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The Susan S. Rees Award for Excellence in Teaching and Learning 2016

I am pleased to announce this year's *Susan S. Rees Award for Excellence in Teaching and Learning* was presented to **Jescah Apamo-Gannon**. The Rees Family established this Award to honor Susan's remarkable career and her dedication to working collaboratively with teachers and administrators to advance the rights and lives of children.

The purpose of this annual award is to recognize an ACCEPT teacher for their outstanding work with students and their contributions to the Collaborative. A gift of \$500 is made to the recipient to provide a stipend for professional development activities. The recipient of the award is selected by a committee review of peer nominations.

Jescah Apamo-Gannon has worked conscientiously as a teacher for the Collaborative for 8 years. Jescah is a dedicated educator. Her students' needs are paramount. She respects and treats them with compassion. She is understanding and flexible in her teaching style and she always goes above and beyond.

Jescah is a consummate professional. She has high standards, a positive attitude and boundless energy. Colleagues describe her as intelligent and capable, compassionate and caring. Her mentor, Chris Evans, described Jescah's dedication and drive as second to none.

Jescah willingly lends her expertise. Within the Collaborative she is a classroom teacher, MCAS Coordinator, and Home-based Services Coordinator. She is also a state-wide MCAS Training and Scoring specialist, adjunct professor at Simmons, and on top of all that she is a wife, and mother of three wonderful guys that make her proud every day!

One of Jescah's colleague said, "Jescah is a dedicated and determined teacher, she has highly intuitive skills to sense underlying issues behind her students' behavior, along with helping them as situations occur. She loves and respects her students, treating them as unique individuals with unique needs. She inspires her staff, promotes team work and acknowledges their hard work."

Another colleague complimented Jescah by saying, "Jescah wears many hats at ACCEPT and puts her 'all' into each of those jobs. I have known her for the last 7 years and it has been a true honor to work with her. She has been a wonderful support during difficult times and has immense knowledge in a variety of areas. I have been able to learn so many things from her and respect her as both a professional and a person. When she has a lot on her plate, there are no complaints. She is able to meet the needs of others and is constantly going above and beyond."

It is an honor and privilege to know Jescah and to have her on the ACCEPT team.

Please join me in congratulating Jescah!