who have made a difference in the lives of North Carolina's children.

Dr. Carolyn T. Cobb, retired director of the Office of School Readiness, was honored with the 2007 James and Carolyn Hunt Early Childhood Award. Established in 1995, this award honors individuals who have taken a leadership role in improving child care throughout the state. Honorees have mobilized others to accomplish goals for children and families and have produced significant changes that resulted in better lives for families and children.

In November 2001, Dr. Cobb was chosen by Governor Mike Easley as the first director of the Governor's More at Four Program. She shaped the Pre-K program from a pilot to a statewide program that served over 18,500 children in 2006-2007. She became executive director of the Office of School Readiness in the spring of 2005 when Governor Easley merged the More at Four Pre-K program with other publicly funded preschool programs (Preschool Disabilities, Title I, Even Start, Head Start State Collaboration Office).

CCSA and the NC Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development also presented four child care centers and two child care homes with the 2007 North Carolina Early Childhood Professional Development Award. The Professional Development Award recognizes exemplary early care and education programs that value and recognize the importance of teacher education. This year, 3, 4 and 5-star child care programs that earned five education points on their rated license on or before December 31, 2006, were eligible to apply. The 2007 winners are:

### *Child Care Centers*

Sunshine Station at Sardis  
Linda MacConnachie  
Union County

First Baptist Valdese Child Development Center  
Gail Dula  
Burke County

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Winston-Salem State University  
Child Development Center & Lab School  
Romy Allen  
Forsyth County

State Line Children's World II  
Vevely Malloy  
Scotland County

*Family Child Care Homes*

Lisa's Child Care  
Lisa Solt  
Onslow County

Farmer Family Preschool  
Marie Farmer  
Onslow County

Prior to the awards celebration, over 80 items and packages, donated by individuals and local business, were auctioned off to raise money to support Child Care Services Association's efforts to improve early care and education throughout the state.

*Founded in 1974, Child Care Services Association's mission is to ensure affordable, accessible, high-quality child care 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, technical assistance to child care businesses, and educational scholarships and salary supplements to child care professionals through the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® and Child Care WAGES® projects. In addition, Sue Russell, president of CCSA is a nationally respected expert on child care and is a resource for policy makers and community leaders throughout the United States.*

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