

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 8, 2019

Laurel [Laurie] Schneider named 2019 LEA Distinguished Lutheran Early Childhood Administrator

Laurel Schneider was selected to receive Lutheran Education Association's 2019 Distinguished Lutheran Early Childhood Administrator Award.

Ms. Schneider is the director of early childhood education at Ascension Lutheran Early Childhood Center, North Olmsted, Ohio. Laurel is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the school, which includes everything from supervising staff to compliance with state licensing, financial operations, and even playing with the children. In addition, she is the Early Childhood Consultant for the LCMS Ohio and English Districts. She has been active as both participant and presenter at many district early childhood workshops and community events.

Laurel earned an Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education from Cuyahoga Community College and a Bachelor of Arts in Child Development from Concordia College (now University), St. Paul, Minn. She has been an administrator for 28 years in service to several early childhood centers.

In support of Laurel's nomination, her pastor said, "Every day, every child walks through the door to a loving woman who knows their name and cares about them. The smiles on their faces show that they know they are loved. In our personal conversations it is easy to see that Laurie genuinely empathizes with her staff, students, and families when they are in difficult situations. Even after many years of successful ministry to students and families it is clear that the gravity and responsibility of caring for God's little ones is not lost on Laurie."

One parent wrote, "Laurie has a heart of compassion and a love for people that luminesces bright for Christ. She is a constant example of purest form for her peers, fellow faculty, parents of the school, and for all the students. [This is evident] from her sweet, warm greeting each morning and her extreme joy for others' blessings to her tears of heartache, hugs of hope, and words of encouragement for her ECC families that have faced struggles that this world may have given them."

A colleague commented, "I know personally that Laurie considers her career a ministry, it has never been a job. Laurie's love of Jesus Christ is woven through and evident in all of her endeavors. Laurie ensures every child coming through our program knows 'Jesus Loves You!'"

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