

Regional Consolidated Services

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RCS HEAD START PROGRAM EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

ASHEBORO — Regional Consolidated Services (RCS), now in its 26th year as a non-profit human services agency, has been selected as a National Head Start Association Outstanding Head Start Grantee for 2005.

Sarah M. Greene, president and CEO of the Association (NHSA), wrote in a letter to RCS Head Start Director Michele Bare that "your program was chosen because you were able to describe your success in areas of program management and services to children and families."

"Each program success story is a reminder of our collective success," the letter added. NHSA is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

From an office at RCS in Asheboro, Bare oversees Head Start programs in Alamance, Caswell and Randolph counties. She has held the position for 11 years.

The RCS program now will be listed in a special section of the Association's Annual Training Conference Program Book. Formal recognition of RCS will come at the "Focus on Quality" general session of the conference in Orlando, Florida, May 25.

Bare credits a staff of administrators and teachers with helping to earn the national award. "We have a very dedicated, knowledgeable staff of early childhood professionals, strong parent involvement and excellent community partners working to make our program the best, and it shows!" Bare said.

"This award further emphasizes the quality of the program as already indicated by five-star Child Care licenses at every center," Bare went on to say. She pointed out that the RCS program has attained its first accreditation from the National Movement to Improve Early Childhood Education (NAEYC) in 2005 and that four out of four successful federal reviews have been received.

Regional Consolidated Services revived Head Start in Randolph County in 1990 with a single class numbering 20 youngsters at the old Central school building in east Asheboro. Since then, the agency has erected the Connie H. Redding Preschool Building on Virginia Avenue in Asheboro, named for a late president of RCS. There, six classes are in session.

In 1998, Bare's administration was extended into Alamance and Caswell counties. It maintains the Janice S Scarborough Preschool Building in Burlington, named for the founder of RCS, and holds classes in the Bartlett-Yancey complex in Yanceyville.

More than 400 preschool children are enrolled in Head Start classes in the three counties.

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