



Excellence in Early Childhood Education Award(s) - Nomination and Criteria

1. Gwen Morgan Leadership Award

Gwen was influential in so many different areas for over 30 years. She was a leading national authority on childcare regulations. She wrote on a wide range of other issues and the list of her publications is extensive. Here in Massachusetts, we have her to thank for founding the Center for Career Development in Early Care and Education at Wheelock, which helped countless states create professional development systems. She co-founded Work/Family Directions and she founded Wheelock College Advanced Seminars in Childcare. Besides that, she has guided the development of countless students as they learn to be teachers.

This award is given on a yearly basis to an individual that has taken advantage of a leadership opportunity to improve the quality of care for children and families, or to advance workforce and professional development opportunities for early education and care professionals. This is an individual who has been able to look down the road, as Gwen had throughout her career, and impact the future based on vision and determination.

Criteria

- Is a current or retired early care and education professional.
- Has demonstrated a commitment to leading others in the early care and education field.
- Has made substantial contributions to the field through advocacy, research, and/or the support of educators.
- Their body of work has had an impact at the state level in Massachusetts and/or national level.

2. Advocacy in ECE Award

For many years, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) has been a voice for quality early childhood that supports effective programming for young children. MAAEYC has created the Advocacy in ECE Award to recognize those individuals who have demonstrated their effectiveness as advocates for programs and/or policies that support quality programming for young children. The following criteria will be used by the MAAEYC Governance Committee to select the recipient of the Advocacy in ECE Award. The nominee must:

Criteria

- demonstrate LEADERSHIP in effective advocacy for quality early childhood teacher education that supports quality programming/policies for young children at the local, regional, state, or national level.

- serve as a MODEL and MENTOR for emerging and developing advocates focused on quality early childhood teacher education that supports quality programming/policies for young children at the local, regional, state, or national level.

3. Early Educator Beacon Award

This award will be given to a teacher who has demonstrated tremendous growth throughout their time in the field of early childhood education and shows a commitment, creativity, and dedication to the early childhood profession. This teacher has “emerged” from a growth process and transformed into a teacher that is a true professional and has wings to fly!

Criteria

- Nominees should showcase significant personal and professional growth over their time in the field of early childhood education. This could include progress in teaching methods, leadership, and overall contribution to the field.
- Successful nominees will exhibit unwavering dedication and commitment to the early childhood profession.
- Be an educator who brings creativity and innovation to their work.

Nominations are to be submitted electronically.

*MAAEYC Board members are excluded from nomination

The person recognized with this award will be presented with the award at the MAAEYC Annual Conference April 26, 2025