

'Zoey's Room' Web site creator wins national cable award

ROCKLAND — Erin Reilly, executive director of Platform Shoes Forum, a local nonprofit consulting group, was honored with a Cable's Leaders in Learning Award for creating and implementing innovative ways to educate students and for making a substantial contribution to learning in Rockland and beyond.

Reilly was one of four winners nationwide who were honored in Washington, D.C., last week. She was recognized for creating "Zoey's Room," a national online community that encourages girls ages 10 through 14 to expand their knowledge of science, technology, engineering, math and 21st century skills. Zoey'sRoom.com is designed to introduce or re-engage young girls to science

using a culturally savvy, cool-tech community.

"Zoey's Room" is the only character-driven Web site that provides girls with one-on-one access to Zoey, a friend and mentor who chats online with girls every day and encourages them to try online challenges.

"I am honored to be one of the winners of the Leaders in Learning Award," said Reilly. "Both girls and their parents have told us firsthand how encouraged they are in their learning through Zoey's Room, but receiving this award gives greater credibility and visibility to our program."

Time Warner Cable and Cable in the Classroom, the cable industry's education foundation, present the awards annually in recognition of the most inventive educators,

administrators, community leaders and policy-makers who are transforming education from early childhood through high school.

While in Washington, Reilly met with members of Congress and education leaders, and participated in a series of professional development events. Honorees received \$3,000 from Cable in the Classroom, in addition to the four-day trip to Washington.

"I believe creating a safe and creative collaborative learning community is the next evolution in education. Creating a connection between the real and cyber world allows the world of learning to come direct to the user, wherever he or she may be," added Reilly.

