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Contact: Danielle Clore

859-963-3203, ext. 3

[www.kynonprofits.org](http://www.kynonprofits.org)

**Lexington's Carnegie Center and nonprofit leaders Rich Seckel, Kathy Plomin selected to receive 2016 Kentucky Nonprofit Awards**

**LEXINGTON** – Kentucky Nonprofit Network has selected the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning, Richard Seckel of the Kentucky Equal Justice Center, and active community member and former nonprofit executive Kathy Plomin to be honored at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Kentucky Nonprofit Leadership Forum Nov. 3 in Lexington.

Lexington-based Carnegie Center will receive the 2016 Innovative Nonprofit Award, which recognizes an organization that implements inventive, nontraditional programs or methods that effectively meet community needs. The award winner is required to demonstrate creativity and vision in finding unique solutions to those needs.

The Center won for its "Reading Room in Triangle Park," a unique outdoor learning space in the heart of downtown Lexington. Adults and children alike are encouraged to stay and enjoy a good book, as well as to browse and read gently used and new books to keep. The project is designed to promote and inspire a love of reading in all ages and, at the same time, put books in the hands of those who often have none. Carnegie Center partnered with the Triangle Foundation to bring the project to fruition.

Seckel will take home the 2016 Distinguished Nonprofit Leadership Award, which recognizes outstanding leadership among Kentucky nonprofit chief executives. The award recognizes achievement in the areas of strategic leadership, community building, ethical integrity, innovation, and commitment to strengthening the nonprofit sector.

Employed by Kentucky Equal Justice Center in Lexington since 1979, Seckel has led the center as executive director since 1996, providing leadership from its early mission of consolidating services among legal aid programs in Kentucky to its current mission to serve as center for impact advocacy for low-income people.

Plomin, who has 30 years of experience working with numerous boards in the Lexington community, as well as serving as chief professional officer of the United Way of the Bluegrass will receive the 2016 Outstanding Board Leadership Award. The award highlights the work of a board leader who is strategic-thinking and works cooperatively to further the mission of an organization and is actively committed to best practices.

While serving on boards, including most recently Bluegrass Tomorrow and 100 Women, Plomin has been recognized for her ability to empower groups, to lead by example of service and to create coalitions of community partners.

The awards will be presented during the Kentucky Nonprofit Awards Luncheon at noon Nov. 3. Registration for the luncheon only are \$45 for KNN members and \$65 for potential members and include admittance to a panel discussion, hosted by KET's Renee Shaw, on the impact of the elections on the nonprofit sector. Panelists include Ben Chandler, former Kentucky congressman and newly named director of the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky;

David Thompson, vice-president of public policy for the National Council of Nonprofits; and Scott Jennings, a political analyst and former adviser to President George W. Bush who is co-founder and partner in RunSwitch Public Relations.

**About the Kentucky Nonprofit Leadership Forum:** The Kentucky Nonprofit Leadership Forum is hosted annually by the Kentucky Nonprofit Network and is the only statewide gathering of Kentucky's nonprofit leaders. The two-day forum, Nov. 2-3, provides attendees the opportunity to gain the skills needed to effectively lead their organizations. KNN members and potential members may register for the two-day Forum, as well as a track for attorneys, CPAs and advisers to nonprofits or the Awards Luncheon only at [www.kynonprofits.org/forum](http://www.kynonprofits.org/forum). Registration deadline is Oct. 24.

**About the Kentucky Nonprofit Network:** KNN is the state association of nonprofits, existing to strengthen and advance Kentucky's nonprofit community. The association serves as a resource for nonprofit leaders, board members and other volunteers, an information center on effective nonprofit organizational practices, and an advocate for the nonprofit sector. For more information, visit <http://www.kynonprofits.org>.