

## With support from Michigan's Race to the Top- Early Learning Challenge grant:

We are working across community colleges to determine how to offer a common set of courses for CDA completion that would be available on line.

- Conducted research from diverse provider groups on how they are accessing CDA training, and why they are choosing each platform, and compiled a list of CDA platforms that are currently available to providers in Michigan,
- Distributed a survey of community colleges to gather CDA course offerings, and to gauge interest in working on this project.
- Attended meetings (EarlyEDU, Great Plains IDEA) to learn about models that could be duplicated to create an accessible, streamlined, common set of credit- bearing coursework for providers.
- Shared information about the project at various meetings of community colleges and universities across the state.
- First meeting of interested colleges will be in August to provide a project overview, share and discuss other models, and syllabi, and create a cohort of colleges willing to work to develop the CDA training coursework.
- A level of financial support will be provided for regularly bringing participating colleges together for course development.

We have targeted T.E.A.C.H. scholarships for home based providers (these range from CDA support to AA to BA).

- Working to develop and update a broad range of outreach materials to recruit new family and group home providers to access available scholarships. Examples include: production of vignettes, direct mailings, flyers, brochures, web/email materials.
- Collaborate with partner organizations and the Great Start to Quality network to share information about scholarships.

We have created a new T.E.A.C.H. scholarship to support individuals wishing to earn a ZS (Early Childhood-General/Special Education) endorsement.

- Created a work group to research and make a recommendation for a new model to help support employees that work in a program under a bargaining unit contract, or with restrictions about supporting educational expenses.
- Created a new scholarship stipend model that provides support without any sponsorship requirements from employers. The scholarship provides support at \$200 per credit for Associate degree coursework, and \$350 per credit for Bachelor degree coursework.
- Created a new scholarship model to reimburse the cost of the ZS test fee. Support will be provided at 85% T.E.A.C.H. 15% recipient, and includes a \$50 bonus for the recipient.

We are working on articulation from two year community colleges to four year colleges.

- A team of 6 ECE professionals from Michigan, including 2 community college faculty, 2 university faculty, the professional development specialist from the Office of Great Start, and the Director of T.E.A.C.H., have

participated in developing and working on a project and plan to improve articulation/transfer agreements for community colleges and universities.

- The plan included supporting community colleges to pursue a common set of high quality standards (NAEYC Accreditation) and universities accepting the courses as a “block” transfer and evaluating their programs to determine what a transfer student had remaining to take at the bachelor degree level.
- Within the team, each of the community colleges developed new block transfer agreements with both of the bachelor degree granting universities. These agreements will serve as models to support other institutions in developing block articulation/transfer agreements.
- Funding from RTT will be provided to support 6 community colleges to become accredited, and 3 community colleges to maintain their accreditation (renew).
- Funding from RTT will support providing NAEYC associate degree accreditation training for colleges interested in attending to learn more about the process as they pursue accreditation. The first NAEYC training was held in May and had 5 colleges attend that were interested in pursuing accreditation, and 2 additional that were interested in renewal.
- The articulation team plan included gathering the community colleges and universities together each year at a Higher Ed Summit to collaborate and discuss articulation/transfer agreements.
- The first IHE Summit was held in May, and had 55 attendees (22 associate and bachelor degree colleges represented).
  - The summit included speakers from the Office of Great Start, a T.E.A.C.H. graduate, a keynote from Mott Community College, and a panel of high quality program directors who hire college students and graduates for their program. They shared information on what they were looking for when hiring new staff, where they felt higher education programs were doing well, and what areas graduates and students could use more support with.
  - NAEYC accreditation and the block transfer idea were shared with attendees.
  - Each attendee was given a toolkit which included information about NAEYC accreditation, Michigan’s CKCC document, information about the Institute of Medicine report, and an action plan to complete before the next summit.
  - As the team planned for this summit, it was decided that we didn’t want to lose the momentum gained with the first summit, so a 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit is planned for November of 2015 to really dig into the details and makings of high quality articulation/transfer agreements.

For more information:

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