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Award Winners for Child Abuse Prevention Efforts Announced Today

The State Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Interagency Task Force (ITF) recognized outstanding child abuse prevention professionals and programs in Oklahoma at the *Child Abuse Prevention Day at the Capitol* today.

Recognized as the **Outstanding Prevention Program Award** winner is the University of Central Oklahoma, Human Environmental Sciences, Family Life Education – Child Development Program. The **Marion Jacewitz Award** winner is Rodney Timms. The **Outstanding Elected Official Award** winner is State Rep. Earl Sears and the **Mary Ellen Wilson Award** winner is Terri Tate.

“The ITF award recipients represent some of the finest efforts in Oklahoma of individuals and organizations making a difference for children by committing their time to help strengthen families in Oklahoma,” said Interagency CAP Task Force Chair, Maggi Hutchason.

The Outstanding Prevention Program Award winner is the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO), Human Environmental Sciences, Family Life Education – Child Development Program. (Pictured from left to right: Dr. Kaye Sears, Andrea Kinkle, Rachel Pirraglia)



The Family Life Education - Child Development Program at UCO is a community program with a focus in child abuse prevention that teaches generations of parents and professionals about children and their families. The comprehensive program includes classes on each stage and area of child development, family and relationship theory, history and the progression of families, children and community through time and culture. Students are required to participate in the Child Study Center Lab, located in the Human Environmental Sciences building on campus, for hands-on experience, field study and work with community groups such as the Early Childhood Association. Professors associated with the program have a passion for the care and nurturing of

families and share that passion with their students. Faculty member Dr. Kaye Sears has been with the program since the 1970s.

The Marion Jacewitz Award winner is Rodney Timms.



Timms is a successful businessman and a child abuse survivor who has a passion to help others. Timms works with organizations such as the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy (OICA) and Childhelp USA ® to raise awareness about child abuse and to support prevention efforts. He has written a book, “Calling All Hearts,” full of descriptive poems reliving his personal childhood abuse from ages 4 to 15 when his father almost beat him to death. Timms is president of Western Flyer Xpress, an Oklahoma City based national trucking company with 200 trucks and 500 trailers that have the Childhelp USA ® National Child Abuse Hotline on the back of each of them calling for action to help children. In 2011, he wrapped one of his tractor trailers in the OICA “Protect Kids” campaign logo to display at CAP Day at the State Capitol and at other child abuse prevention events. He recently presented Gov. Mary Fallin with a replica of the truck, and he donates t-shirts with the replica’s image and OICA campaign slogan to sell with all proceeds going to OICA. This year he donated diapers for the CAP Day Diaper drive to benefit the Infant Crisis Services in Oklahoma City, lifesavers and cards for child advocates to give to legislators, and supplies for various child abuse prevention programs. Timms challenges all Oklahomans to get involved and make a difference in the life of a child.

The Outstanding Elected Official Award winner is State Rep. Earl Sears.



District 11 State Representative Earl Sears has devoted his life to children. He is a veteran educator and principal, teaching middle school for 32 years and serving as principal for 22 years before retiring to serve in the legislature. He serves on numerous boards, coalitions and service organizations with special attention given to the needs of children, including being a member of the Smart Start Leadership Coalition. He brings information, insight and leadership to community and business leaders with a focus on early childhood needs in Washington and Nowata counties and the entire state. When several child abuse prevention programs were in danger of budget cuts in FY 2012, Rep. Sears stepped forward to research the matter, meet with agency and state officials to help solve the problem, and help continue funding for numerous child abuse prevention programs and child advocacy centers across the state.

The Mary Ellen Wilson Award winner is Terri Tate.



Terri Tate is a registered nurse who has worked with the Children First program in the Pottawatomie County Health Department for five years, managing and instructing her clients in parenting skills and celebrating their successes and graduations. She is a professional and a team player who demonstrated leadership by promoting child abuse prevention in her community including putting together a plan to meet with local DHS staff, labor and delivery hospital staff, pediatricians and Children First staff to discuss and implement changes to improve reporting and services. Tate helps her clients get professional help in therapy, parenting classes or other interventions as needed and is committed to improving the quality of life for Oklahoma's children and families.

The State Interagency CAP Task Force honors people and organizations that demonstrate significant and outstanding commitment and dedication to child abuse prevention activities. The membership, as prescribed by law, is appointed by the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY) and is composed of 17 members committed to preventing child abuse.

For more information about the award recipients, their programs, or how you can get involved in child abuse prevention activities, contact the OSDH Family Support and Prevention Service at (405) 271-7611.

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