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US EPA Honors Elise Miller, Executive Director of the Institute for Children's Environmental Health

October 21, Freeland, WA – The US Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Children's Health Protection and Environmental Education has recognized Elise Miller, MEd, founder and executive director of the Institute for Children's Environmental Health (ICEH) as one of 12 honorees to receive a 2008 Children's Environmental Health Champion Award for outstanding commitment to protecting children from environmental health risks.

A special awards ceremony and reception will be held October 22, 2008, at the Churchill Hotel in Washington, DC, to honor the Children's Environmental Health Champion Award winners.

Under Miller's leadership for almost a decade, ICEH has raised the spotlight on children's environmental health issues nationally and regionally and catalyzed strategic collaborative initiatives to address them. Starting in 1999, ICEH organized the Children's Environmental Health Summit in New York with other key institutions in this burgeoning field—a meeting that resulted in the first jointly drafted statement of "Guiding Principles on Children's Environmental Health" and the formation of the Partnership for Children's Health and the Environment. This fall, almost 10 years after its debut, ICEH published a major consensus statement regarding policy actions to be taken based on the increasingly compelling science on environmental contributors to children's learning and developmental disabilities—a statement that is now being used as a reference for chemical policy reform efforts in the U.S. and Europe. ICEH has also undertaken a variety of projects regionally, including founding the Collaborative on Health and the Environment-Washington and organizing a lecture series with nationally and internationally respected researchers on environmental health held at Seattle Town Hall for the past five years.

"It has been a great privilege to serve this field over the years and to work with so many bright and committed researchers, health professionals, government officials and environmental health and justice advocates to protect children's health," said Miller. "Having the US EPA acknowledge our accomplishments is a real honor—as well as a call for us to continue our efforts improving public environmental health and ensuring all children are able to reach their full potential regardless of where they live, study, play and work."

This will be the fourth year for the Office of Children's Health Protection and Environmental Education (OCHPEE) to hold the Children's Environmental Health Champion Award program. EPA established the Children's Health Program in May 1997 to make the protection of children's health a fundamental goal of public health and environmental protection in the United States. OCHPEE supports and facilitates Agency efforts to protect children's health from environmental threats. The awards program recognizes individuals and organizations for their activities that protect children from environmental health risks.

"Protecting children from environmental health risks is fundamental to EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment. While EPA takes actions to ensure that children have clean air to breathe, clean water to drink and safe food to eat, we recognize the important role that others have to protect children from environmental threats. The Children's Environmental Health Champion Awards recognize individuals, communities and organizations for their leadership in making our environment healthier for

our children. This year's 12 Champions demonstrate strong commitment to children's environmental health, and EPA is proud to be recognizing them for their dedication and leadership," said Ruth McCully, Director, Office of Children's Health Protection and Environmental Education.

For more information about the Children's Environmental Health Champion Award, visit EPA at www.epa.gov/children. For more information on the Institute for Children's Environmental Health, please visit www.iceh.org.