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Pennsylvania Pre-K Advocates Honored in the Nation's Capital

Members of Congress present awards to children's champions

(Washington, D.C.) – Public education and advocacy group Pre-K Now partnered with Representatives Tim Holden (D-PA) and Todd Russell Platts (R-PA) today to honor the work of Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children (PPC) with the first annual “Pre-K Champion” Award for their tremendous advocacy on behalf of the state’s children.

“Ten years ago pre-kindergarten was barely a footnote on the agendas of policymakers or reporters,” said Libby Doggett, executive director of Pre-K Now. “Today more governors and state legislators than ever are making high-quality pre-k a priority. Pennsylvania is a state we consistently point to as a pre-k leader nationwide, and much of that work is due to the PPC’s tireless efforts on behalf of children.”

The award was accepted by Diane Barber on behalf of the entire Partnership.

Pre-K Now presented these national awards to advocates in four states to highlight how local leadership can change the lives of children and families nationwide. Pennsylvania has one of the fastest growing pre-k programs in the country and its legislature recently approved \$60 million new dollars for Head Start and Accountability Block Grants, some portion of which funds pre-k expansion.

Also honored by Pre-K Now and other members of Congress were advocates from Tennessee, Arkansas and Illinois. Through leadership and determination each of these states’ advocates has fought to provide greater access to quality pre-k for thousands more children in the coming year.

“We know that high-quality pre-k benefits children, families and communities. Thanks to strong advocacy in Pennsylvania, more children than ever before have access to this important educational stepping stone,” Doggett said.

Pre-K Now collaborates with state advocates and policymakers to lead a movement for high-quality, voluntary pre-kindergarten for all three and four year olds. The following funders contribute to making this important work possible: The Pew Charitable Trusts, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, CityBridge Foundation, and the Schumann Fund for New Jersey.

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