



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Drama Therapists Receive National Research Award**

**Diana Feldman and Emilie Ward of ENACT are recognized by the National Association for Drama Therapy for their research demonstrating the efficacy of drama therapy.**

Evanston, IL, November 17, 2010. The National Association announced the recipients of this year's prestigious Research Award as Diana Feldman and Emilie Ward. The award is given for their work with ENACT, a non-profit organization that uses its pioneering creative drama approach to promote self-awareness for dynamic change in New York City public schools. Under the leadership of Feldman and Ward, ENACT received a Ford Foundation Grant to research the impact of using creative drama and drama therapy techniques to help students in New York City public schools learn social and emotional skills. The research helps identify best practices and training needs for engaging students, provides supporting quantitative data that demonstrates the efficacy of the ENACT model, and measures change on three levels, the student, the classroom and the school. Through the research, they hope to show that certain practices yield certain responses in children's social and emotional skill growth as well as positive classroom climate changes and school wide effects.

Diana Feldman is the founder and Executive Director of ENACT and Emilie Ward is the Director of Research and Training. Their work using drama therapy to teach social skills and emotional intelligence has been published in *Current Approaches to Drama Therapy*. Both have presented at national conferences about the ENACT approach.

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## **ABOUT NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR DRAMA THERAPY**

The National Association for Drama Therapy (NADT) was incorporated in 1979 to establish and uphold rigorous standards of professional competence for drama therapists. The organization maintains requirements that must be met to qualify as a registered drama therapist (RDT). NADT promotes drama therapy through information and advocacy.

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