



Lutheran Education Association

linking, equipping, and affirming educators in Lutheran ministries

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Lisa O'Brien Named 2012 LEA Distinguished Lutheran Early Childhood Administrator

Lisa O'Brien, early childhood administrator at Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran School in Scottsdale, Arizona, is the 2012 LEA Distinguished Lutheran Early Childhood Administrator. She was selected to receive this award by LEA's Leadership Network and Early Childhood Education Network leaders.

Ms. O'Brien earned a B.S. in education from Concordia University Nebraska and an M.A. in curriculum and instruction from the University of Phoenix. She also has a National Administrator Credential from National Child-care Association. Prior to her ministry at Shepherd of the Desert, she served Lutheran schools in Murray, Utah, and Salt Lake City, Utah, where she started a new preschool program.

Ms. O'Brien said, "I love my job! After 15 years, there is nothing better than waking up and looking forward to going to work. I've been very blessed to be a part of...an amazing team of educators."

Ms. O'Brien's pastor commented, "I have a deep respect for the ministry that Lisa has developed at Shepherd of the Desert Church and School. Lisa's time and energy has multiplied the ministry of our congregation and provided the opportunity for new visions to be cast. Lisa has done an outstanding job of developing a team of professionals within our school. The team works together in uplifting each other with the love of Christ."

A colleague said, "Lisa is dedicated to serving our community and the Lord...our enrollment has tripled and the number of staff...has nearly doubled. Under her guidance and supervision, we have been able to expand our pre-school curriculum to include specialty classes...and we have added before- and after-school programs to give working parents in our community the opportunity to send their children to a Lutheran school where their children learn about Jesus."

Ms. O'Brien's district executive continues the accolades with "Lisa plays a vital role in the collaboration of the early childhood program and the congregation's outreach ministry (Mega Life service). She works closely with the director of Mega Life Ministries to effectively reach out to the mission field of young families."

Ms. O'Brien's mission statement is "Serving others in the field of education and helping to share Jesus while providing a loving and caring place of children."

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