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MEDIA CONTACT  
Cristina Alvarado  
Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles  
[Cristina.Alvarado@ccala.net](mailto:Cristina.Alvarado@ccala.net) or 323 274-1390  
[www.ccala.net](http://www.ccala.net)

**50 Local Early Care & Education Professionals Honored at the  
7<sup>th</sup> Annual Karen Kaye Achievement Award Celebration**

**June 17, 2017 (Los Angeles, California)** – *Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles (CCALA)*, a non-profit organization promoting quality child care in the LA County, hosts its 7<sup>th</sup> **Annual Karen Kaye Achievement Award Celebration**. It will be held at the Quiet Cannon in Montebello, on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, where over 50 child care providers will be honored. **The Gateways for Early Educators™ Passport program** provides the opportunity for early educators, family child care providers and teaching staff in child care centers to grow professionally and receive assistance as they navigate a path into the higher education system. Early Care and Education Professionals who complete 48 hours of training are eligible for the Karen Kaye Achievement Award. Many of those in attendance will be receiving their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Achievement Award in recognition of obtaining 48 to 96 hours of training.

Throughout the year, trainings are held at the ten (10) Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles member Resource and Referral and Alternate Payment agencies. Trainings are made public on the California Early Care & Education Workforce Registry calendar available online at [www.caregistry.org](http://www.caregistry.org). Training topics include: nutrition and physical activity for young children, child development, early childhood literacy, learning environments and curriculum, First Aid and CPR, and business management. One-on-one assistance and coaching are also offered to Early Care and Education Professionals in the Gateways program.

The achievement award is named after Karen Kaye, the former executive director of Connections for Children, a member agency serving the west Los Angeles region. Karen is fondly remembered for passionately championing quality in early child care and education.

The Early Care & Education Professionals look forward to this annual event, while the coaches, mentors and trainers look proudly at the achievement of each one of them. “The Gateways program was able to provide me with the appropriate information to help sharpen me in my professional skills regarding early care for children,” said one of the participating educators.

The Gateways training program and this annual event is funded in part by the California Department of Education (CDE) Early Education Support Division (EESD).

“We look forward to recognizing the hard work of Early Care & Education Professionals as they strive to improve the children’s early education experience,” said Cristina Alvarado, Executive Director of the Child Care Alliance.

Agencies offering the **Gateways for Early Educators™** Program belong to the CCALA network and include the following:

**Resource & Referral (R&R) and Alternate Payment (AP) Agencies**

- Child Care Resource Center
- Connections for Children
- Crystal Stairs, Inc.
- Mexican American Opportunity Foundation
- Options for Learning
- Pathways
- Pomona Unified School District
- Drew Child Development Corporation
- International Institute of Los Angeles
- City of Norwalk

For program information or how to find a training in your area, contact Fiona Stewart at (323) 274-1387 or visit [www.ccala.net](http://www.ccala.net).

**ABOUT CHILD CARE ALLIANCE of LOS ANGELES (CCALA)**

Collectively, **CCALA** agencies deliver a county-wide network of services in at least ten different languages to families and early educators, as follows:

Services for Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>φ On a monthly basis, about 40,000 children and 25,000 families receive subsidized child care services</li> <li>φ In addition, our agencies process 37,000 requests for child care referrals and 28,000 requests for other child care information</li> </ul>
Services for Child Care Educators/ Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>φ We work with over 9,000 licensed child care providers and 9,000 licensed exempt providers through our subsidy programs</li> <li>φ We provide information, resources and support to 9,000 licensed child care providers</li> <li>φ On an annual basis, we offer over 500 trainings to over 2,000 providers</li> <li>φ We provide intensive coaching to over 1,000 providers to increase their knowledge and resources in order to improve the quality of care provided to children</li> <li>φ We offer a specialized nutrition and physical activity training curriculum to improve policies, practices, and early care environments with the goal of preventing and reducing childhood obesity.</li> </ul>

**About California Department of Education**

Information specific to child development within the California Department of Education, EESD Division can be found at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/>.