

# Exceptional Educators Honored at the 2010 Early Childhood Educator of the Year Award Dinner!

## **Congratulations to the 2010 Early Childhood Educators of the Year:**

### **Student Scholarship**

Carley Rae Jones

### **Firefly Award**

Marcella Lopez, Early Head Start

### **Appreciation of Service**

Elaine Robinson, The Learning House

### **Center of the Year**

Lakeport Head Start

Honorable Mentions: Meadowbrook Head Start, The Learning House, Early Head Start

### **Advocate of the Year**

Katrina Hickey, Lake County Office of Education

### **Outstanding Special Needs Inclusion**

Shirley Littleton, Early Connection Preschool, Lakeport

### **Provider of the Year (Family Child Care)**

Liberty Perry, Perry Family Day Care

Honorable Mentions: Racheal Breeze-Harmon, Breezy Days Child Care

Linda Hamner, Wild Kid Kingdom

### **Provider of the Year (Center-Based)**

Joy Swartz, Upper Lake Head Start

Honorable Mentions: Katrina McDonnell, Lakeport Head Start

Katrina Mansell, Early Connection Preschool, Lakeport

### **Leading the Field Award**

Gina Griffin, Lake County Office of Education

### **Lifetime Achievement Award**

Louise Garrison, Garrison Family Child Care

The Lake County Child Care Planning Council held the second annual Early Childhood Educator of the Year Award Dinner last Friday, May 7, at Moore Family Winery, offering recognition and valuable award packages to 13 exceptional early childhood educators, and 3 child care centers. Lake County organizations, businesses and individuals offered significant support to make this event possible. First 5 Lake, North Coast Opportunities, Yuba Community College and Department of Social Services were significant supporters, along with many others. Supervisors Denise Rushing, Jeff Smith, and Anthony Farrington attended the event, and presented awards to deserving providers, along with the Superintendent of Schools and other agency directors. "It is encouraging to see our community's organizations and leaders unite in recognition of the valuable contribution early childhood educators make throughout Lake County," says Shelly Mascari, director of the Lake County Child Care Planning Council.

Nearly 50 providers were nominated in recognition of commitment to excellence by their peers, community members and the families they serve. Winners were selected based on a detailed interview and evaluation process that took into consideration education, commitment to their profession, answers to specific interview questions, and effectiveness in their role as educators.

Early childhood educators contribute significantly to our communities. Quality early childhood education dramatically impacts high school graduation rates, keeps our communities working, and helps Lake County develop productive, effective, happy citizens of the future. According to Shelly Mascari, "Many of these recognized educators have dedicated decades to their profession. Their education, in many cases, equals that of the K-12 educator, yet we were lacking a forum to recognize excellence in their field. The goal of this program is to do just that."

Thank you to our photographers, Al Tubbs and Gary Abels.

To view our photo albums in their entirety, visit: [http://  
childcareplanningcouncil.shutterfly.com/](http://childcareplanningcouncil.shutterfly.com/)