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Gertrude Wilks to receive award

Mrs. Gertrude Wilks will be honored tonight in Washington, D.C., by the Black Child Development Institute for her contribution to the education of black children. Mrs. Wilks is founder of the Nairobi Day and High Schools in East Palo Alto and is the director of Mothers For Equal Education.

The Black Child Development Institute is an independent black non-profit agency working at the national level as an advocate and resource for meeting the developmental needs of black children.

BCDI directs services to black communities, monitors public policies relating to black children and stimulates as well as disseminates black research.

In a letter to Mrs. Wilks, BCDI executive director Evelyn Moore said, "As exemplified by the outstanding quality of the child development services of the Nairobi Day School, the Institute believes that the work of the

Mothers for Equal Education is proof of what can be accomplished for black children when black parents join together to work in their communities."

Others slated to receive awards at the ceremony,

which will recognize contributions to black youth, are legislators Shirley Chisholm, Barbara Jordan and William Clay; entertainers, The Jackson Five; and authors, John Steptoe, Toni Cade Bambara and Gwendolyn Brooks.