

HMEA Award Innovator of the Year Award

HMEA was recognized by The Providers' Council, at their annual Awards of Excellence ceremony on September 23rd, for making a strong impact in the state's human services sector this year with its Student for Higher® program.

Students for Higher: Rising up for Autism® was created to address the shortage of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapists for children with autism (ASD). The project's goal is to create a replicable pipeline of trained ABA therapists to serve children currently waiting for ABA services.

Like most ABA service providers, HMEA has a long waiting list of families in need of ABA services for their child/children. Thanks to the success of Students for Higher®, that list has been reduced by the 78 students who have been hired and 100 families have received the services they need to help their child/children flourish and thrive.

Assumption College was the first to embrace the program and today Quinsigamond Community College, Worcester State University, Fitchburg State University and Anna Maria College are all recruiting students to join the program and work as Behavior Therapists with children with Autism in their homes, schools and communities under the supervision of a Board-Certified Behavior



HMEA President, Jule Noack, receives the award from Michael Weeks and Jackie Moore of The Providers' Council

Analyst (BCBA). This position is a unique opportunity for students interested in pursuing a career in human services to gain personal and professional development, boost their resume, and secure full time post-graduate employment. HMEA also has a generous tuition reimbursement benefit for staff pursuing a degree as a BCBA.



Award winners at the Providers' Council Annual Awards of Excellence ceremony. HMEA president, Jule Noack, center bottom row.