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NCECA ANNOUNCES 2016 AWARDS

FOR IMMEDIATE CIRCULATION

Mr. and Mrs. William Bracker
TO RECEIVE THE REGIONAL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE DURING
MAKERS, MENTORS AND MILESTONES:
THE 50TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON EDUCATION FOR THE CERAMIC ARTS

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI - (November 10, 2016) – Kansas City, Missouri is preparing to serve as site host of the 50th Annual Conference of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts. The 2016 conference theme, *Makers, Mentors and Milestones* will explore the personal, social and aesthetic forces that animate creative work with elemental materials, methods and ideas in the midst of the information age. The conference will take place March 16-19, 2016 at the Kansas City Convention Center, 301 West 13th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64105. During its annual conference, NCECA bestows highly selective awards to individuals who have made significant impact on the field through service, teaching, creative achievement and/ or extraordinary accomplishments.

Recipients of the *Regional Award for Excellence* are individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the ceramic arts within their community or region. With this award, **Anne and the late Bill Bracker** join a very limited list of influential and creative individuals who have invigorated their community through their devotion to clay. As members of NCECA, Bill and Anne attended the meetings of the Council in the early 1970s. In fact, connections they made at the annual conference in 1973 led to the Brackers' move to the midwest where their nurturing influence on the region's clay community blossomed in impact over the following decades.

Bill and Anne have been passionate advocates for the arts in Kansas and Missouri for forty years and have affected the growth of the ceramics community in this area in a variety of ways. They were founding members of the KC Clay Guild, and simultaneously active leaders in the Lawrence Potters Guild. They participated in numerous art fairs and art education conferences, presenting demonstrations and lessons in the interest of ceramic art education and advocacy. As the needs of their community grew, Bill and Anne's salt-glaze pottery business also grew and ultimately evolved to address the region's growing need for a knowledgeable ceramic supplier.

Bill passed away in 1993, and the supply business continued to grow and thrive under Anne's leadership. Anne Bracker's generosity of spirit and advocacy continue to demonstrate the couple's resilient and impactful commitment for ceramic art education, supporting many collegiate, K-12 and community ceramic programs throughout Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

This award will be officially presented during *Makers, Mentors and Milestones*, the 50th annual conference of the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts. The conference takes place in Kansas City, Missouri from March 16-19, 2016. The awards ceremony will occur on Friday, March 18th at 5:15 pm in the Kansas City Convention Center, Grand Ballroom 2501B.

ABOUT NCECA

NCECA, the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts is the leading organization operating in the U.S. dedicated to a global perspective on ceramic arts and education. A dynamic membership organization that fosters global education and appreciation for the ceramic arts, NCECA's programs, exhibitions and public events promote and improve the field through education, community building, research and creative inspiration. For more information, visit www.nceca.net.