

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: ABOARD 1-800-827-9385

**Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders (ABOARD) Bestows
its Annual Award for Service to the Autism Community**

*Bonnie Jamieson M.Ed., Educational Consultant for The Watson Institute, is Recipient of
2011 Grandin Award*

Pittsburgh, PA. The Advisory Board on Autism and Related Disorders (ABOARD) of Pennsylvania recently awarded its annual Grandin Award to Bonnie Jamieson at their February 2011 Gala. The Grandin Award is given by ABOARD to acknowledge one individual who most clearly contributes to ABOARD's mission of "maximizing the potential and possibilities of children, adolescents and adults with autism in Pennsylvania."

Bonnie Jamieson has worked in the field of autism for over 30 years. She was honored for her years of service to the autism community in Pennsylvania.

Early in her career Bonnie was an educator for the Regional Intervention Program (RIP) in Harrisburg. This internationally-recognized organization teaches parents how to work directly with their own children as well as train other parents. Bonnie then helped found the LEAP Preschool, an inclusion-based program for young children with autism which started in Pittsburgh in 1980. She went on to serve as a teacher, supervisor, grant-writer, and national trainer for this innovative school.

For the past 15 years Bonnie has been an education consultant with The Watson Institute in Sewickley, PA. She also consults in 32 autistic support classrooms in the Pittsburgh Public Schools, as well as numerous other districts throughout the region.

"Bonnie has a passion for finding new and better ways to educate children with autism," said Luciana Randall, Executive Director of ABOARD. "In addition to assisting the children she supports directly, she has developed extensive materials, videos, outcomes measurements and other tools so that all parents and professionals can improve the education of the individuals they support. It is my pleasure to present Bonnie with this year's Grandin Award."

"I am honored to receive this prestigious award," said Bonnie Jamieson, "but it is not about me, it is about all the parents, professionals, and friends who work and are awarded with successes everyday. I am grateful to be able to continue working in this field and to be a part of helping to get it as close to being right as time will allow."

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About ABOARD:

ABOARD was founded as a non profit advocacy organization in 1996. Through its Family Support Services, 62 support groups in 47 Pennsylvania counties are supported by ABOARD. ABOARD's Information Services disseminates comprehensive information packets to families of newly diagnosed children with autism, staffs a toll-free hotline, and maintains an up to date website. The most current information pertaining to autism is available through the lending library of over 800 publications, a quarterly newsletter, and an informational weekly e-mail. More information can be found at: www.ABOARD.org

About The Watson Institute:

The Watson Institute, through its family of schools and services, helps children and youth with special needs to achieve their fullest potential in all aspects of their lives. Watson provides programs that serve the needs of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, neurological impairments or serious emotional challenges with diagnostic, educational and therapeutic support; support to the families of these children through education, counseling, wraparound, outpatient services and respite programs; and training and technical support to educators, psychologists, therapists and others working in this field. Visit Watson's website at www.thewatsoninstitute.org.