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Norfolk professor receives Governor's award for work to protect children *Awards presented during Child Abuse Prevention Month*

Richmond, Va. — Governor Bob McDonnell, along with the Governor's Advisory Board (GAB) on Child Abuse and Neglect, has announced winners of this year's awards for outstanding advocates for children.

“The Commonwealth recognizes April as [Child Abuse Prevention Month](#), but these devoted defenders of children protect Virginia's youngest and most vulnerable citizens every day,” said Paul McWhinney, director of the division of family services for the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS). “Their commitment and the importance of their work cannot be overstated,” McWhinney said.

Among this year's five winners is **Lucien X. Lombardo, Ph.D. of Norfolk**. Dr. Lombardo is a professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Old Dominion University (ODU), where he has taught since 1977, and is renowned as an expert on children and violence. He helped found and is co-faculty advisor for In Support of Children (ISOC) and produces multiple child abuse prevention educational series.

The GAB Awards recognize Virginians who have exhibited a strong commitment to advocacy, protection, prevention, treatment and assistance. Awards were presented at this year's Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month Conference in Richmond on April 22.

The conference is sponsored by the [Virginia Department of Social Services](#) and [Prevent Child Abuse Virginia](#) and co-sponsored by the Governor's Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect, the [Family and Children's Trust Fund](#), and the Virginia Coalition for Child Abuse Prevention. April is recognized as [Child Abuse Prevention Month in Virginia](#) and around the country.

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