



## Agency Happenings

### EOPA Head Start Curriculum Supervisor Receives International Award



On May 3, 2012, Barbara J. Rome, Curriculum Supervisor for the Economic Opportunity Association of Greater Toledo (EOPA) Head Start Program, was awarded the 2012 David Weikart Achievement Award from the HighScope Educational Research Foundation.

The HighScope Educational Research Foundation is an independent nonprofit organization established in 1970 that promotes the development of children and youth worldwide and supports educators and parents as they help children learn. They focus on curriculum development, child and program assessment, publishing, professional development, and research for early childhood education.

The David Weikart Award is given annually to a person outside of the HighScope staff who the Foundation feels has demonstrated exemplary dedication to HighScope's vision and mission.

Barbara Rome has worked with Head Start for almost 45 years and became a HighScope Certified Trainer in 1986. In the beginning she went door-to-door recruiting children for the Head Start program. She and her team transported children to get their immunizations and medical needs. She has trained teachers in the HighScope Curriculum in several states and in Washington D.C.

HighScope's educational approach emphasizes "active participatory learning," which means students have direct, hands-on experiences with people, objects, events and ideas. Before many people knew and understood the concept of active learning, Ms. Rome practiced it by taking the children she taught on field trips so she could teach them about their world in a concrete way. This approach is consistent with the best practices recommended by the National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Head Start Performance Standards and other guidelines for developmentally-based programs.

When presenting the David Weikart Award to Ms. Rome, Clay Shouse, vice president of HighScope, stated that the award was given, "In recognition of her ongoing support of the HighScope Foundation and its mission; her dedication to excellence in the implementation of the HighScope Curriculum in her community; and her outstanding achievements during a career which has been dedicated to making sure children have the opportunity to learn, to grow, and to succeed in life."

Congratulations to Barbara Rome!