

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Two DFW-Area Winners Tie for Infant Mental Health Advocacy Award

*Awardees of T. Berry Brazelton Infant Mental Health Advocacy Award  
to be recognized at upcoming conference*

**DALLAS** —December 18, 2007 —The recipients of this year’s T. Berry Brazelton Infant Mental Health Advocacy Award, honoring those who make significant contributions in the lives of infants, toddlers and their families in Texas, are David M. Munson, Board Chair for Educational First Steps and Karyn B. Purvis, Director of TCU’s Institute of Child Development.

“The award acknowledges outstanding achievement in infant mental health advocacy, especially in circumstances that are not optimal for a positive unfolding of emotional and social development,” said President-Elect Marnie Stone. These two winners are the first who have tied for the award:

- David Munson, Board Chair and founder of Educational First Steps, has worked to improve the training of workers in many childcare facilities that serve the underprivileged. He has made Educational First Steps a Touchpoints Project site. He has championed infant mental health for childcare facilities before elected officials – and those running for election in 2008 – at local, state and national levels. He has also impacted the local business community regarding this cause.
- Dr. Karyn Purvis, Director of the TCU Institute of Development, has impacted adoption, child welfare and family court systems. She gave numerous public speeches on infant mental health and co-authored *The Connected Child*. Her work with TexConnects has influenced infant mental health treatment in Texas’ Child Protective and Welfare systems. In addition, she developed training curriculum about this critical issue in various formats.

The honorees will be recognized on January 11<sup>th</sup> at the 2008 Infant Mental Health Advocacy Conference – sponsored by Texas Association for Infant Mental Health (TAIMH) – during a luncheon at the Westin DFW Hotel in Irving, Texas and later that day at a special reception. The reception, presented by Children’s Medical Center in Dallas, will honor T. Berry Brazelton, M.D., prior awardees and the 2008 awardees from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The Infant Mental Health Advocacy Council and the Texas Association for Infant Mental Health selected the award recipients.

**Texas Association for Infant Mental Health (TAIMH)**

The Texas Association for Infant Mental Health (TAIMH) is a non-profit affiliate of the World Association for Infant Mental Health. TAIMH has addressed infant mental health issues in Texas since 1980, and is dedicated to improving the quality of nurturing family relationships for infants, young children, and their families. The mission of the TAIMH is to provide:

- Awareness of the critical importance of the first three years of life in human development.
- Conditions that enhance the quality of infant/caregiver relationships.
- Policy and practice that optimize the emotional development of infants.

**Educational First Steps**

Founded in 1990 by David Munson, Sandra Estess, Joyce Wright & Linus Wright, EFS has more than 17 years experience executing its mission to improve the quality and availability of early childhood education for economically disadvantaged Dallas children. By working with more than 60 childcare centers serving more than 2,500 children, EFS programs prepare children from low-income families to “thrive instead of survive” when they enter schools. For more information on EFS and its programs, contact Merriott J. Terry at 214-824-7940. Visit EFS at [www.educationalfirststeps.org](http://www.educationalfirststeps.org).

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