News from Child Care Aware of WA Scholarships

Congratulations to all our Child Care Aware of Washington Scholarships graduates! We celebrate you! Going to college while working full-time is always challenging. Doing so during a pandemic is doubly challenging. Thank you for your commitment to early childhood and to the children, families and communities you serve.

We also thank you for your advocacy for early childhood education scholarships in Washington. Your voices were heard! ECE scholarship programs in our state have been funded, including ours at Child Care Aware of WA. We are thrilled we can continue to offer scholarships for bachelor’s degree programs in ECE and for coaching certificates for early learning coaches. If you know an early childhood educator or coach who is looking for financial support to deepen their knowledge and enrich their expertise via higher education, please send them our way.

Did you know that the new Working Connections Child Care subsidy reimbursement rates have been posted by the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families? You can find them here: [https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/getting-help/wccc](https://dcyf.wa.gov/services/earlylearning-childcare/getting-help/wccc).

Scholar Spotlight - Maria Arias, Colorines Child Care, Chelan

Maria Arias lives the spirit of giving back and making her community a better place. She has operated her home-based child care small business for 32 years and in that time she has helped hundreds of young children and their families in multiple ways, including by helping them become bilingual speakers of Spanish and English.

She is the mother of four grown children who have all attended, or are now attending, college. She also is a volunteer CPR instructor and has volunteered to help people get their COVID-19 vaccines at a time that works for them. And she has done all this while going to school to earn her Bachelor’s Degree in Education with a concentration in Dual Language Early Childhood Education.

“We never know how much good we can do until we do it,” she said.

Maria attends Goddard College and expects to graduate in March 2022. “For me, it is an honor that I received this scholarship because it helped me a lot, especially during...the pandemic,” she said, adding that she never closed during the pandemic.

Check Fall 2021 COVID-19 Requirements

Fall quarter will be here before we know it. Some colleges require that all students be fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus. Since it takes between five and six weeks for people to be fully protected after they are vaccinated, scholars will want to plan ahead of time so they don’t miss classes when fall quarter starts. Talk to your healthcare provider and visit the WA State Dept. of Health for more information. [https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/Vaccine](https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/Vaccine)
Summer Reminders:

**Graduation photos**—Congratulations to our newest grads! Please share your joy with us by emailing a photo of yourself in your graduation garb to scholarships@childcareawarewa.org. We may share it on our social media and/or other materials.

**Fair Start for Kids Act**—Gov. Inslee signed the Fair Start for Kids Act on National Child Care Provider Appreciation Day, May 7. You can learn how this new legislation strengthens our child care system by increasing family eligibility and raising provider reimbursement rates here: https://childcareawarewa.org/fair-start-for-kids-act-benefits/.

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