

Dr. Kathy R. Thornburg Leadership Scholarship

In 2004, AEYC-MO established the Dr. Kathy R. Thornburg Leadership Fund to recognize Dr. Thornburg's contribution to the early childhood field, AEYC-MO, and specifically her dedication to supporting and developing new leaders. During the past 43 years, Dr. Thornburg has served in various leadership roles in early childhood education at the state and national levels.

She served as professor of the Human Development and Family Studies Department at the University of Missouri and directed the Child Development Laboratory. She also served as the Public Policy Co-Chair for AEYC – MO and President for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). In 1997 she established the Center for Family Policy & Research at the University of Missouri, where she continues as the Director.

The intent of the Kathy R. Thornburg Leadership Fund is to support AEYC-MO's new and emerging leaders' attendance at conferences to further develop their leadership skills. Additionally, recipients are required to work with a mentor to support their professional development.

Each year there will be at least one \$500 scholarship awarded. In future years, as funds are available, the Kathy R. Thornburg Fund's goal will be to award at least one annual scholarship for a person in each of the four affiliate chapters. The scholarships will be used for the member to attend conferences to further their leadership abilities. Priority will be given to AEYC conferences.

Definitions:

- Professional development – utilizing opportunities to continue educating oneself, develop others into productive members of the early childhood profession
- Emerging leader – a person actively involved in AEYC and continuing to maintain professionalism
- Mentor – a person who has great experience and the ability to lead future leaders into the field of early childhood

Qualifications to apply:

- Current AEYC-MO Member
- Active with the local / state Board/committees
- Actively participates in AEYC and shows commitment to the organization
- New (within the past three years) leadership role in AEYC—Local or State Board or Committee
- The support of a mentor to help one develop professionally
- Attendance at NAEYC, PDI or other AEYC events will be given priority

Application needs:

- Application form
- Letter of support from Mentor
- Plans to share the information gained at the conference

Applications are available on the AEYC-MO website and are due by June 1.

Recipient will be notified by June 30.