

The Toyota logo, consisting of the word "TOYOTA" in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

Media Contact:

Ashley Brauer
abrauer@guthriemayes.com
502-649-3205 (mobile)

Boston-area educator wins national Family Teacher of the Year award
\$20,000 grant will fund outreach to 7,000 more families through innovative literacy program

BOSTON (October 13, 2016) — When Jean Ciborowski Fahey of Weymouth, Mass., joins a circle of moms and newborns, she condenses decades of knowledge about brain development into a 20-minute message that’s straightforward and provides parents ways to help their children develop a strong foundation for learning.

“It’s important that parents of all income and education levels understand the benefits of early reading and its profound impact on the future success of their children,” Ciborowski Fahey said. “Our classes and the book give parents the tools to help their child start life on the right path.”

The Weymouth, Mass., community educator was named 2016 Toyota Family Teacher of the Year today by the National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) and Toyota for her efforts to educate parents of babies and young children about reading and brain development. Central to Ciborowski Fahey’s outreach strategy is a book she wrote, “Make Time for Reading: a story guide for parents of babies and young children.” Ciborowski Fahey will use the \$20,000 grant from Toyota and NCFL to reprint her book in English and Spanish, which will enable her to reach nearly 7,000 more parents.

Since self-publishing in 2014, Ciborowski Fahey has printed and donated more than 10,000 copies of her book to mothers who deliver babies at South Shore Hospital, local Head Start parents, and area pediatric practices that serve low-income families. She also teaches other teachers, high school students, librarians, foster parents and child care providers these family literacy strategies.

“Jean is unwavering in her stance to build parent capacities as a way to improve child outcomes,” said Faye Weir, director, Parent Child Services for South Shore Health System. “‘*Make Time for Reading*’ is a response for an innovative teaching and learning tool that

attracts more parents of all income and educational levels. It takes only minutes to read, but is packed with information parents can immediately use.”

The Toyota Family Teacher of the Year award, a national honor now in its 20th year, recognizes that families play a crucial role in the success of children and salutes educators who are exceptional at using intergenerational approaches to engage students and their families in education.

“[Research](#) is clear that when parents are engaged in their child’s education, student achievement is increased,” said Dr. Joshua Cramer, NCFL vice president. “Jean’s work to teach parents how critical reading is to their child’s development not only has the power to provide successful outcomes for the child’s academic career, it also strengthens family relationships.”

Ciborowski Fahey and runner-up, Ellin Klor of Santa Clara, Calif., will be recognized for their accomplishments at the annual [Families Learning Summit](#) in Detroit on October 18. The Summit convenes the nation’s most progressive experts in education, policy, and family and parent engagement to discuss and share the latest information regarding multigenerational approaches to learning.

“Jean’s book is an example of the forward-thinking strategy we want to recognize and help expand through the Toyota Family Teacher of the Year grant,” said Mike Goss, general manager, social innovation, Toyota Motor North America. “The extraordinary work of both Jean and Ellin in engaging families in their children’s education will pay dividends for these students, their families, their schools and their communities for generations to come. Toyota is committed to supporting efforts that help people gain the literacy and language skills needed for upward mobility and future success.”

Klor, a family literacy librarian with Read Santa Clara, works with at-risk families with limited literacy and/or language skills. She developed the [Santa Clara 0-6 website](#) focusing on early learning, health, nutrition and development, play and parenting. With this recognition, the Santa Clara City Library Foundation and Friends received a \$5,000 grant to continue Klor’s work engaging families through literacy events.

ABOUT NATIONAL CENTER FOR FAMILIES LEARNING

The National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) is a non-profit organization dedicated to addressing our nation’s literacy challenges by engaging all family members in learning, with a primary focus on parents and children living in poverty. Pioneered by NCFL, the two-generation family literacy approach harnesses the power of parent-child bonds to help those who are most at risk of failing economically, emotionally, and socially reach their full potential. NCFL creates and deploys innovative two-generation programs, strategies, and online learning solutions that support learning, literacy, and family engagement in education. From the classroom to the community to the digital frontier, NCFL collaborates with educators, advocates, and policy-makers to help families construct hotspots for learning wherever they go.

For more information on NCFL's 27-year track record, visit familieslearning.org.

ABOUT TOYOTA

Toyota (NYSE:TM), the world's top automaker and creator of the Prius and the Mirai fuel cell vehicle, is committed to advancing mobility through our **Toyota and Lexus** brands. Over the past 50 years, we've produced more than 30 million cars and trucks in North America, where we operate 14 manufacturing plants (10 in the U.S.) and directly employ more than 44,000 people (more than 34,000 in the U.S.). Our 1,800 North American dealerships (1,500 in the U.S.) sold more than 2.8 million cars and trucks (nearly 2.5 million in the U.S.) in 2015 – and about 80 percent of all Toyota vehicles sold over the past 20 years are still on the road today.

Toyota partners with community, civic, academic, and governmental organizations to address our society's most pressing mobility challenges. We share company resources and extensive know-how to support non-profits to help expand their ability to assist more people move more places. For more information about Toyota, visit www.toyotaneewsroom.com.

###