



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

**Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children**

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

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**"Education for Iowa's Child Care  
Workforce"**

*Play ... the Missing Link*



## **Iowa AEYC 41st Annual State Conference**

Over 100 workshops, two nationally known keynoters, an exhibit/resource hall, and many other special events await you in Des Moines, October 12-13, 2007! Five workshops will highlight T.E.A.C.H., CDA, and professional development information. Special awards will be presented to former Governor Tom Vilsack and former Iowa AEYC President Anita Hampton. Three pre-conference events, especially targeted for center and preschool administrators but open to all, are featured on Thursday, October 11. Come and learn more about Curriculum, Playgrounds, and New Staff Orientation. The Science Center of Iowa is hosting workshops, tours, a reception, and many special events. Don't miss this opportunity!

All T.E.A.C.H. active scholarship recipients may register for one or both days of the conference using the "student" rate, whether or not you are a full-time student. Register before September 29 for the early bird rate! All centers and Iowa AEYC members should have received their preliminary brochure within the last week. If we have your current email address, you should have also received it from us as an email attachment. If you need us to mail or email a registration brochure, call Rhonda at [rhonda@iowaaeyc.org](mailto:rhonda@iowaaeyc.org).

We look forward to seeing you at the conference October 12-13. If we haven't met you before, we will enjoy the opportunity to meet you in person!

### **From the Program Manager ...**

What an amazing year! Looking at the end of year reports and all the data, I continue to be amazed by the success of you, our Iowa child care workforce, as you move up the professional development ladder, earning credentials, college credits, degrees, and early childhood endorsements. We cannot begin to thank you for all of your hard work, sacrifices, and efforts in getting this done.

Do you know we think of you as Iowa's child care leaders, both of today and of the future? You are demonstrating an understanding of the need for formal education to help you meet your goals. We are here to help you achieve that!

Remember, T.E.A.C.H. is not only a scholarship program to assist with your education, we are here to affect compensation and increase retention in our field. We need your feedback and your suggestions. Don't miss the opportunity to complete your evaluation form at the end of every contract year. To increase our funding and make change happen, we need your stories. Share with us your frustrations and your successes!

We can't begin to tell you how proud we are of all of you!

*Barb*

## Congratulations ...



Congratulations to some of our newest graduates! Kelly Ford, a child development home provider from Marlon, received her Associate Degree from Kirkwood Community College. Brandy Herink, a center teacher from Boone, received her Associate Degree from Des Moines Area Community College. Jeanne Jo Kramer, a child development home provider from Waucoma, received her Associate Degree from Northeast Iowa Community College. Natalie Snyder, a center director from Colfax, received her Associate Degree from Des Moines Area Community College. Dorothy Roby, a child development home provider from Waterloo, completed the Child Care Apprenticeship/Degree Program through Hawkeye Community College.

Jon Ann Beede, a child development home provider from Creston, is now nationally accredited through the National Association of Family Child Care.

Many of our recipients received their CDA credentials in the past few months. Congratulations to:

Jennifer Bell, Madrid;	Belinda Graves, Evansdale;	Christine Mallow, Glenwood;	Molly Scott, Lake View;
Kim Bonjour-Eiteman, Perry;	Marci Gutierrez, Davenport;	Shawna Martin, Des Moines;	Crystal Sebben, Waukee;
Jeffrey Dodds, Coralville;	Traci Hidlebaugh, Wilton;	Wendy Meisheid, Lake View;	Kristine Seeman, Boone;
Juanita Duplanter, Des Moines;	Debbie Irving, Princeton;	Jane Petrick-Loux, Sac City;	Elma Thomas, Waterloo;
Joellen Durbin, Panora;	Barbara Irwin, West Liberty;	Sally Riedell, Lake View;	Deborah Wibe, Madrid.
Laurie England, Perry;	Sharon Kisner, Waterloo;	Felicia Russell, Waterloo;	
Olivia Espinoza, Des Moines;	Brenda Krambeck, Davenport;	Maria Saldana, Des Moines;	
Candice Findling, Coralville;	Amy Lane, Sac City;	Rosa Sayles, Iowa City;	

Many of our recipients are on the Deans' Lists or President's Lists at their colleges for outstanding grades and academic records. We only hear from a few of you; please let us know if you have received this honor so we can share. Congratulations to Valerie Gerks from Princeton for being placed on the Dean's List at Scott Community College and Cindy Sloan from Nevada for being placed on the President's List at Des Moines Area Community College.

Congratulations to Lisa Murphy of Waukon and Tricia Eastwood of Grinnell for each receiving a Five Star rating on the Iowa Quality Rating System. If you've received a QRS rating, please mail us a copy of your certificate. If you don't want us to list your rating in this newsletter, please let us know.

Congratulations to Elisha Dressic who is the proud parent of a new baby boy, Dominic, who was born on Father's Day.

New Babies? Marriages? Other good news to share? Please let us know by November 1 for our fall newsletter

## Did You Know?

### Word of Mouth is our Best Marketing Tool

If you tell a friend about T.E.A.C.H., be sure to remind them to put YOUR name on their application form as they answer the question, "How did you learn about T.E.A.C.H.?" Every approved application with your name on it earns you a \$15.00 gift certificate, thanks to **Lakeshore Learning!**

All T.E.A.C.H. forms and information will soon be on the Iowa AEYC website at [www.iowaaeyc.org](http://www.iowaaeyc.org). We'll let you know when it is ready!

Fifty-six CDA applications were mailed to the Council for Professional Recognition in August!

## Meet the Staff ...



**Pam Ellis**

Hi, I'm Pam Ellis and I am the new part-time T.E.A.C.H. Counselor for the bachelor/endorsement level scholarship participants. I received my MA in Child Development from Iowa State University and my BS in Psychology from Briar Cliff College. I've worked in the early childhood field for the past twenty years in a variety of positions. I have been a teacher, a director of an NAEYC accredited child care center, a trainer, and an accreditation and curriculum consultant. I continue to do some part-time training for Child Care Resource & Referral. I live in Pleasant Hill with my husband, Heath, and my daughters, Shelby, age 12, and Sydney, age 10. I love to read, go on walks, and spend time with my family. I'm excited about working at Iowa AEYC and assisting those who wish to pursue a bachelor's degree or endorsement in early childhood!



**Nicki Varble**

Nicki joined our staff on July 23 as our new Accounting Specialist. Nicki has a BA degree in economics, business, and finance; and experience working in accounting and payroll for several companies in California. A native Iowan, she and her husband relocated back to Urbandale a few years ago to be near family. Nicki is the mother of three young children, and will be working part-time in our offices.

## What's New With the T.E.A.C.H. IOWA Bachelors' Program ...

There are currently about a dozen providers who are now recipients of the brand new T.E.A.C.H. bachelor's scholarships. If you would like to be a recipient in the future, contact Pat at (515) 331-8000 Ext. 10 or [pat@iowaaeyc.org](mailto:pat@iowaaeyc.org) to request an application. Remember that you must attend an Iowa college or university and work toward an Early Childhood degree or Early Childhood Endorsement. To search for potential colleges, go to the following website: [www.iowaheadstart.org/collegeresourcedirectory.pdf](http://www.iowaheadstart.org/collegeresourcedirectory.pdf). You'll want to choose two to three colleges or universities to consider and find out about their early childhood programs and admissions requirements. When you've chosen one, send them your transcripts and find out what credits you already have that will transfer. (You must have at least 60 college credits taken in the past, or completed recently through a community college to be eligible for a bachelor's scholarship). If you find that you have general education requirements that you can more easily and more inexpensively take at a nearby community college, we might recommend that you do an associate's level T.E.A.C.H. scholarship before moving onto the bachelor's scholarship. Keep in mind that we will only support tuition up to the rate charged by the public universities (which is \$212. per credit hour for Fall, 2007). If you choose a local private college, you will have to pay the additional cost yourself or through other forms of financial aid. You can complete your required federal financial aid application on-line at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Confused? We're learning, too! Contact Pam Ellis for more information at [pam@iowaaeyc.org](mailto:pam@iowaaeyc.org).

## What if I Want to Finish College Faster by Taking More Credits Each Semester? ...

Our scholarship models require you to complete a minimum of nine credits per year. Depending on the model and program you are completing, the maximum credits we allow per contract period is either 15, 18, or 20.

### Why?

We do not want you to experience frustration or failure because you take on too much! You have a very important job caring for young children, perhaps a family and social life, school classes, and homework. Some of you even have a second job! It is our program's experience that you will do better if you take one or two courses per semester, and not more. Your plate is pretty full!

In order to budget for the needs of all participants, we need to know what our expenses will be. Expecting that most recipients will complete 9-15 credits per year allows us to do our budgeting.

Your most important job ... young children and child care ... needs to remain a priority. We are proud that the care children receive from T.E.A.C.H. recipients seems to improve as the months go by, according to reports given to us. We do not want your care to suffer because of your efforts to rush through college by carrying too many courses in a semester. Talk to your counselor if we can help.

### Policy

If you request going over-credits in a fiscal year, T.E.A.C.H. counselors check to make sure you have been earning all As and Bs in your college coursework, and, if you are employed in a center or preschool, check with your employer to make sure your work quality has remained high, and that your program agrees that you could complete extra courses in the months ahead. Then the T.E.A.C.H. Program Manager is asked for the final approval, based on our budget. If we have to deny your request, please continue with your courses and don't hesitate to ask again in the future. We'll make every effort to meet your needs.

### Important Dates for Recipients:

- 9/07—Fall Term Courses: If you haven't already done so, please contact T.E.A.C.H.
- 9/07—Grades: send T.E.A.C.H. your grades for summer and any other completed semesters.
- 9/07—Form B or B/C: send us your fully completed form with attached documentation (book receipts, tuition bill) so we can process your books, travel, tuition, (and home providers release time).
- 9/07—FAFSA: send us your FAFSA results.
- 9/07—Release Time for Centers: submit Form Cs for your staff for summer term.
- 10/07-11/07—Future Term Courses: get T.E.A.C.H. approval for your next term courses.

### Release Time Reimbursements to Increase...

Beginning summer semester 2007, all release time will be calculated per semester using the following formula, rather than counting weeks and multiplying. It should be easier for all!

Number of credits your staff person is enrolled in per semester	Total number of hours of release time you may allow and bill per semester
1	16
2	32
3	48
4	64
5	80
6 or more credits	96

Beginning spring semester 2008 (effective January 1, 2008), T.E.A.C.H. IOWA will reimburse release time using a rate of half of \$7.50 per hour (rather than \$7.00). This is due to the minimum wage increase in January 2008. In a small way, we hope this helps programs as you transition all staff to higher levels of wages.



**Teach Early Childhood® IOWA**

**Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children**

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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 ...**

**Silke Moore** is a teacher in a hospital based child care program in Perry, Iowa. She grew up in Ashaffenburg, Germany, and has lived in central Iowa for a number of years. She has been an employee at the center for eleven years, and began on T.E.A.C.H. in 2004, after already having had completed some college work. In 2006 she earned her associates’ degree of early childhood education with the support of T.E.A.C.H. Since that time, she has changed classrooms and became a teacher in the 3 and 4 year old Shared Visions (state funded preschool) classroom. Her salary, as she earned her degree and made this move within her center, jumped nearly \$3.00 per hour! Silke’s center has taken advantage of her leadership and sent her to several state-wide opportunities, as they work to achieve NAEYC accreditation. Silke participated in three days of state-offered training on Creative Curriculum and is working on portfolio development for her center’s NAEYC accreditation process.

**Silke Shares:**

*“I would recommend T.E.A.C.H. to everyone who is working in the Early Child Development field and needs help to achieve their goal. In the end it will benefit me and especially the children I will be working with throughout the coming years.”*

**Upcoming Events**

- Early Childhood Diversity Conference, Des Moines, September 26
  - Iowa AEYC Annual Conference, Des Moines, October 12-13
  - NAEYC Annual Conference, Chicago, November 7-10
  - Early Childhood Iowa Congress, Ames, November 13-14
  - Day on the Hill, Des Moines, February 14
- The T.E.A.C.H. staff will be presenting at local conferences this fall in Carroll on October 27, in Burlington on November 3, in Creston on November 3, and in Iowa City on November 3, among others. We’d love to have you join us and share information about T.E.A.C.H. at these conferences, if you are planning to attend. Contact your Counselor for more information.

**T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA—Another Year of Success**

**Thanks to you and your efforts!**

**Look at the numbers—June 2006 to June 2007**

2099	Number of college credits completed
315	Number of participants on a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship contract
132	Number of child development homes with a T.E.A.C.H. participant
103	Number of child care centers and/or preschools with a T.E.A.C.H. participant
13.8	Average number of college credits completed per one-year contract
3.6	Grade point average (out of 4.0) of T.E.A.C.H. recipients
6%	Average increase in salary of the T.E.A.C.H. recipients