



**Winston Knolls Education Group and The Winston Knolls School  
Announces Carl La Mell  
2018 Recipient of the  
Margaret Bancroft Distinguished Leadership Award**

(Hoffman Estates, IL) The Winston Knolls School, a school of the Winston Knolls Education Group, a leading nonprofit committed to specialized education programming and professional related services for children with autism located in Hoffman Estates, today announced Carl M. La Mell, as the recipient of the prestigious 2018 Margaret Bancroft Distinguished Leadership Award. The award recognizes celebrating the accomplishments of this exceptional individual whose professional achievements, personal life, public or civic service, philanthropic or volunteer endeavors reflect on through their dedication and meritorious accomplishments. Mr. La Mell is a nationally known non-profit executive, humanitarian, mental health leader and fund raiser. He joined Clearbrook in 1996 and immediately recognized the nonprofit organization's potential as a "sleeping giant". By leveraging the staff's many talents, Carl led Clearbrook's growth from serving 300 families with an \$11 million dollar budget to its current scope of serving more than 7,000 children and adults each year with an organizational budget of \$43 million and a staff of nearly 1,000.

Today, through Carl's leadership, Clearbrook creates innovative opportunities for those with disabilities including autism, Down syndrome, and cerebral palsy - as well as their families. Clearbrook provides personalized children's, adult day, employment, residential and clinical services at more than 50 locations in 15 counties throughout the Chicagoland-area. In addition, Clearbrook is the largest provider of home-based services in the state of Illinois and proudly reports that 92 percent of every dollar raised goes directly into programs and services.

A few of Carl's professional affiliations and recognitions include:

- *President Obama's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities*, member
- *Institute on Public Policy*, founding member
- *Illinois Department of Human Services State Task Force on Autism*
- *Developmental Disabilities Statewide (Illinois) Advisory Council*, member
- *2003 Claude D. Pepper Distinguished Service Award*
- *2000 Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities Don Burke Award for Executive Excellence*
- *1999 Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities Executive of the Year*

The Margaret Bancroft Distinguished Leadership Award will be presented at the Annual Bancroft Awards Dinner on Monday, January 15, 2018. The event's location and time will be revealed later this summer. Individual tickets will be \$85 and a table of ten can be purchased for \$850. Please call 630-283-5046 for additional information and to purchase tickets.

**About The Winston Knolls School:** *The Winston Knolls School, a school of the Winston Knolls Education Group, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization certified by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) as a non-public special education school that services children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, PDD-NOS, emotional/behavioral disorders, specific learning disabilities, developmental disabilities, and other health impairments. [www.thebancroftschool.org](http://www.thebancroftschool.org)*