



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

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Child Care Services Association Honors Representative Verla Insko

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. - Child Care Services Association presented the Honorable Verla Insko with the CCSA Public Service Award during the nonprofit organization's Triangle Child Care Awards Breakfast. The awards were presented at the Hilton Raleigh-Durham Airport in Research Triangle Park, March 2, to honor leaders and child care providers for their work improving the early care and education of young children in the community.

A member of the General Assembly since 1997, Representative Insko represents the 56th House District in North Carolina's House of Representatives. Over her almost twenty years as an elected official and community leader, she has worked diligently to improve children's education and health care. She has consistently advocated for Smart Start, the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Project and child care subsidy funding. Currently, she is a co-chair for the Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee, and sits on the Education Committee and the Oversight Committee on Education. She has sponsored many bills to improve the safety and well-being of North Carolina's children, youth, and families.

Representative Insko is also a co-chair for the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services, where they hold Child Services Information Sessions to ensure proper proceedings in child-related legislation. Her advocacy for children has improved many lives in North Carolina.

In addition to the CCSA Public Service Award, several other awards were presented at the Triangle Child Care Awards Breakfast. The Dorothy B. Graham Child Care Leadership Award was presented to Nell G. Barnes, Ed.D., Executive Director of Learning Together, Inc. in Raleigh.

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Learning Together helps children with exceptional needs develop critical life skills and assists their families with understanding how to meet those needs in order to have positive relationships with them.

In addition to her work to improve services to children with developmental disabilities and their families, she also belongs to several committees and boards. Dr. Barnes works with different government agencies, businesses, nonprofit organizations and professional associations to solve issues such as subsidy funding, child care licensing standards, and the need for quality child care. She has been a member of Wake County Smart Start's board since 2001. Her passion and devotion to supporting children with special needs and to improving child care for all children exemplifies her leadership to the community.

The Mary Y. Bridgers Child Care Provider Award was presented to Patricia Holman, teacher of 2 and 3-year-old children at the Community School for People Under Six in Chapel Hill, for outstanding direct service to children. Four other semi-finalists were also recognized:

- Betty Gardner, a teacher at Chapel Hill Cooperative Preschool in Orange County,
- Carol Helfrich, a teacher at the Children's Campus of Chapel Hill in Orange County,
- Linda James, a family child care provider at Glorious Child Care in Wake County, and
- Allison (Niki) Schreibeck, a teacher at All About Kids in Wake County.

An endowment from Bank of America supports the awards program. Other sponsors include BB&T, BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina, Performance Automall, and Councilman Eugene Brown and Ms. Signe Brown.

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Child Care Services Association (CCSA) is a nationally recognized nonprofit ensuring, affordable, accessible, high quality child care for all families. CCSA provides 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. Child Care Services Association licenses its programs to states across the country and provides consultation and guidance to others seeking to solve child care concerns. Child Care Services Association is headquartered in the Chapel Hill, North Carolina. To learn more visit www.childcareservices.org.

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