

MILESTONE MOMENTS

FOR THE GEORGIA FOUNDATION FOR EARLY CARE +
LEARNING



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Dear Friends of the Foundation,

I want to take a moment to introduce myself to you and thank you for your support of the Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning. My name is Laura Wagner, and I became Executive Director for the Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning in early September 2022. Though I am new to this role with the Foundation, I have been at the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning for almost eight years. I've had the wonderful opportunity to work in two separate divisions of the agency during that time and have thoroughly enjoyed supporting community partners and child care providers across Georgia.

Rest assured that the work of the Foundation will continue as before as we celebrate the successes of two 2022-2023 Georgia's Pre-K Teachers of the Year (TOTY) and three Early Childhood Educators of the Year (ECEOTY). We will support the promotion of Quality Rated Child Care to Georgia families in new ways, and we will look for innovative ways to leverage Foundation funding to support community partners and child care programs, particularly as they strive to make the best use of state and federal funding. Please stay tuned for regular updates!

Thank you again for supporting our mission.

Laura Wagner



Georgia's Pre-K Teachers of the Year Announced

On Friday, September 23, the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning and the Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning hit the road for the first time in a long time to surprise two very deserving teachers. We traveled first to Akers Academy to visit Alaina Jones' Georgia's Pre-K classroom in Cumming, Georgia. Next, we headed up to Baldwin, Georgia to Baldwin Elementary School, where we surprised Shannon Gibson and her Pre-K students. Both were elated to have been selected as Pre-K Teachers of the Year.

Since 2018 the Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning has honored one teacher from a private child care program and one teacher from a public school system per year with the title of Georgia's Pre-K Teacher of the Year. Teachers are selected through a rigorous application process that allows an evaluation team to assess their demonstrated excellence in the classroom. Once recognized, these teachers serve as representatives for Georgia's Pre-K program while sharing effective classroom practices with other Georgia child care professionals in various presentations, meetings, and conferences.



PHOTOS BY JERRY BROWN

To demonstrate our appreciation for the ability to partner with these talented teachers, the Foundation provides each teacher with a check for their own personal use and each school with a check for a classroom makeover and travel stipends. The Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning is deeply grateful to the Naserian Foundation for making these awards possible.

Want to see some surprised faces? Check out our videos from our Pre-K Teacher of the Year visits here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/GADECAL>



A Decade of Stars: 10 Years of Quality Rated

Quality Rated is 10 years old, and it is time to celebrate! The Georgia Foundation for Early Care + Learning and the Department of Early Care and Learning will be honoring the “Class of 2012” in Dalton, Atlanta, and Valdosta this fall.



In 2012-13, the program rated 126 child care providers. These were Quality Rated’s initial adopters and supporters. We are grateful to those providers that understood from the very beginning how critically important a Quality Rating and Improvement System is for the state of Georgia. There are nearly 3,000 Quality Rated providers now across our state.

There is much to celebrate about this accomplishment. It takes a lot of work to earn a star rating, and the thousands of teachers, directors, and family child care providers who learned new skills and committed to providing high quality early care and learning are to be applauded for their efforts. So too are the staff at the Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies who provide countless hours of technical assistance and DECAL’s Quality Rated team who adapted QR processes so that they could rate a very large number of CAPS providers during the pandemic.



Support our Mission!

The Foundation has offered important supports to child care providers and families over the last five years. We have offered Quality Rated mini grants to providers; distributed Quality Rated signage; offered emergency relief grants after Hurricane Michael in 2018 and during the pandemic; and provided a set of scholarships during the pandemic to the children of essential workers. With your support we can continue to provide these kinds of meaningful and timely supports to providers and families to bolster the offerings of DECAL. Please consider making a gift to the Foundation for Early Care + Learning by visiting our giving page:

<http://www.gaealyed.org/Give.aspx>

