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Alice Ray, Co-founder and Board Chair of Ripple Effects, Wins 2023 Myrna B. Shure Lifetime Achievement Award

HARRISBURG, Pa. – On May 16, in front of more than 200 attendees of the 2023 National Social and Emotional Learning Conference, Center for the Promotion of Social and Emotional Learning and I Can Problem Solve awarded Alice Ray, co-founder and board chair of Ripple Effects, the 2023 Myrna B. Shure Lifetime Achievement Award.

“The way to find common ground is to genuinely open our own hearts, minds, souls and our physical beings. And look to the earned wisdom at the base of the community – not just to the professional knowledge that comes at the top of academia – to find out what’s working and what language is appropriate for this community at this time,” stated Ray as she accepted her award. “All parents want their kids to feel safe, they want them to feel like they belong, and they want them to have competency skills to navigate their way in the world, a world that is changing faster than it’s ever changed before. [Social and emotional learning is simply] giving kids the skills and the relationship sturdiness, the frameworks to thrive, period.”

Watch our short celebration video at <https://youtu.be/6gJo5xPEz7g>.

“Dr. Maurice Elias, director, Social-Emotional and Character Development Lab at Rutgers University, who nominated Alice Ray, explains best how Ray exemplifies the spirit of the Shure Lifetime Achievement Award,” stated Shileste Overton Morris, Ed.D., director of Center for Promotion of Social and Emotional Learning. “He wrote, ‘Her award-winning and research-based software operationalizes the idea of teaching young people how to think, not what to think. She exemplifies the can-do spirit of Myrna Shure and the dedication to problem-solving and critical thinking.’”

Alice Ray is co-founder of Ripple Effects, a woman-owned, social enterprise with technologist Sarah Berg. Since 1997, Ray has focused on the use of technology to provide personalized skill building, problem solving and personal guidance to students whose behavior or life circumstances, puts them at risk of school failure, and to teachers who need further development of their own social and emotional competencies and their ability to manage diverse learners. In 1982, as the first executive director of Committee for Children, she brought the Talking about Touching curriculum to market, and in 1986 conceived and supervised development of Second Step, a violence prevention curriculum now used in more than 26,000 schools.

The Dr. Myrna B. Shure Award is named in honor of Dr. Shure, program developer of I Can Problem Solve (ICPS).

Award recipients demonstrate passion, practice and commitment in areas that reflect the [I Can Problem Solve](#) program's vision for developing youth interpersonal skills to become socially and emotionally competent problem solvers.

Previous winners include Myrna B. Shure and Dr. Maurice Elias, director, Social-Emotional and Character Development Lab at Rutgers University.

About Center for the Promotion of Social and Emotional Learning

[Center for the Promotion of Social and Emotional Learning](#) (CPSEL) at [Center for Schools and Communities](#) focuses on SEL and addressing trends in education policy, practice and research, and the challenge of integrating SEL into educational settings.

No longer is the school day just about preparing for high-stakes testing – SEL has moved to the forefront of the education landscape and educators have an increased awareness that when kids feel safe, have healthy connections with others and can understand and manage emotions, the stage is set, not only for an improvement in academics, but also for changes that impact lifelong success. Please visit www.cpsel.org for more information.

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