

## Governor honors leader of Gary parenting institute

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INDIANAPOLIS | The head of a Gary organization that teaches effective parenting techniques was honored Tuesday by Gov. Mike Pence for her achievements in civic leadership.

Laura Smith-Wynn, of Merrillville, the founder and executive director of the Indiana Parenting Institute, was one of 13 Hoosiers to receive a governor's award at the annual Indiana Black Expo Summer Celebration.

The Republican governor said Smith-Wynn and the other honorees were chosen because they "exemplify community service and servant leadership."

"They have left in each of their cases already a legacy of good works that benefited not only the community that we celebrate this week and next, but also benefited our state and our nation in immeasurable ways," Pence said.

Smith-Wynn was recognized for her work providing continuing education, resources and encouragement for Northwest Indiana parents and their children.

She also helped create the annual Parenting Awareness Month that Indiana celebrates each April with events and programs aimed at promoting responsible parenting.