



T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA Newsletter

Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children

Volume 4, Issue 2

Spring 2007

A quarterly newsletter for
T.E.A.C.H. scholarship
recipients and sponsoring
centers

Iowa AEYC Staff:

Barb Merrill, Executive Director/Program
Manager
E-mail: bmerrill@iowaaeyc.org

Susan Foster, Counseling Specialist
E-mail: susan@iowaaeyc.org

Stacie Steveson, Counseling Specialist
E-mail: stacie@iowaaeyc.org

Pat Dautremont, Administrative Assistant
E-mail: pat@iowaaeyc.org

Rhonda Bancroft, Membership Services
Specialist
E-mail: rhonda@iowaaeyc.org

Ashley Segal, Accountant
E-mail: ashley@iowaaeyc.org

5525 Meredith Drive, Suite F
Des Moines, IA 50310

Phone: 515-331-8000
Fax: 515-331-8995

"Education for Iowa's Child Care
Workforce"

Ready to move on for your bachelors' degree? ...

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA is pleased to announce that beginning fall semester 2007 we will offer T.E.A.C.H. contracts for bachelors' degree coursework! This spring, we sought and received approval from our license holders, Child Care Services Association, North Carolina, and our funding partners, to move forward in offering a bachelors' degree scholarship option in Iowa, on a limited basis.

Am I eligible?

Current T.E.A.C.H. recipients and graduates from a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship program will be prioritized to begin fall semester 2007. After August 1 we will accept applicants who meet the eligibility requirements but have not yet completed at least one successful contract on T.E.A.C.H., as funding allows.

You must have already completed at least 60 college credits on a community college level or from previous attendance at a four-year college before moving to a T.E.A.C.H. bachelors' scholarship. If you are on a T.E.A.C.H. contract, we will request that you complete your associates' degree, as well as this 60 credit minimum, before moving on.

Only those employed in a regulated child care program or preschool will be eligible. This opportunity is designed for those already in the child care workforce!

A limited number of scholarships will be available for fall semester. This number will increase as funding is available for the 2008 spring and summer semesters.

Where can I go to college?

You can attend any of Iowa's accredited colleges or universities. We will support tuition only up to the rate charged by the public universities. In other words, if someone chooses to attend a private college because of local availability/accessibility issues, the additional tuition must be covered by the student (provider) through other forms of financial aid, loans, etc. The center/preschool "share" of the scholarship will be based on the public university rate only.

What can I study?

We will support early childhood bachelors' degrees, whether or not they include teacher licensure. We will support the early childhood endorsement course requirements if you already have a bachelors' degree and teacher licensure at another level. We will NOT fund elementary education or other degrees without early childhood.

Each T.E.A.C.H. contract will support 9-18 credits each year. You will have time for studying, your job, your family, your life!

If you have general education requirements that can be completed more conveniently and more inexpensively at a community college, our counselors may recommend that you do another year of an associates' level contract to complete these requirements before moving on.

How do I begin?

Contact us (pat@iowaaeyc.org) for an application packet for T.E.A.C.H. funding. Complete your federal financial aid application (www.fafsa.ed.gov) online for the 2007-08 school year. Begin investigating your college options and choose two or three colleges or universities to consider. Research the college's early childhood program and their admissions requirements.

We're excited! We hope you are too.

Barb

Congratulations ...



Many congratulations are in order as T.E.A.C.H. recipients have met milestones since our last newsletter. We hope we don't forget anyone, but if we've missed you, please remind us so that we can recognize you in our next newsletter.

Elisha Dressic has been named the **Caregiver of the Year** by Child Care Council, Inc. Each year the Council recognizes an individual that exemplifies outstanding qualities of an early care provider. This year's recipient was Elisha Dressic! Elisha started with T.E.A.C.H. in 2005. She has already received her CDA Credential, and is currently pursuing her Associates' Degree. Elisha has worked at Apple Tree Children's Center in West Des Moines for seven years; and is currently a Lead Infant Teacher. Elisha's co-workers and families have described her as "very dedicated" and "warm, caring, and extremely observant". The center also stated that Elisha's determination has encouraged other teachers at her site to seek continued education. Congratulations Elisha! The Child Care Council is an association of directors of child care programs in central Iowa who have met together monthly, supporting each other's professionalism, for over 25 years. For more information or to get involved, call Susan Foster in our office.

Congratulations to Mary Jackson, a center director from Waukon for receiving her **Early Childhood Associate in Arts Degree** from Northeast Iowa Community College in December 2006. Those that are graduating this spring, please send us a copy of your diploma or transcript as proof so we add you to the next newsletter.

Help us RECRUIT for T.E.A.C.H. ...

Current recipients of a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship are the best advertisers we have! You could help your friends learn more about T.E.A.C.H.

Thanks to a donation from Jason Daniel at Lakeshore Learning, we will offer you a **\$15.00 gift certificate to Lakeshore** for every new provider you refer to us who signs a T.E.A.C.H. contract. To be eligible for the funds, the new applicant **MUST** list you on his/her application as how she heard about T.E.A.C.H., must be approved and must sign a 12-month contract. Only current scholarship recipients are eligible for the gift certificates. Help us spread the word.

Community College News ...

Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) is planning to offer the ten-credit CDA coursework series at the Carroll campus beginning in September 2007. Call Amanda Kirk at DMACC (515-964-6424, ajkirk@dmacc.edu) or Susan Foster (515-331-8000 ext. 13, susan@iowaaeyc.org) in our office for more information.

Southeastern Community College in Burlington is offering early childhood coursework again this summer and fall. Offered this summer will be ECE-290, Early Childhood Program Administration, meeting May 21-24 & May 29-31. It meets each of those days from 8:30 am-4:05 pm on the West Burlington Campus and is taught by Bonnie Niehaus. Tuition will be \$102.00 per credit hour or \$306.00 for this course. This fall, ECE-133, Child Health, Safety and Nutrition will be meeting Monday evenings August 20 - December 10 on the West Burlington Campus. Go to www.scciowa.edu to register or for more information. Congratulations to the advocates in southeast Iowa who have made this happen!

New offerings at your college? Send us an update by July 31 for our summer newsletter.

Sadie Marcum, a child development home provider from Waterloo, has been inducted into the academic honor society, **Phi Theta Kappa**.

Cindy Sloan, a child development home provider from Nevada, was placed on the **President's List** at Des Moines Area Community College.

The following recipients received their **CDA Associate Credentials**: Kristina Fleenor, a center teacher from Des Moines; Marcia Gillespie, a center teacher from Council Bluffs; and Roseann Messerly, a center teacher from Duncombe.

Iowa Quality Rating System:



Congratulations to the following T.E.A.C.H. recipients who recently received quality ratings. Child Development Home Providers: Lorie Hoffmann from Manchester, Rachael Knight from Alton, and Kim Smith from Marshalltown for receiving Three Star ratings; Allison Crawford from Iowa City, Traci Hidlebaugh from Wilton, Mary Honts from Muscatine, Sadie Marcum from Waterloo, and Jessica Vilovchik from Kalona for receiving Four Star ratings.

Congratulations to the following T.E.A.C.H. sponsoring centers: Handicare Incorporated in Coralville and Kids World, Inc. in Sac City for receiving Four Star ratings; Little Lambs Preschool in Garner, Stepping Stones Early Learning Center in Knoxville, and Wee Learners in Winterset for receiving Three Star ratings.

Myths and Misconceptions about T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA ...

“I want to take your T.E.A.C.H. classes.”

We do not provide the education! We work with accredited Iowa colleges and support you as you earn college credits towards credentials and degrees in early childhood education.

“I don’t have the money up front to pay and wait for a reimbursement.”

T.E.A.C.H. has a charge approval agreement with the colleges. Once you are on an active T.E.A.C.H. contract, we will contact the college; and they bill T.E.A.C.H. directly for the tuition. You do not have to pay up front! However, you do need to purchase your textbooks. For most recipients, the funds they are reimbursed for from the program for one semester more than covers the costs of purchasing their textbooks for the next semester.

“As a director, I’m sure my center cannot afford this.”

The center that can be flexible with scheduling of release time typically receives a check from T.E.A.C.H. every semester for \$100-300 per scholarship recipient, after costs are covered in full. Some centers have earmarked this money to help with their costs towards the annual required raise or bonus. The required raise or bonus rewards a teacher after he/she completes a year of education, and helps to ensure that the better educated teacher stays in your program. How can you afford not to?

“If I do my CDA without college credit, you cannot help me.”

A limited T.E.A.C.H. scholarship provides support for the \$325 CDA credential application fee, and compensates child care providers and teachers with \$200 when they are awarded their credential. To be eligible for this scholarship, you must be working in a regulated child care or preschool, but you can complete your training hours through credit or non-credit offerings.

“My preschool is only part-day, so they don’t want to give me paid release time, so I am ineligible.”

T.E.A.C.H. IOWA now has a part-day preschool model for programs that offer part-day preschools or child care less than 30 hours a week. This model does not require the preschool program to give paid release time, as it is assumed that a part-time employee can take his/her courses at times other than when the children are present. You must be employed all the hours the preschool offers services to children to be eligible for this model.

“If I apply for T.E.A.C.H., my children will not be eligible for other forms of financial aid.”

Not only will you, your spouse, and your college-age children be eligible for grants and other forms of financial aid, typically need-based financial aid increases for everyone if a greater number of members of your family are enrolled in college. T.E.A.C.H. IOWA does require that you apply for financial aid through a Free Application for Federal Student Aid, but does not require you to be awarded a grant to be eligible for T.E.A.C.H.

“I can’t succeed in college, I’m too old.”

Most of our recipients are non-traditional students ranging in age from 18 to 65, all are working full-time in our field. Experienced providers and teachers often have more success in college as they are more highly motivated to succeed, and understand the field and their needs. Do you know someone who can benefit from the support of a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship, and has always wanted to go to school? Encourage them to contact us!

Annual National T.E.A.C.H. / WAGES Conference ...

The T.E.A.C.H. IOWA staff attended the annual National T.E.A.C.H. / WAGES conference in North Carolina in April. Joining over 125 T.E.A.C.H. state office staff members from the other 21 states offering T.E.A.C.H., they participated in two full days of workshops and discussion groups. Here they join Sue Russell, newly elected NAEYC president-elect and creator of T.E.A.C.H. From left to right, Stacie Steveson, Pat Dautremont, Sue Russell, Susan Foster, and Barb Merrill.



What’s New with T.E.A.C.H. ...

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood IOWA has a **part-day model for preschool teachers** working on an associates’ degree. This model is only available if your program offers preschool or care for more than 20 hours and less than 30 hours a week. The scholarship recipient **MUST** be employed for ALL the hours that children are receiving care. The scholarship provides assistance for tuition, books, a travel stipend, and mandates that compensation increases are given annually. How is it different than our other models? Due to the fact that the teacher is not working 40 or more hours a week, this model does not require the program to give paid release time. We assume the part-time teacher has time in her week to study and go to class! If your program wants to switch a recipient to this model, you are welcome to do that at the end of his/her contract year, as you renew.

Watch your mailbox with your summer reimbursements for a **T.E.A.C.H. Procedures Manual**. This will answer your questions about how we follow through to make sure all requirements of T.E.A.C.H. are being met: raises and bonuses are given, grades are turned in, release time is granted and reimbursed. We hope you will find it helpful!



Teach Early Childhood® IOWA

Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children

5525 Meredith Drive, Suite F
Des Moines, IA 50310

Funding for T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA comes in part from the Iowa Department of Human Services through federal funding from the Child Care Development Fund; from United Way of Central Iowa, Iowa Women’s Leadership Connection; from Iowa Community Empowerment Professional Development; from local Empowerment Areas including: Boone, Floyd-Mitchell-Chickasaw, Marion, Polk, and Story; and from the child care programs who co-sponsor a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship recipient.

Meet a T.E.A.C.H. Recipient ...

Hello! My name is **Michele Machovsky**. I’m 27 years old. Jeff, my husband of five years, and I moved to Iowa three years ago from South Dakota. I work at Stepping Stones Early Learning Center (SSEL) in Knoxville, Iowa. I started working there when Stepping Stones opened last August. When I first started working for SSEL, Pam asked me if I would be willing to get my CDA. At the time, I had no idea what the CDA was, but I thought "why not"! That’s when I was introduced to the T.E.A.C.H. program. I’m getting ready to start my last semester for my CDA. Once I found out that the T.E.A.C.H. program offered more schooling beyond the CDA classes, I was really interested in going on with my schooling, and plan on continuing on toward my associate degree. My mom started in home daycare when I was a toddler and when I was old enough, I would help her with the kids. My mom is my role model. I started working with children when I was 13-years-old, doing a lot of baby-sitting, and then worked as a nanny for two years. I started working in childcare centers when I was 19. My goal with the T.E.A.C.H. program is to go on to school to get my BA in Early Childhood. I really think the T.E.A.C.H. program is a outstanding program. I love working with children, and I’m very thankful that this program was offered to me.

Ann Fox is a center staff recipient from Johnston. She writes: “I am 73 years old, and have raised five children. I have also taken care of many more children over the years! I only wish I would have known some of the things I have learned in my CDA classes at DMACC during this time. I have learned so much, so many interesting things — one of the most important being you are never too old to learn new things.”

Look at what you’ve achieved! ...

Summer 2006, Fall 2006, & Spring 2007		
Community College	Number of Recipients	Number of Credits
Des Moines Area	126	929
Eastern (Scott)	10	135
Hawkeye	5	30
Indian Hills	7	119
Iowa Central	2	11
Iowa Lakes	3	25
Iowa Valley (Marshalltown)	25	302
Iowa Western	7	97
Kirkwood	20	180
North Iowa Area	8	81
Northeast Iowa	7	78
Southwestern	25	103
Western Iowa	3	43

Important Dates for Recipients:

- **5/07—If you haven’t already done so: contact T.E.A.C.H. about your summer term courses**
- **5/07—Send us your grades for spring and any other completed semesters**
- **5/07-6/07—Send us your fully completed Form B with attached documentation (book receipts, tuition bill) so we can process your books, travel, and tuition. Home providers: send in your release time at the same time.**
- **5/07-06/07—As soon as possible: apply for financial aid (FAFSA) for the 07/08 school year. Remember to send us your results when you receive them.**
- **06/07-08/07—Contact T.E.A.C.H. about your fall courses**

Reminder: ...

Please use our current contact information (listed on the front page) when trying to reach us. We no longer have our post office box so please send correspondence to our mailing address:

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA
Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children
5525 Meredith Drive, Suite F
Des Moines, IA 50310