

2009 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO CHILDREN AWARD

Deb Nared - Omaha and Carolyn Edwards - Lincoln



Deb Nared is the owner/director of Nared's Pee Wee Palace, a family run early childhood program strategically located in the heart of the densely populated North Omaha. Nared's enjoys a rich history as a community leader, and has hosted a variety of city forums, workshops and

conferences.

They are also the founder and leader of the North Side Quality Childcare Association, a group of 14 minority-owned child care providers. Deb has also coordinated the North Side Quality Child Care Association Week of the Young Child events for the past several years. These events have included a parade, developmentally appropriate activities for children and families, a family meal and community resources.

Deb has been a leader in encouraging her staff and the community to further their education, and is continually looking for opportunities to improve the quality of care for the children.

Congratulations, Deb!

Carolyn Edwards is such a deserving recipient that it is difficult to limit her accomplishments to a few highlights. These include: Willa Cather Professor for Distinguished Service and Creativity at UNL and serving on a wide variety of leadership teams, including Building Bright Futures, Early Childhood Core Competencies Leadership Team, Early Childhood Educator Professional Development Team, Early Childhood Policy Study Leadership Team, Early Childhood Mental Health Advisory Committee, Early Learning Guidelines Review Team.



She is respected across the state of Nebraska and has made numerous contributions to the field of early childhood education on the national and international level as well. She recently served on the Developmentally Appropriate Practice Working Group for NAEYC. She also has numerous books to her credit, including her most recent book, *The Diary of Laura* and the well known *Hundred Languages of Children*.

Congratulations, Carolyn!