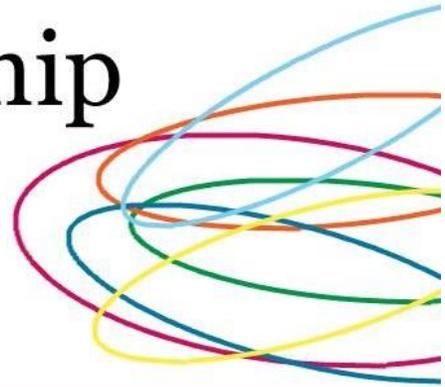




Membership

Spotlight



Member Spotlight

Jill Owens



Jill Owens was awarded the Educator of the Year Award at the 2108 Early Care and Education Fall Institute. The award is presented to an Iowa AEYC Member who has made a significant contribution to improving the quality of care and education of young children in his/her role as a teacher, teaching assistant, or child development home provider, working directly with young children, ages birth to age 8.

The criteria used in selecting the candidate for this award include contributions and dedication to early care and education, effective teaching practices and positive impacts on children, and contributions in early care and education program and/or volunteer efforts that make a positive difference in meeting the needs of young children and/or their families.

Jill Owens uses the latest research, along with her natural ability to relate well to students through fun and engaging activities. Her teaching style is child focused and intentional. She utilizes teaching strategies based on student needs. She is a very positive individual and is always willing to help other staff beyond her own duties.

Jill has taught in diverse classrooms with students of different racial, cultural, socioeconomic, and special needs backgrounds. Jill has also worked extensively with students having significant behavior issues. She demonstrates a high level of skill in meeting the needs of all her students. Jill takes the time to establish a positive relationship with her students.

Countless numbers of students and families have, and will continue, to benefit from Jill's passion, caring, and drive to provide the highest quality preschool experience for all. Jill is not only focused on providing the best preschool experience for the students in her classroom, she is also dedicated to improving early childhood across the school district. Jill sets a high bar for preschool teachers and for the teachers at all levels and she is truly deserving of the award for Educator of the Year.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

HOW DID YOU GET STARTED IN YOUR PROFESSION?

I have always enjoyed being with children and knew I wanted to be a teacher after baby-sitting as a teenager. My first teaching position was K-4 special education in Des Moines. I have taught preschool in Charles City, Coralville, and now Muscatine.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR CURRENT POSITION.

I am currently teaching in a 4-year-old Shared Visions classroom. I have 18 students, including students with special needs.

HOW DID YOU GET STARTED IN YOUR CURRENT POSITION?

This is my first year teaching in Muscatine. After teaching eight years for the Iowa City Schools we relocated to be closer to family.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE STARTING THEIR CAREER IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION?

Enjoy all the little moments that lead to big changes in you and your students by the end of the year.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO ENTER THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FIELD?

I feel my teaching style best fits early learning. I also feel that early learning is a critical time period for children and I enjoy being part of that learning.

WHAT ARE SOME ACCOMPLISHMENTS YOU ARE PARTICULARLY PROUD OF?

Receiving the Iowa City Shine award which is through parent nomination and continuing to grow as an educator every year I'm a part of the profession.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF BEING AN IOWA AEYC MEMBER?

Having opportunities to network with other Early Childhood professionals

WHAT NAEYC/ IOWA AEYC BENEFITS DO YOU MOST VALUE?

Complimentary NAEYC books

WHY DID YOU BECOME A MEMBER?

To be part of an organization that exclusively focuses on Early Childhood.

WHY DO YOU CONTINUE YOUR MEMBERSHIP EACH YEAR?

To continue having opportunities to grow as an educator.

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER?

Two years

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ASSOCIATION MEMORY?

The first Fall Institute I attended. It was amazing to have two days of learning just focused on early childhood.

TELL US SOMETHING FUN ABOUT YOURSELF.

My family loves the outdoors. One of our favorite hobbies is 3-D target archery.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CHILDREN'S BOOK, AND WHY?

I love Todd Parr books, especially "It's Okay to Be Different," the books teach valuable lessons in fun ways.

WHAT ARE YOU READING RIGHT NOW?

Words Their Way for Pre-K through K.