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RI Early Education Leaders Lend Expertise to Two National Groups

[Rhode Island, 09/25/12] – Staff from the state’s leading agency on child care have been recruited to assist in two national learning forums. Tammy Camillo, MBA, Director, and Lisa Hildebrand, M.A., Assistant Director of Rhode Island AEYC and BrightStars will help 10 states across the country to develop high-quality child care systems.

Ms. Camillo is co-facilitating an eight-state Learning Table sponsored by the federal Office of Child Care’s National Center for Child Care Quality Improvement and the BUILD Initiative. The Learning Table offers guidance, principles, and recommendations for the development of effective and efficient statewide child care Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS). A QRIS is a systemic approach to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early and school-age care and education programs. QRIS award quality ratings to early and school-age care and education programs that meet a set of defined program standards. BrightStars (Rhode Island’s QRIS) is a nationally recognized model and a centerpiece of Rhode Island’s Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant.

The Learning Table is co-facilitated by Anne Mitchell, President of Early Childhood Policy Research; Louise Stoney, co-founder, Alliance for Early Childhood Finance; and Debi Mathias of the BUILD Initiative. The following states are participants in the Learning Table: Alabama, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Oregon, Nevada, and Virgin Islands. States were selected to participate in this technical assistance program following a federal review of their state Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) plan.

Ms. Hildebrand was recently tapped to serve as a peer expert to two states – New Hampshire and Arkansas – on child care professional development and workforce policies. She is providing support in collaboration with the National Association for the Education of Young

Children (NAEYC), and will offer advice and lessons learned from the development of *Rhode Island's Early Learning and School-Age Professional Development System Plan*. Ms. Hildebrand led the development of this plan for the Rhode Island Department of Human Services and the Governor's Early Learning Council during 2011-2012. The plan was approved by the Council in June of this year.

About BrightStars

BrightStars is managed by the Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children. BrightStars works to create a consistent supply of diverse and high-quality child care accessible to all Rhode Island families. Our services include a nationally-recognized child care star rating system, parent education and child care referral, and continuing education for child care programs and professionals. Visit www.BrightStars.org for more information.