

The Parent Information Center celebrates Family Engagement Month



COURTESY PHOTO

JOAN REES nominated Heather Dominick for the Parent Information Center Family Engagement award.

CONCORD — “Parents are a child’s first and most influential teachers.” This statement is part of Governor Christopher Sununu’s proclamation making October Family Engagement Month in New Hampshire. This effort, sponsored by the Parent Information Center of NH (PIC, www.pic-nh.org) and NH Family Voices (www.nhfv.org) is designed to promote strong collaboration between parents, schools, health providers and communities.

Studies consistently show that when parents are more involved with their children’s education, those children will achieve more, make more friends, fin-

ish school, and be more likely to go on to college. A UNH study concluded that effective parent involvement was equal to adding \$1,000 per student every year to a school’s budget.

PIC sponsored the 11th annual Family Engagement Recognition Ceremony on Oct. 3 in Concord. Mary Lane, Educational Consultant from the NH Department of Education and Elizabeth Collins, RN-BC, MSN from Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Director Bureau of Special Medical Services/NH Department of Health and Human Services joined PIC and NH Family Voices to celebrate the efforts of parents, ed-

ucators, physicians and community members from around the state for their efforts to engage families to support children’s education, health and well-being.

Heather Dominick was nominated and honored for the Parent Information Center Family Engagement award by Preschool Teacher Joan Rees of Alton Central School. She was one of 16 in the state of NH, who were honored at the ceremony in Concord. She has been a member of the Alton Central School iSocial Leadership team for two years. The goal of iSocial is to improve social emotional outcomes of infants, toddlers and young children with disabilities using the Pyra-

mid Model Framework. On the leadership team, Dominick has shared her struggles and challenges as a parent of a young child and a teenager. She has shared her experiences and discussed how focusing on social emotional development has made a difference in the way she parents and also in the way her child approaches problems and challenges. Heather participated in a Positive Solutions for Families training facilitated by the school district. She has also assisted in co-facilitating another Positive Solutions for Families training with the Alton Central School preschool team. Dominick continues to support the community as it works to strengthen strong mental health goals for its families.

Also honored at the ceremony was Children’s Center Executive Director Teri Ann Cox

PIC received nominations statewide of individuals and teams that have displayed creativity, innovation, and/or commitment at the community, school, district, or state level in one or more of the NH Family-School-Community Partnership Standards (which are based on the PTA Standards):

1. Welcoming all families;
2. Communicating effectively;
3. Supporting children’s success;
4. Speaking up for ev-



COURTESY PHOTO

TERI ANN COX was honored in Concord earlier this month.

ery child;

5. Sharing decision-making;

6. Collaborating as a community.

Congratulations to all the individuals and teams who were honored for their significant contributions to family engagement made during the previous school year. Attendees celebrated the amazing

work to promote family/school partnerships going on in NH and looked to the future, thinking about what they can do to further support family involvement.

Additional information about NH Family Engagement Month and those recognized can be found at www.picnh.org.