

NJACCRRRA Honors Leaders in Early Care and Education

At the June 2015 NJACCRRRA Annual Retreat, the NJACCRRRA membership presented three awards to recognize leaders in the field of early care and education. NJACCRRRA created these awards in 2008 to formally recognize those who go above and beyond in furthering the field of early care and education. Each year since, the membership has nominated individuals and organizations that played a key role in driving innovative and effective solutions to some of the challenging early care and education issues facing New Jersey. These awards are designed to salute and applaud those individuals and/or organizations for significant accomplishments in the early care and education field, as well as their commitment and contribution to the community.

The 2015 recipients include:

Circle of Collaboration Award- awarded to **The Nicholson Foundation**. Since their inception, The Nicholson Foundation has made it a priority to advance innovative and effective solutions to some of the most challenging early care and education issues facing New Jersey. Kay Hendon, senior program officer, accepted the award on behalf of the Nicholson Foundation. Kay has been an avid supporter of child care resource and referral. Her acute understanding of what is needed to improve the quality of early care and education has had a significant impact on the quality of child care in New Jersey.



Leadership Award - awarded to **Beverly Lynn**, executive director of Programs for Parents Inc. in Essex County, for her significant contributions to the field of child care resource and referral. Beverly has been a prominent figure in the NJ child care arena for more than 35 years. As a co-chair of the NJACCRRRA Advocacy Committee, Beverly has been a tireless advocate, championing numerous child care issues over the years. She has been characterized by her staff and fellow colleagues as "relentless" in her drive to ensure high quality services for children, families and providers. She is sought out by providers, colleagues and parents alike for assistance in all things child care. This award represents her unwavering commitment, contributions, and devotion to the industry.

Emerging Leader Award- awarded to **Kim Perrelli**, executive director of Child Care Resources in Monmouth County. Although relatively new to NJACCRRRA, Kim wasted no time in getting involved, volunteering for numerous leadership positions. Her work as a NJACCRRRA representative on various state committees has greatly impacted the quality of child care throughout New Jersey and has helped to advance the field of child care resource and referral. We are a stronger organization because of her leadership.



Congratulations to all of our 2015 award recipients!