News from Child Care Aware of WA Scholarships

Fall is a great time of year to get prepared for a great academic year. Make sure your education information in MERIT is current, double check to be sure all of your scholarship forms are submitted and start researching national scholarships and other sources of higher education funding, including any scholarships offered at your college/university.

It’s also time to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2020-21 academic year. Forms for next year were made available Oct. 1. For full information, visit https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa.

By now you have probably heard a lot about the Washington educational requirements for child care licensing that came out with the Aug. 1 WACs. There are three pathways providers can choose from to meet the requirements in the next five years. The Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families has a great graphic outlining the three pathways. You can find it here: https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WADEL/2019/07/15/file_attachments/1248197/Education%20Requirements.pdf.

If you’re considering earning a BA in ECE to meet the requirements, visit us at https://childcareawarewa.org/providers/#scholarships to learn about our scholarships.

Scholar Spotlight—April Nicholas, Lower Columbia College Head Start, Longview

April Nicholas used to work three part-time jobs while raising two sons, so she knows how hard it can be to go back to school. But, she said “I knew I needed an education so that we could actually live...There is always a way if you are determined to go and know what you want.”

Now she’s the lead teacher at Lower Columbia College Head Start and is working toward her BA in Children’s Studies at Eastern Washington University via their online program. Being able to attend school online allows her to continue to serve children in her community while she’s in school.

April credits her scholarship from CCA of WA Scholarships with making it possible for her to be a lead teacher, because she could not attend the university without the support the scholarship provides, and Head Start requires teachers to have degrees.

Advocacy Matters

Early learning professionals frequently put the needs of children ahead of their own needs. Sometimes this can mean missing a break or staying up late to finish a project for kids. And sometimes it can mean being braver than we think we are.

Parents and early learning professionals can really make a difference when they make themselves heard in Olympia and in Washington, D.C. Legislators want to hear from their constituents. There are many ways to be heard — email, hand-written letters or even in-person visits and speaking with legislators. Nathalia Medina, an Early Achievers provider in Yakima, recently spoke with legislators in Olympia.

“I advocate because I know that the work we do as providers is important...I believe we have the power to make changes when we join and express our needs and concerns at the state level.”

You can advocate too at https://childcareawarewa.org/advocacy/take-action.
Child Care Aware of Washington Scholarships

1001 Pacific Ave., Suite 400
Tacoma, WA 98402

Fall Reminders:

**Academic Advising Forms**—Please submit your Academic Advising Form at the beginning of each scholarship contract. This form tells us about your academic plans and must be signed by both the scholar and an academic advisor. This and other scholarship forms can be found online: [https://childcareawarewa.org/providers/scholarship-forms/](https://childcareawarewa.org/providers/scholarship-forms/)

**Other financial Aid**—Do you receive financial aid in addition to your CCA of WA scholarship? If so, we would like a copy of your financial aid awards each quarter. This information helps us to calculate your tuition voucher. Please send financial aid information to us via email (along with your schedule) to scholarships@wa.childcareaware.org.

### Stay Connected!


CCA of WA on Instagram at wachildcarematters

CCA of WA on Twitter: @childcarewa

Child Care Aware of Washington Scholarships is generously funded by the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families.