



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Feb. 6, 2008

Nominations Are Being Sought for First-Ever Los Angeles County Preschool Teacher of the Year Award

Sponsored by Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP), Award to be Given to Five Outstanding Preschool Educators Countywide Exemplifying Excellence in Early Childhood Education

LOS ANGELES – Nominations are being sought for teachers and teaching assistants/aides to be considered for a “*Preschool Teacher of the Year Award*” that will be given to five outstanding educators who instruct preschool students in Los Angeles County.

Candidates may be nominated by anyone associated with the nominee’s preschool. Winners will have demonstrated a strong commitment to a quality preschool education and dedication to making a positive contribution to the children they serve, using creative instructional strategies as well as contributing to the well-being of the child, preschool and community.

Although sponsored by LAUP, this award is open to all candidates, including those who work in non-LAUP-affiliated preschools in Los Angeles County. **To obtain a nomination form, please visit www.laup.net or call (866) 581-LAUP (5287).** The deadline to submit the nomination form is March 3.

Nominations will be screened and scored by a panel of educators, early childhood education advocates and members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Nominees will be evaluated on their commitment to a quality preschool education, including:

- His/her commitment to excellence in teaching through outstanding and/or innovative activities and lessons.
- Fostering a classroom climate that is characterized by enthusiasm for teaching and learning.
- Promoting positive relationships with colleagues, the preschool and the community.
- Engaging others in supporting students’ learning and development, including parents, teaching assistants and/or other professionals.

A total of five individuals will be honored. One award recipient will be selected for each Los Angeles County supervisorial district. To be considered, candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Be a teacher, teacher’s assistant or aide in a preschool.

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- Teach in Los Angeles County.
- Be nominated by a person affiliated with the preschool (e.g. a colleague, an administrator, a parent of a student, self, etc.).

“A quality preschool education can put a child on the path to success” said Gary Mangioficio, CEO of LAUP. “With this award, we want to not only encourage, but also celebrate exceptional teachers and aides for their hard work, commitment and dedication. We want to recognize those model teachers who are molding the next generation of productive citizens.”

LAUP will notify award winners on April 1, and a recognition breakfast will take place on April 15 during the “*Week of the Young Child.*”

Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) is an independent, public benefit corporation dedicated to making voluntary, high-quality preschool available to every 4-year old in Los Angeles County. Created in 2004 and funded predominantly by First 5 LA, LAUP is already supporting the operations or development of preschool classrooms that will serve more than 14,500 children annually. By combining innovative business practices with a deep understanding of early childhood education, LAUP seeks to serve as a model for universal preschool systems across the state and around the country.

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