

# Arkansas Early Childhood Association Kathy Stegall Emerging Leader Award

## Definition of the Award

The Kathy Stegall Emerging Leader Award recognizes newer members of the organization who are already making a significant contribution to the Arkansas Early Childhood Association and to the field of early care and education and/or youth development in Arkansas and have demonstrated the potential for leadership and continuing service to the organization and to the field.

## Criteria for consideration

The following must be met for nominee to be considered:

1. Has been a member in good standing of AECA for a minimum of 3 years
2. Has been in the field of early care and education and/or youth development in Arkansas for a minimum of 3 years
3. Has not previously received the award

The next 5 sections (A-E) will provide guidelines to support your nomination. Each section has some examples of what would meet the criteria, but this is not an all-encompassing list. While you do not have to have documentation of each criteria, you will need to make sure all the required supporting documentation requested below is turned in for review.

### A. Has made a significant contribution to AECA

- Has submitted proposals and presented workshops at one or more conferences
- Has assumed responsibility for a conference event or other event sponsored by the organization
- Has served on an AECA Committee
- Has served on the AECA Board
- Has submitted article(s) for AECA UPDATE
- Has been active in a local affiliate by serving as an officer and/or presenting programs
- Has represented AECA at the SECA Conference by attending, presenting a workshop session, or volunteering for a conference task

### B. Has made a significant contribution to the field of early care and education and/or youth development

- Is creative and innovative in the execution and expansion of job responsibilities
- Is a registered trainer in the professional development system in Arkansas and has conducted numerous trainings

### C. Demonstrates the potential for leadership

- Has agreed to run for AECA office if asked
- Volunteers to take a lead role in an AECA or local affiliate event
- Carries through with roles and responsibilities
- Establishes events for families in his/her local program or community
- Plans events to celebrate Arkansas Children's Week at either the state or local level
- Has led an advocacy event

D. Demonstrates the potential for continuing service to the field of early care and education and/or youth development

- Participates in professional development activities above required level
- Is recognized for his/her achievements by peers, colleagues, members of AECA and other professional groups

E. Promotes and supports others in their professional growth and development

- Is available to others when they need support and encouragement in their professional development
- Involves others in activities and events of AECA and or local affiliates and in other professional organizations
- Gives accolades to others for their achievements

### Supporting Documentation

1. Description of nominees' significant professional achievements
2. Assessment of nominees' potential for leadership and continued excellence

To show the above criteria have been met, please include the following:

- **Accomplishments:** describe the nature and quality of the nominees work, noting special achievements, innovation, initiative and demonstration of leadership
- **Service:** describe the nominees service to AECA and other professional associations and evidence of professional leadership role and significant contributions
- **Visibility and Recognition:** describe extent to which others (peers, colleagues, members and others) recognize the nominee's achievements
- **Major Current Undertakings:** describe work and other activities in which nominee is currently engaged which indicate career growth and demonstrates significant potential

Please consider the following:

- letters of support to be submitted with nomination
- resume of nominee
- contact information for person making nomination

**Nominations should be forwarded to the AECA office via e-mail at [info@arkansasearlychildhood.org](mailto:info@arkansasearlychildhood.org) no later than September 30 each year. The recipient of the award will be announced at the AECA Annual Conference.**