



News from WA Scholarships

Congratulations to all of our 2017 graduates! Your hard work, commitment, dedication and perseverance in spite of 12-hour days and the stress of exams and observations have truly inspired us. Thank you for the photos of your graduations. We love sharing them with our staff from around the state and with other early learning professionals who are considering higher education.



Marie Vergara, BA graduate,
University of Washington

pursued Bachelor's Degrees—more than we have ever supported before!

Each scholar makes a difference not only for their future and their family's, they also make a difference in very real ways in the lives of the children and families they care for. We hear inspiring stories all the time about how things learned in the ECE classroom or in an online class are immediately put into practice in child care programs large and small all across WA. Thank you for going the extra mile for kids.

For Washington Scholarships and Child Care Aware of Washington, the start of summer marks end of one fiscal year and the beginning of a new one. While we are still waiting for all of our "official" 2017 numbers, we are excited to share that we have been honored to support 502 early learning professionals in the year ended June 30, 2017. Of these, 78

News from Early Achievers

Good news! The Washington State Department of Early Learning's recent Spring 2017 Early Achievers updates provide some simplification for participants, and recognize providers that are nationally accredited. The updates **do not** contain new rules or requirements. All of the updated policies take effect July 16, 2017.

- DEL removed the facility profile and self-assessment from the Level 2 application, making it easier to complete.
- Providers can earn five points and an Early Achievers Area of Specialization if they are nationally accredited with either the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the American Montessori Society or the National Association for Family Child Care. Unrated providers can provide proof of current accreditation beginning July 16, 2017. Rated providers can earn the Accreditation Area of Specialization by submitting proof of current accreditation to DEL's QRIS inbox at qris@del.wa.gov.
- During onsite data collection for rating, data collectors will sample child files instead of reviewing all child files.
- DEL has expanded the list of approved curricula and assessments that demonstrate alignment to state curricular and assessment guidelines. This means providers can earn one point for aligned curricula without having to complete the Curricular Alignment Tool. Providers also can earn a point by using an aligned assessment without having to complete the WaKIDS alignment tool.
- Since adopting an aligned assessment is worth one point, the Early Learning Guidelines training for staff will be worth two points instead of three.

If you have questions about the updates, please visit DEL's website for more details: <https://del.wa.gov/EarlyAchieversforProviders>.

Congratulations
Bachelor's Degree
Graduates!

Cassandra Howard
Monique Pleasant
Jodi Truman



Scholar Spotlight: Debbie McBayer, Family Support Specialist, Enchanted Little Forest, Everett

Years ago when Debbie McBayer was asked to teach preschool at her church, she had no idea the experience would change her life. But she “fell in love with teaching young children” and decided to pursue a career in ECE.

Her journey has led her to many roles in ECE, including teacher, supervisor and center director. Now she is the family support specialist at Enchanted Little Forest in Everett. She enjoys building great relationships with

parents and staff to best support the adults who are the primary caregivers of the young children there.

She decided to go back to school when she was a center director. She saw that the early learning field was moving toward requiring more child care professionals to earn credentials or degrees. She wanted to set a good example for her staff and attended Everett Community College. Her studies there inspired her to earn a Bachelor's Degree, so she transferred to the University of Washington's Early Childhood and Family Services program, where she just completed her BA.

Participating in Early Achievers provided the opportunity for Debbie to earn a scholarship, and it benefited her center by teaching all of the staff about the importance of high-quality interactions with children.

Debbie hopes more child care professionals will access higher education, and that more supports will be available to help them manage the demands of working long hours in child care *and* attending school. She also hopes that through education WA's child care providers will “feel more value, pride and confidence in themselves and carry that into their classrooms.”

Social and Emotional Learning in the Early Years

New research continues to strengthen our understanding of the importance of social and emotional learning in early childhood. Learning how to manage big emotions, work and play with others and persist at tasks even when they are hard are lifelong skills that, if introduced early, help kids have a strong foundation for kindergarten and beyond.

So how can child care providers incorporate social and emotional learning into their programs? Tricia McCorkle, owner and director of Children's University Child Care Center in Lakewood created this “feelings wall” at her center to “help the kids learn to vocalize their feelings and be able to tell other children, or staff, how they are feeling without acting out or hitting.” It also gives staff the opportunity to explain emotions to the children.

For information and resources on social and emotional learning, visit the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning at <http://www.casel.org/>.



Upcoming Events:

University of WA Early Achievers Institute

July 20-23, 2017

Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue

<https://depts.washington.edu/cqel/professional-development/early-achievers-institutes/>

Starting Strong Conference

Aug. 7—9, 2017

Red Lion Spokane by the Park, Spokane

<http://www.startingstrong.net>

Washington Association for the Education of Young Children (WAEYC) Conference

Oct. 26-28, 2017

Lynwood Convention Center, Lynwood

<http://www.waeyc.org/>

Child Care Aware of Washington Presents the 2017 Elevate Early Learning Conference

Oct. 3—4, 2017 / Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center

Elevate brings together relationship-based practitioners, trainers, program administrators and policymakers to attend skill-building sessions and engage in cross-systems conversations to help them become stronger and more successful leaders. This year's gathering will explore the importance of each person's role in building an early learning system that addresses the opportunity gap, providing children with a solid foundation for success in school and life. 2017 Elevate tracks include: Early Childhood Policy, Leadership Foundations, Coaching, Child Development and Professional Well-Being. Visit <http://wa.childcareaware.org/EL> for more information.



Program Reminders:

Transcripts: If you graduated spring quarter, please send us a copy of your degree! You can also send an unofficial transcript showing your completed degree. We want to recognize you for all your hard work! Please submit your information via email to scholarships@wa.childcareaware.org or fax: 253-572-2599.

Graduation Fees: Did you know WA Scholarships covers the cost of the fee associated with applying for your degree or certificate? Submit a copy of your receipt with a completed Form B and we will reimburse the graduation application fee you paid. The reimbursement request Form B can be found online at <http://wa.childcareaware.org/providers/scholarships/forms-instructions/scholarship-forms>.

Congratulations CDA Graduates!

Loretta "Lori" Bertis
Mindy Broten
Beatriz Brougher
Maria Dempsey
Arlene Gibson
Elaine Gibson
Tiffany Horak
Kathryne Jacobson
Celine McCormick
April Murry
Wyleen Perry McCrary
Elizabeth Roberts
Maria Romero
Belen Rosales
Lorena Sanchez Cruz
Sofia Shuman
Liu Su
Linda Sullivan
Earnestine Turner
Nicole Van Norman

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Washington Scholarships for Child Care Professionals offers scholarships to early learning professionals to enrich their expertise. Our goal is to advance the early learning field by increasing educational achievement and helping early learning professionals achieve their goals.

Contact us for more information by phone, email or through our website:

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