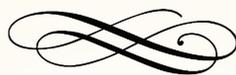


A tribute to

Cindy Harrington



Cindy Harrington was a woman of heart and mind. What a gift that she offered both her heart and her mind to advance early childhood systems in Alaska. Cindy's passing on May 27th, 2014 was a profound loss for her many family members and her friends throughout the country. Her passing was also felt deeply within Alaska's early childhood community where Cindy's heart and mind have improved outcomes for young children over the past two decades.



Cindy's career in early childhood started with twelve years working with child care resource and referral agencies. In 2001, Cindy was selected as the director of the "Distance Early Childhood Education Associate Program," where she coordinated the delivery of the early childhood certificate and associate degrees for the University of Alaska Fairbanks/College of Rural Development and the University of Alaska Southeast. In this capacity, Cindy also managed the Kituusit Project (2004-2007) which provided support for 170 early childhood education students with over 60 earning their AAS degree.

Cindy's heart and mind leadership resulted in:

- The establishment of a distance early childhood education advisory committee
- The ritual of annual "gatherings" to celebrate the accomplishments of rural and Alaska Native students
- The increase of educational opportunities for

rural students through expansion of distance delivered education

- The opportunity for dual credit early childhood education courses in rural high schools

Cindy went on to work with the Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA) establishing the KANA Child Advocacy Center and Parents as Teachers home visiting program. Her mind's ability to see the big picture and think strategically meant her skills were in demand. Her generous heart made it difficult for her to say "no." Here's a sample of her "extracurricular" activities:

- President, Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children
- Chair, Kodiak Early Childhood Coalition: A Best Beginnings Partnership
- Member, **thread** Board of Directors
- Member, Alaska State Parents as Teachers Advisory Board
- Member, State of Alaska Strengthening Families Leadership Team

We honor Cindy Harrington for all of these contributions and accomplishments. But, even more, we honor her for the spirit of openness and generosity that she brought to each encounter. The gifts of her mind ensured everyone got the important work done. The gifts of her heart brought joy to the journey.

Written by Carol Prentice