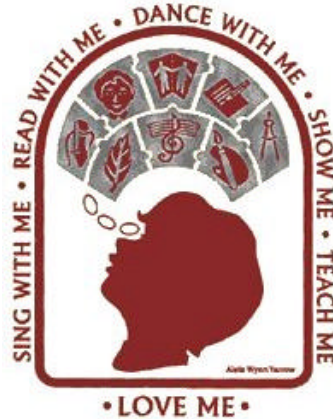


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Press Release

Early Childhood Educators Nominations Sought

Submissions deadline extended to April 13, 2009

The Learning Early Network, a program of the Bradford County Regional Arts Council, seeks to honor outstanding early childhood educators at their 10th Annual LEN Conference this month in Sayre, Pennsylvania. Two separate awards honoring individuals working with children ages zero to six in the Bradford County region will be given out at the April 24th conference.

The Jan Carpenter Award was created by the Learning Early Network in memory of Jan Carpenter, a wonderful individual who gave everything in her power to children. She was an exceptional teacher in the Bradford County Daycare System for many years. In her honor, the Third Annual Jan Carpenter Award will be awarded to the nominee who best meets the Award criteria identified at www.learningearly.com. Along with a small cash award and plaque recognition, the winner will receive a one-day free visit from an early childhood artist on the roster of the Bradford County Regional Arts Council.

In addition, the Second Annual Friends Early Childhood Educator Award, established by the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in 2008 will also be presented. The Quakers believe that each individual has an "inner light" or spirit, which is unique to them. Exceptional teachers recognize and communicate to the unique strengths of their students, which builds healthy relationships and supports the individual learning styles of each child. The cash award of \$1000 will be divided between the winning early childhood educator and her/his early childhood center. The application requirements are identified at www.learningearly.com.

To nominate an educator for the Jan Carpenter Award, submit a one to two page nomination form to: Learning Early Network, 601 Main St., Towanda, PA 18848. The deadline for submission or postmark is April 13, 2009. Nominations for the 2009 Friends Early Childhood Educator Award should be mailed to Towanda Friends Meeting, Early Childhood Educator Award, PO Box 85, Towanda, PA 18848. Winners of these awards will be announced on Friday, April 24 at the Sayre Theatre during the Learning Early Network Conference.

The deadline for submitting Jan Carpenter Award nominations and Friends Educator Nominations has been extended until April 13. Visit the Learning Early Network's website at www.learningearly.com for

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nomination details, as well as details for the 10th Annual Conference. Conference registrations can be made by contacting the Bradford County Regional Arts Council at 570.268.2787.

More information at <http://www.bcrac.org> and <http://www.learningearly.com>.

The Learning Early Network is a program of the BCRAC.

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