

Champions for Children

New York Association for the Education of Young Children recognizes individuals who have dedicated their work, time and resources to children, families and the field of early care and education. Nominations for **NYAEOYC Champions for Children** are accepted by anyone who wants to recommend a candidate. The honorees will be recognized at the **Champions for Children Awards Event** at the Annual NYAEOYC Conference on Friday, May 17th, 2024, at Turning Stone Resort and Casino in Verona, NY. This celebration has become a popular event at the conference as we celebrate all those who serve children and their families and particularly recognize the 2024 NYAEOYC **Champions for Children**.

Please submit your nominations by **January 19th, 2024**.

Categories

- **Early Childhood Leader** is an individual who has demonstrated a commitment to leading others in the early care and education field. The nominee should be a professional in early care and education whose efforts in advocacy, research, and/or the mentorship of practitioners has made a significant contribution to the field that have had an impact nationally and/or at the state level in New York. Leadership characteristics should include the ability to communicate and demonstrate appropriate practice and lead others to better understand the needs of children and families.
- **Early Childhood Supporter** is an individual or organization who has made a significant contribution toward facilitating and implementing policies to improve the early care and education field. The nominee through a body of work in advocacy, research, or through substantial financial contributions has made a significant impact on state or national early childhood policy, programming or teacher education.
- **Member Leader** is a current NYAEOYC member who has dedicated time, energy and support to their early childhood community through volunteer leadership of local initiatives and/or the local AEYC chapter. Their work should have an impact beyond the program for which they work; and promote/support best practices for children and families in the local community.
- **Student /New Professional Leader** is a matriculated student in an undergraduate or graduate early childhood education or child development program. Or a new early childhood professional who has been in the field fewer than three years. The nominee must demonstrate strong leadership potential and be active in efforts to improve the field of early care and education by advocating, working on a research project, or organizing fellow students or early childhood professionals in a formalized endeavor.

Note: The nominee may not be a current member of the NYAEOYC Board of Directors or staff.

Please send nominations to:

NYAEOYC

230 Washington Avenue Ext.

Albany, NY 12203

Fax: (518) 867-3520

Email: contactus@nyaeyc.org

2024 Champions for Children Nomination

Based on the descriptions on the reverse side, check the category that best fits your nominations:

____ Early Childhood Leader
____ Student/New Professional Leader

____ Early Childhood Supporter
____ Member Leader

Nominee's General Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Nominee's Employment Information:

Current Employer/Affiliation: _____

Job Title: _____

Number of years in current position: _____ AEYC Affiliation (if applicable): _____

Employer's Address: _____

Your Information:

Name: _____ Job Title: _____

Employer/Affiliation: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Please submit with this completed nomination form the following:

- ✓ A 700-1000 word narrative that describes briefly your relationship to the nominee, a detailed description of the nominee's most significant contributions to the field of early care and education and that demonstrates how they meet the criteria for the category for which they are nominated.
- ✓ The nominee's curriculum vitae or resume (for individual nominees)
- ✓ One additional letter from a colleague or person who can attest to the nominee's work/contributions and the impact they have had. (recommended, not required)

☐ I would like my nominee notified of this nomination even if she/he is not selected.

☐ I give permission for the nomination to be shared with the nominee, if requested.

New York Association for the Education of Young Children

Champions for Children

2003 ~ 2014

2003 Champions

<i>Dianne Meckler</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>
<i>Chancellor Robert Bennett</i>	<i>Early Childhood Supporter</i>
<i>Anne Mitchell</i>	<i>Early Childhood Benefactor</i>
<i>Christina Lynch</i>	<i>Member of the Year</i>

2004 Champions

<i>Nancy Kolben</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>
<i>Suzanne Zafonte Sennett</i>	<i>Early Childhood Supporter</i>
<i>Barbara Blum</i>	<i>Early Childhood Supporter</i>
<i>Marilyn Scudder Barnwell</i>	<i>Member of the Year</i>

2005 Champions

<i>Barbara Nilsen</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>
<i>Alice Sterling Honig</i>	<i>Early Childhood Supporter</i>
<i>Robert and Peggy Wegman</i>	<i>Early Childhood Benefactor</i>
<i>Suzanne McLain</i>	<i>Member of the Year</i>

2006 Champions

<i>Jennifer Birckmayer</i>	<i>Lifelong Excellency</i>
<i>Anne Ryan</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>
<i>Trudy Mollenberg</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>
<i>Double "H" Ranch</i>	<i>Early Childhood Benefactor</i>
<i>Alice Sample</i>	<i>Member of the Year</i>

2007 Champions

<i>Marilyn Cohen</i>	<i>Member of the Year</i>
<i>Lynda Merchant</i>	<i>Member of the Year</i>
<i>Karen Schimke</i>	<i>Early Childhood Benefactor</i>
<i>Patricia Amanna</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>

2008 Champions

<i>Mary Jo Hunt</i>	<i>Early Childhood Supporter</i>
<i>Mary Lavin</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>
<i>Kelli Simpson</i>	<i>Member of the Year</i>
<i>Colleen Walling</i>	<i>Student Leader</i>
<i>Kathleen Burton</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>

2009 Champions

<i>Tammy Dunn</i>	<i>Student Leader</i>
<i>Linda Landsman</i>	<i>Early Childhood Supporter</i>
<i>Sara Wilford</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>
<i>Caroline Zinsser</i>	<i>Early Childhood Supporter</i>

2010 Champions

<i>Thomas Blumer</i>	<i>Early Childhood Supporter</i>
<i>Ric Frank</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>
<i>Ellen Wohl</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>
<i>Darcy Barber</i>	<i>Student Leader</i>

2011 Champions

<i>Vickie F. Calderon</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>
<i>Marcia Scheer</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>
<i>Peggy Liuzzi</i>	<i>Early Childhood Supporter</i>
<i>Marsha Dumka</i>	<i>Member of the Year</i>

2012 Champions

<i>Bob Frawley</i>	<i>Early Childhood Supporter</i>
<i>Doris P. Fromberg</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>
<i>Abbe Kovacic</i>	<i>Member of the Year</i>
<i>Joy Farina Foskett</i>	<i>Student Leader</i>

2013 Champions

<i>Sherry Cleary</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>
<i>Mary Louise Musler</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>
<i>Susan Antos</i>	<i>Early Childhood Supporter</i>
<i>Joyce M. Guimaraes</i>	<i>Member of the Year</i>

2014 Champions

<i>Maggie M. Evans</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>
<i>Kathleen Hursh</i>	<i>Member of the Year</i>
<i>Janice M. Molnar</i>	<i>Early Childhood Supporter</i>
<i>Lisa Poelle</i>	<i>Member of the Year</i>

New York Association for the Education of Young Children
Champions for Children
2015 ~ 2023

2015 Champions

<i>Margaret Meehan</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>
<i>Nancy Kaplan</i>	<i>Early Childhood Supporter</i>
<i>Jennifer E. Berke</i>	<i>Member of the Year</i>
<i>Shareefah Pereira</i>	<i>Student Leader</i>

2016 Champions

<i>Kate Dust</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>
<i>Mary Hayes</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>
<i>Jacqueline Cady</i>	<i>Member of the Year</i>
<i>Louis Hamlyn-Harris</i>	<i>New Professional Leader</i>

2017 Champions

<i>Leslie Bushara</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>
<i>Jane Brown</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>
<i>Kathleen Pickel</i>	<i>Early Childhood Supporter</i>
<i>Ella Ames</i>	<i>Member of the Year</i>

2018 Champions

<i>Nancy Jenner Gabriel</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>
<i>Patty Persell</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>
<i>Carolyn J. Lee-Davis</i>	<i>Early Childhood Supporter</i>
<i>Karen Koness Dearing</i>	<i>Member of the Year</i>

2019 Champions

<i>Melissa Hasty</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>
<i>Pamela Wells</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>
<i>Jenn O'Connor</i>	<i>Early Childhood Supporter</i>
<i>Jeanne Loysen</i>	<i>Member of the Year</i>

2020 Champions

<i>Sarah Gould-Houde</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>
<i>Community Playthings</i>	<i>Early Childhood Supporter</i>
<i>Pamela Grant</i>	<i>Member Leader</i>
<i>Wei Dai</i>	<i>New Professional Leader</i>

2023 Champions

<i>Cara Rager</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>
<i>Vonetta Rhodes</i>	<i>Early Childhood Leader</i>
<i>Jessica Jimenez</i>	<i>New Professional Leader</i>

The New York Association for the Education of Young Children's mission is to promote excellence in early care and education services for NYS children and families through education, advocacy and the support of the profession.