



early childhood community development centre

November 30, 2012

For Immediate Release

LOCAL EARLY LEARNING & CHILD CARE PROVIDERS HONOURED IN SPECIAL CEREMONY

St. Catharines: Over 60 Registered Early Childhood Educators, program staff, volunteers, full day early learning programs and students received awards last evening at a special ceremony at the Holiday Inn & Suites in St. Catharines. The ceremony was part of the Niagara Early Learning and Child Care Awards of Excellence Celebration and was coordinated by the Early Childhood Community Development Centre (ECCDC) in partnership with the Association of Early Childhood Educators of Ontario (AECEO).

Over 330 people attended the gala event, which was sponsored by Louise Kool & Galt, one of Canada's leading suppliers of classroom equipment. Nine other area businesses supported the event, including: Sun Media Niagara, A Child's World, Gay Douglas and Associates, B and J Catering II, Henderson's Pharmacy, Meridian Credit Union, Minuteman Press, Pen Financial Credit Union, and Westpier Marine and Industrial Supply. Dozens of other businesses contributed items for the silent auction fundraiser. Greetings were given by St. Catharines MPP Jim Bradley and Lois Mahon of the College of Early Childhood Educators. The ECCDC was thrilled to have Acting Director of Children's Services Darlene Edgar and Daria Zmiyivsky, Regional Director of Community Relations and Marketing of Sun Media Niagara emcee the event.

Early Learning & Child Care Practitioner Professionalism Awards • This award category recognizes Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) who exemplify the College of Early Childhood Educators Standards of Practice in their day to day work with families and children.

Contributor Award for Volunteers and Colleagues • This award category recognizes outstanding contributions by non-RECE staff, volunteers, program staff and Full Day Early Learning Teams.

Margaret Hamilton Graduating Student Award • This award is presented to a graduating student by the Niagara College Early Childhood Education Program who has excelled in both academics and field placements and will make excellent contributions to the child care community.

Brock University Bachelor of Early Childhood Education Outstanding Student Award • This award is presented to an individual in his/her final year of studies who has best demonstrated the standards of practice and ethics of care in both academic pursuits and contributions to the early childhood community.

Eco-Friendly Child Care Practices Award • This award is sponsored by the Regional Municipality of Niagara, Children's Services Department in recognition of an early learning and child care program that has demonstrated Eco-Friendly Child Care Practices in all areas of their child care centre operations.

Emergent Literacy Award • This award is sponsored by Speech Services Niagara and recognizes an RECE who demonstrates exceptional emergent literacy skills throughout the day in all areas of the classroom.

Quality Child Care Niagara Recognition • Local licensed child care programs were recognized for successful implementation of the Quality Child Care Niagara Phase One and Phase Two program elements.

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The ECCDC is an independent charitable organization dedicated to providing Niagara's early learning and care programs and professionals with affordable access to the specialized learning resources, training, and supports they need to deliver high quality care. Among the ECCDC's services are the operation of a lending library of classroom resources and learning equipment, a workroom for educators to research and develop new learning activities for the children in their care, and professional development opportunities for the early learning sector. The ECCDC's services are available to all of Niagara's Registered Early Childhood Educators and teachers, as well as others involved in the care and education of children.

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