

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local early educators honored during virtual event

Randolph Partnership for Children hosts Night of the Stars online

ASHEBORO, N.C. (June 26, 2020) — Nine early educators were honored by Randolph Partnership for Children during the 17th Night of the Stars event, which was held virtually on June 25.

The annual banquet, typically held in May, was postponed and restructured as a virtual event in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the changes, more than 50 participated in support and recognition of the honorees.

“The Partnership applauds the educational journey each of this year’s graduates has taken, and we celebrate the dedication and perseverance,” Executive Director Lisa Hayworth said. “Early educators who invest in themselves in this way are investing directly in each child they teach and in each colleague with whom they work. With the diplomas earned come increased knowledge, expertise, innovation, and curiosity to learn even more. We at the Partnership salute this year’s graduates and we thank them for further professionalizing the field of early education!”



The theme for the evening was Let Your Inner Star Shine. Kathryn Aldridge, the director of the Online Degree Completion Program for the Early Childhood program at UNC-Greensboro hosted the event.

“The interactions you are having today are making an impact on the futures of our young children,” Aldridge said. “Acquiring higher levels of education, obtaining a degree, and ongoing professional development provide the foundation towards creating truly outstanding educational environments for our children.”

Rhodus Riggins, Jr., who serves as quality enhancement coordinator at the Education Quality Improvement and Professional Development Project at UNC-Greensboro delivered the keynote address. Riggins described the challenges of today’s uncertain times as an opportunity for “great social change.” He challenged Randolph County’s early educators to find their passion, advocate for inequities and social justice, and believe in the power of human potential.



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Riggins also emphasized the importance of humor. “Our field is hard, our work is hard, but our field is funny,” he said. “Maintain a sense of humor, have fun, and experience the enjoyment.”

Recognized for earning an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education were Kim Brewer of Honeycomb Kids and Brittany Cox of Connie Reading Head Start.

Recognized for earning Bachelor’s degrees were Dee Davis of The Growing Place Child Care Center, Michelle Delk of Shepherd’s Way Day School, Barbara Jent of Harmony Place, Roderica Johnson of North Asheboro Head Start, and Scarlet Welborn of Randolph Partnership for Children.

Recognized for earning Master’s degrees were Christine Cassidy of Christine’s Playhouse and Dena Harward of Connie Redding Head Start.

Randolph Partnership for Children also congratulates the following early educators in Randolph County who also earned degrees during the past year: Talonda Flowers and Kaylea Roberst Hall for earning their Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education; Jessica Tinnin and Ruth Moreno Tress for earning Bachelor’s degrees.

Night of the Stars was created to honor the hard work and dedication of local early educators who have made the commitment to further their education to be the best infant, toddler, and preschool teachers they can be.

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About the Randolph Partnership for Children: Since 1999, the Randolph Partnership for Children (RPC), a non-profit organization, has been the community’s lead organization for young children and their families. RPC brings together diverse agencies, individuals, organizations and communities to ensure all children enter school ready to succeed. RPC is a United Way agency. For more information, visit www.randolphkids.org.

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