

DEVELOPING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

APRIL 2011

Early Educators Are Honored!

Last March, DECE conducted a partnership meeting with very special guest speakers.

Over 30 employers, college staff, funders, and participants gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of the workforce intervention.

The guest speakers included educators who participated in trainings at Holyoke Community College and the Preschool Enrichment Team.

They had training opportunities that lead to college credits and early childhood certification. The training helps centers be-

come accredited and got the ball rolling for staff to work towards certification and teachers are more motivated



Panel Members:
Christine Fitzgerald, Preschool Teacher, Lead Teacher Certificate –HCC Square One –MCDI site
Wilmarsy Sanchez, Preschool Teacher, Lead Teacher Certificate –HCC, Valley Opportunity Council
Evelyn Torres, Preschool Teacher, Bilingual CDA, Valley Opportunity Council

to complete a degree which leads to increased employment skills and economic improvement.

According to the Center for Child Care Employment Year 3 report found “Almost all (94 percent) of the graduates who were supervised by a mentor/coach strongly agreed that the mentor/coach provided the guidance and supervision they needed and provided enough opportunities for reflection (87 percent).

As mentioned by our educators, this program intervention provided opportunities for increased self esteem, accepting professionalism. The career counseling provided them with the opportunity to complete their training with confidence. Over 200 educators have participated and employers agree it has been a benefit to their program quality.

DECE HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ 86% completion rates of training and education opportunities.
- ◆ 5 completed Bachelor’s Degrees and 9 completed Associate’s Degree
- ◆ 82% of DECE goal received a wage increase as a result of training.
- ◆ 45% Participant promotion of DECE goal
- ◆ 55% of unemployed participants have obtained credentialing and become employed

Katie Rae’s CDA Story

What training did you receive from DECE partnership?
CDA course & certificate

Did you get career counseling from Preschool Enrichment Team and if so how helpful was it to achieve your training goal?
N/A- but it was offered!

How did the training improve your work with children?
The CDA course was very beneficial to me and my career. I have a more complete understanding on the growth and development of children. I enjoyed learning

and compiling my portfolio during the course. The instructors were incredible! They were so knowledgeable and supportive!

What are your next steps in career?
I would like to continue my education and learning through trainings and eventually go back to school part-time for a Bachelors Degree.

What advice do you have for employers and institutions of higher education that create and/or support training programs for their

staff?

The program is very beneficial to people who cannot further their education full time. It is designed for teachers who are working in the field and is highly supported. The program is all hands on and it was great to work with people who have the same passion for teaching like I do. If this program was not available, I would still be struggling to further my education. I feel lucky to have been able to participate in such a wonderful opportunity!



**Kati Rae- Preschool K
Lead Teacher
Chicopee Child Development
CDA Certification Graduate 2010**

REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT BOARD OF HAMPDEN COUNTY, INC.

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Developing Early Childhood Educators

The overall purpose of this project is to help partnerships address the workforce development needs of their business, and to increase staff professionalism by growing the number of teachers with credentialing, and higher education which will result in higher quality instruction in partner programs and ultimately better education for young children.

DECE Funders

Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund via Commonwealth Corporation and support from the Irene E. and George A. Davis Foundation.

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*Your Connection to Workforce
Development*

DECE Next Steps

The partnership will meet once again in June to provide the lessons learned and project outcomes.

There will be a second report on Business Impacts results provided by early childhood education program employers.

Employers will provide information on what has changed and what was the investment worth the return.

Employers are asked to help document participant Outcomes & Wage Gain provided to employees.

Watch out for a celebration of Educator Accomplishments!

The Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund (WCTF) funding will be ending on June 30th, 2011 there will be a final report distributed to all partners and community supporters.

Our intention is to highlight the progress gained and provide a replication model. Many employers have expressed the values they see in DECE partnership.

They can collaborate with other programs to brainstorm solutions to the professional development dilemmas.

They can leverage resources to increase training opportunities for many in the field and improve the quality of their programs.

The children and families of Hampden County benefit from having competent educators in the field working towards increasing their knowledge and expertise in early childhood education.

“To have staff accomplish their goals and get their Associates Degree is Wonderful. We are able to account the AA for NAEYC accreditation and QRIS”

Charity Provost, Director
Armory Square Child Care