



Promoting, supporting and strengthening children's earliest relationships
prenatal to age six

Infant mental health is about early relationships, their origin and their power.

Babies develop in the context of relationships. Warm, sensitive and predictable relationships build the rapidly developing brain.

Promoting these early powerful relationships is the work of professionals from many disciplines.

The Connecticut Association for Infant Mental Health is pleased to name

Grace-Ann Caruso Whitney, PhD, MPA, IMH-E ®

as the recipient of the 2019 Jane C. Bourns Award for Excellence. Grace received this award and was recognized at the CT-AIMH 15th annual Spring Conference on Thursday, May 9, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. at the Woodwinds in Branford, CT.

We appreciate and recognize Grace's significant contributions to the field of infant and young children's mental health in Connecticut and her national leadership in promoting infant and early childhood mental health, and advocacy for very young children and their families, particularly those families who face homelessness, and her continued active presence on state and national initiatives.

Grace served for 20 years as the Director of the Connecticut Head Start State Collaboration Office, which involved intergovernmental relations aimed at integrating federal and state initiatives serving very low-income children and families. While in this position she served on the Early Childhood Cabinet as it developed plans to create a cross-agency system to serve young children and their families which resulted in the creation of the CT Office of Early Childhood.

Grace was an early advocate for infant mental health, a member of the first leadership cohort to gain Endorsement® in infant mental health in Connecticut, and a representative for Head Start on the CT-AIMH Board of Directors for more than five years until her retirement in 2017.

CT-AIMH and the IMH community is indebted to Grace for her inspiration, persistence, and devotion to babies and young children and their families wherever they might be. We celebrate her continued work and advocacy in the infant early childhood mental health field. **Thank you!**

Sincerely,

Susan Vater

Susan Vater, Ed.M.

President, Connecticut Association for Infant Mental Health

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