

WI Division for Early Childhood (WDEC) & WI Early Childhood Association (WECA)
Search for Nominations
Teachers of the Year
Outstanding Service Award
Collaborative Team of the Year
Student Teacher of the Year
Outstanding Partner in Early Education and Care

Nominations are now being accepted from WDEC and WECA membership for Early Childhood Special Education Teacher of the Year, Early Childhood Teacher of the Year, Collaborative Team of the Year, Outstanding Service Award, Outstanding Partner in Early Education and Care and Student Teacher of the Year. Recipients will be presented their awards at the Professional Development Luncheon during the 54th Annual Wisconsin Early Childhood Education and Care Conference, (formerly the WECA/WDEC Birth to Five Collaborative Conference), on Friday, October 10, 2008. This is an excellent opportunity for you to recognize outstanding contributions to the field of Early Childhood Education. Please take time to make your nominations by filling out the attached forms (duplicate if necessary) and **return by August 1, 2008 to:**

Mary Jo Hite
2839 Wayland Court
Eau Claire, WI 54703

(Note: Only members of either organization can make nominations,
but the person or team nominated does not need to be a member of either organization)

Award Descriptions:

Early Childhood Special Education Teacher of the Year Award:

The nominee must be a Birth-3 or ECSE teacher with at least two years experience working with young children (ages birth to age 8) and their families. He or she should have consistently demonstrated outstanding teaching abilities with infants/toddlers/preschoolers/kindergarten/primary children and/or their families.

Early Childhood Teacher of the Year

The nominee must be an Early Childhood Teacher or Child Care Provider with at least two years of experience working with young children (ages birth to age 8). He or she should have consistently demonstrated outstanding teaching abilities with infants/toddlers/preschoolers/kindergarten/primary children and/or their families.

Outstanding Service Award

The nominee should be an individual who has demonstrated outstanding service to the field of Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education/Early Education. He or she should have made contributions to the field that have benefited all children including young children with special needs, their families, and/or professionals. The continuity of service (i.e. – over time or in several situations) will be considered. This award is designed to acknowledge those who have made regional or statewide impact through their work.

Collaborative Team of the Year Award:

The Team Award may be comprised of members from one agency or multiple agencies (e.g. Head Start, School District, Therapists, Early Childhood, Birth-3, Child Care Providers or Specialists, etc.). Preference will be given to teams that represent multiple agencies and multiple disciplines.

Student Teacher of the Year:

The nominee must be a full-time student who demonstrates high academic achievement, leadership, and/or volunteer experience in the field of EC or ECSE and is/was engaged in a successful student teaching experience. A student may nominate him/herself but will need to include at least one reference who is knowledgeable of the student's qualifications. This recipient will also receive a \$100 stipend.

Outstanding Partner in Early Education and Care:

This award is designed to acknowledge the important contribution of those who support early education and care in Wisconsin. Individuals in a variety of roles may be considered (therapist, parents, paraprofessional, advocate, volunteer, active community member/board/organization, etc.)

Qualifications:

A variety of qualifications will be considered. You may find the following categories helpful in describing the nominee's abilities or contributions to the field. Some categories may apply more than others.

Service to Children (developmental appropriateness, functionality, creativity, flexibility, continuity)

Family Involvement (responsive to individual family needs, implementing individualized family programs with creativity & flexibility)

Coordination of Resources (integrating/coordinating services with regular education and/or therapy, & other community services; facilitating transitions)

Contributions to the Field (using/sharing innovative practices; research and development; pursuing professional development, community service)