

**For Immediate Release**

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Senator Amy Klobuchar Nominates Center for Advanced Studies in Child  
Welfare for *Angels in Adoption*<sup>TM</sup>  
To Be Recognized at National Event in Washington, D.C.

St. Paul, MN – September 4, 2012 – Senator Amy Klobuchar has selected the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare (CASCW) as one of this year’s *Angels in Adoption*<sup>TM</sup> for CASCW’s outstanding advocacy in preparing adoption-competent clinical mental health and child welfare professionals for their work with adopted children and their families. The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI), which orchestrates the *Angels in Adoption*<sup>TM</sup> program, will honor CASCW, along with more than 140 other Angels, at an awards ceremony and gala event September 11-12 in Washington, D.C.

Established in 1999, the *Angels in Adoption*<sup>TM</sup> program is CCAI’s signature public awareness campaign that provides an opportunity for all members of the U.S. Congress to honor the good work of their constituents who have enriched the lives of children in foster and adoptive homes in the United States and abroad.

Located in the University of Minnesota’s School of Social Work, CASCW works to improve the well-being of children and families involved in the child welfare system through research, education, and outreach. CASCW is being honored for its Permanency and Adoption Competency Certificate (PACC), a professional training program that was developed in response to community demand for an adoption-competent mental health and child welfare workforce able to serve the unique and complex clinical and practice needs for adopted individuals and their families.

“Competent post-adoption support and adoption-competent mental health providers are critically needed to support and strengthen adoptive families,” says JaeRan Kim, Project Coordinator at the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare. “We are proud that our Center can contribute toward ensuring that mental health and child welfare practitioners in the state of Minnesota understand the unique and often complex needs of children, youth, and families that have been impacted by foster care and adoption.”

The PACC program provides mental health and child welfare professionals the knowledge and skills they need to work with individuals and families involved in permanency and adoption. This helps to prevent disruptions in the post-adoption period. For more information, please visit the PACC website at <http://z.umn.edu/PACC> and CASCW’s website at <http://z.umn.edu/CASCW>.

In addition to the more than 140 Angels from around the country, several “National Angels” will also be recognized at the ceremony and gala for their dedication and commitment nationally and internationally to child welfare on a grand scale. This year’s

National *Angels in Adoption*<sup>TM</sup> are actress Katherine Heigl, singer/songwriter Josh Kelley, and PEOPLE Magazine. Former National Angels include First Lady Laura Bush, Patti LaBelle, Jane Seymour, Muhammad Ali, the late Dave Thomas, Steven Curtis Chapman, Bruce Willis, Alonzo Mourning, Rhea Perlman, and Kristin Chenoweth.

The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) is a 501(c)3 nonpartisan organization dedicated to raising awareness about the tens of thousands of children in foster care or awaiting adoptive homes in the United States and the millions of children around the world in need of permanent, safe, and loving homes through adoption. CCAI's goal is the elimination of the barriers that hinder these children from realizing their basic right of a family.

CCAI does not receive any government funding and they rely on the generous support of foundations, corporations, and individuals to accomplish their mission. For more information visit [www.ccaainstitute.org/](http://www.ccaainstitute.org/) and [www.angelsinadoption.org](http://www.angelsinadoption.org).

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