The Michigan Division for Early Childhood (MiDEC)

Your Michigan source for information, resources, and guidance related to young children with special needs and their families.

Dear Friends of Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education,

Michigan Division for Early Childhood (MiDEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children is excited to announce the 2026 Call for Nominations for the **Jane Scandary Award for Excellence in Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education**. This annual award honors an outstanding Michigan professional for contributions to the field of Early Intervention or Early Childhood Special Education or an individual who has made major and significant contributions to young children with special needs and their families in the State of Michigan. Individuals or organizations may make nominations. Consider who you know that you feel is deserving of recognition for contributions and accomplishments. Now is the time to nominate that person for this prestigious award!

The recipient of the award will be honored in their local community in December 2026 or January 2027.

Nominees must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Current or past work in the field of Early Intervention or Early Childhood Special Education as a teacher, service provider, administrator, state department professional, or higher education professional
- History of advocacy on behalf of young children with special needs and their families
- Engagement in activities consistent with MiDEC's mission

*Current MiDEC Board members are not eligible for nomination

Award benefits:

- Recognition and presentation of award
- Cash award
- Complimentary registration for the MiDEC Conference the year of the award (or following year on non-conference years)
- Feature on MiDEC website

To make a nomination, please submit the following materials to Awards.MiDEC@gmail.com by October 30, 2026:

- Jane Scandary Award Nomination Form (available on the MiDEC website at www.michigandec.org or by request), including a written narrative describing the individual's significant professional contributions/accomplishments
- Nominee's Resume, Vitae, or Biographical Statement
- Any supportive documents, such as newsletter articles featuring the nominee's contributions/accomplishments
- Two to three letters of recommendation (may be from parents, professionals, or others familiar with the nominee).

Please direct any questions or requests for nomination submission to Colleen O'Connor, MiDEC Honors and Awards Chairperson, at Awards.MiDEC@gmail.com or 517-275-1977.

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