



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"

Early Childhood Bachelor's Scholarship Opportunities at UNI...

The University of Northern Iowa (UNI) and some area community colleges are offering bachelor's degree opportunities through 2+2 programs. Students take two years of classes at a community college and then two years of classes through UNI. The UNI classes are taught by UNI faculty on location at the community college face-to-face or via teleconferencing.

If you are interested in working towards an Early Childhood Degree or an Early Childhood Endorsement through UNI, you should complete an inquiry form online. Just go to www.uni.edu/2+2. Under the navigation section on the left, click on **archive**. Then click on **admissions**. An inquiry page will appear. By completing it, you will be added to their mailing list and they will know about the need for Early Childhood coursework in your area of the state. The inquiry page will ask for your name, address, community college campus, and branch campuses. When you get to your desired major, there will be a pull down with three choices. If you are interested in Early Childhood, choose the Elementary Education choice for the major. At the end, click on **submit form**. You can also contact Roger Kueter at roger.kueter@uni.edu or call 800-772-2037 for more admission information.

UNI currently has Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) cohorts in Ankeny and Carroll, and a statewide cohort working on their Elementary Education degree; with options of getting an Early Childhood, Special Ed. or Reading Endorsement. They are hoping to launch more statewide cohorts for Early Childhood next year. That is why it is important to get online and let them know you are interested. They want to find 4-5 primary locations at community college settings with 4-5 people in each setting for each cohort. They plan to offer the courses in the evenings with two classes on one night, or possibly on Saturdays. These classes would most likely be delivered in three ways: faculty on location, ICN, or online. UNI has Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters. UNI will delay your \$40 application fee to UNI until they launch the 2+2 program in your area.

Additionally, UNI is hoping to start new Early Childhood Endorsement coursework online and through ICN, with a smaller portion of face-to-face contact. This would lead to the ED100 licensure, Unified Endorsement. Pending approval, it will start in June of 2008. It will be a 15-month program with 16 credit hours. You can contact Jill Uhlenberg for more information about the Endorsement at jill.uhlenberg@uni.edu.

If you want to see which of the credits you have from a community college will transfer to UNI, you can start this process on their website. Go to www.uni.edu home page. Click under **admissions**. Then click on **transfer students**. Scroll down and click on **Transfer plan-it**. They will first ask you to enter your transfer college courses. Next they will ask you to choose a UNI major. (Choose Elementary Education/Early Childhood). They will give you a summary that shows how your community college courses match up with UNI requirements and what you'll be required to take at UNI. Then you can decide if you want more information about UNI and/or apply. Keep in mind that you will need primarily general education classes at a community college that would result in an AA degree. These are the classes that are most likely to transfer. If you have an AS or an AAS degree, you may wish to take additional general education classes at your local community college through T.E.A.C.H. first before moving on to UNI coursework.

Remember to complete the inquiry form online to let them know of your interest so a location in your area will be considered. We hope that there are several cohorts for the Early Childhood coursework available next year! You can contact Pam Ellis at T.E.A.C.H. if you want more information or are interested in finding out more about the Bachelor's Scholarship Program. Her contact information is pam@iowaaeyc.org or call (515)331-8000, ext. 17. T.E.A.C.H. can help with obtaining your bachelor's degree in Early Childhood or the Early Childhood Endorsement. We can support tuition up to the public university rate of \$223.00 per credit (Fall, 2007). UNI is one of Iowa's public universities, so T.E.A.C.H. will cover the cost of this program, with support from you and your child care program.

Congratulations ...



Congratulations to some of our newest graduates! Tiffany Huemann, a child development home provider from Stacyville, received her Associate of Arts Degree from North Iowa Area Community College. Laura Perry, a center teacher from Urbandale, received her Associate of Science Degree in Early Childhood Education from Des Moines Area Community College. Edina Koco, a center teacher from Urbandale, received her Diploma in Early Childhood Education from Des Moines Area Community College.

Kim Wink, a child development home provider from Cedar Rapids, 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:

Stephanie Burgan, Des Moines
Tiffany Carpenter, Altoona
Jessica Cobb, Des Moines
Sherry Crabb, Lytton
Rebecca Darnell, Knoxville
Rachel Davis, Knoxville
Charity DeHaven, Des Moines
Kristina Delaney, Knoxville

Patsy Dix, Des Moines
Kelly Ethell, Altoona
Amelia Liles, Winfield
Michele Macovsky, Knoxville
Michelle McCuddin, Windsor Heights
Michele McDaniel, Earlham
Christina Nelson, Belmond
Pauline Plants, Brooklyn

Teena Porter, Shenandoah
Tami Porter, Shenandoah
Tami Posivio, Iowa City
Amy Renner, Mitchelville
Brenda Schneider, Knoxville
Kathleen Swenka, North Liberty
Elizabeth Wilson, Story City
Tamara Zumach, Bondurant

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 by sending us a copy of your award if you have received this honor so we can share. Congratulations to Debbie Wibe from Madrid for being placed on the President's List at Des Moines Area Community College, Sadie Marcum from Waterloo for being placed on the Dean's List at Hawkeye Community College, and Stacey Steepleton from Marion for being placed on the Dean's List at Kirkwood Community College.

Congratulations to Jessica Vilovchik and Angela Truitt of Kalona, and Kathleen Swenka of North Liberty 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 Keri Bolles who is the proud parent of a new baby girl, Riley Marie; and Lynz Ross who also a proud parent of a new baby.

Congratulations to our T.E.A.C.H. Counselor Susan. She was married on Saturday, December 15 to Dylan Hayes. Here is a picture of her new family from her wedding.

New Babies? Marriages? Are on the Deans' List or President's List at your college? Other good news to share? Please let us know by February 1 for our winter newsletter.



Susan Hayes, Mikayla and Chantelle Foster, Dylan Hayes

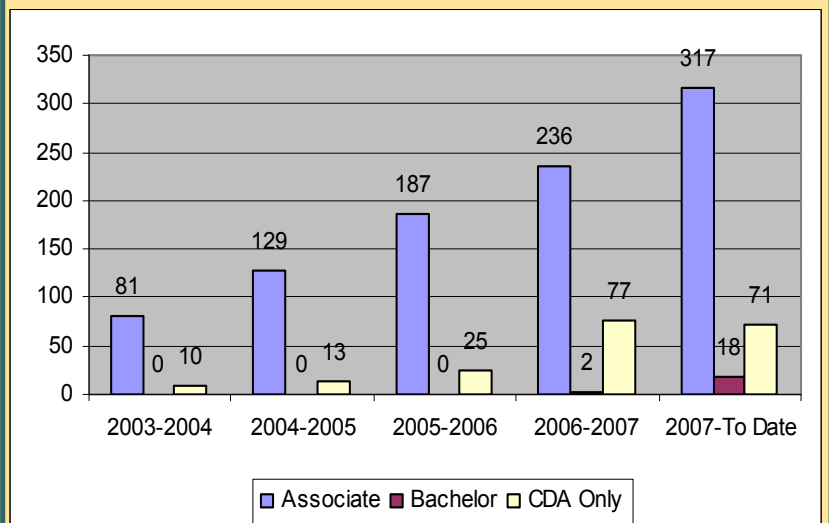
Release Time Changes for 2008 ...

Due to the fact that federal minimum wage is increasing to \$7.25 per hour effective January 1, 2008, the T.E.A.C.H. Advisory Committee recommended a new reimbursement rate for release time, effective spring semester. T.E.A.C.H. will be reimbursing \$3.75 per hour for earned release time, supporting half the cost of the paid time off for the scholarship recipient. You do not need to do anything at this time...just recognize that your reimbursement check for spring semester will be slightly higher than in the past.

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

See How We've Grown ...

This spring, T.E.A.C.H. will celebrate a 5th anniversary of offering services for Iowa's child care workforce.



Letter from your Program Manager ...

Happy Holidays to you all from the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children and the T.E.A.C.H. program staff! We are delighted to be sharing our holiday goodwill with you. 2007 has been a terrific year for us...we hope for you as well.

The three hundred-plus participants on the T.E.A.C.H. program continue to amaze us with their dedication to child care, their own professional development through higher education, and their commitment to their programs and their local communities. We are so proud of all that you have accomplished.

We are pleased to see changes in our child care system state-wide in 2007, with more and more demand and support for higher education available, and with college coursework more accessible to many of you. We spend much of our time working to ensure that when you want CDA classes and college degree coursework, you'll be able to find it in your local area.

The T.E.A.C.H. Counselors, Susan K. Hayes (DMACC students, United Way centers, and central Iowa CDA applicants), Stacie Steveson and Karen Thelin (CDA recipients and associate degree students, state-wide), and Pam Ellis (bachelors degrees and early childhood endorsements, state-wide), as well as our support staff, Pat Dautremont (Administrative Assistant and data services) and Nicki Varble (Accountant and administrative support) work closely as a team to continue recruitment of new participants while striving to provide you with the support you need. I am proud of all they accomplish, as well! They are currently sending charge approvals to the colleges, letting the colleges know what you are enrolling in for spring semester. Make sure you send us your form R listing the courses you plan to enroll in as soon as possible.

Please know that we make every effort to provide you with an accurate reimbursement check as early in each semester as possible. We wait for the college billing and your form B with book receipts attached before we can process a check back to you. Thank you for getting your renewal contracts, form Rs and form Bs, your grades, and your wage increases, as well as any changes in your address or email, sent to us regularly when required. We cannot send you a reimbursement check if we are missing some of the required documentation.

Pay attention to the changes on our website in the weeks ahead. We hope it will provide a way for you to receive more up to date information and support while you move towards your degree goals.

Happy New Year to you all. We hope 2008 brings you health and happiness and a step further on your journey towards your professional development goals.

Barb

Why Do We Need Your Grades ...

We often are asked questions as to why we require formal documentation of the grades you receive. It might be helpful to have a reminder of the importance of submitting your grade reports to us promptly following each semester: Grades are a way we know that you completed the classes T.E.A.C.H. paid for. With public funds supporting this program, we need to be diligent in using the funds appropriately!

- Grades are a way we can document that you completed a class that is required for your degree. This helps our counselors in making sure that you are only enrolling in classes you need for your degree path.
- We cannot continue to pay for classes for you if we are unsure if you have completed the ones previously paid for. Therefore, effective in 2007, we are no longer submitting charge approvals to the college if we don't have your grades for the PREVIOUS semester. In other words, if you are now registering for spring semester and we still do not have a grade report for summer 2007 classes, we will not authorize the college to bill us for your classes. In the spring, when you are signing up for summer classes, we cannot authorize the college if we have not yet received your fall grades. This will prove to our funding partners that we are being careful with the public funding that is critical for our program.
- Our T.E.A.C.H. license and our grant contracts require that we collect this information.
- Your grades are typically outstanding! We like to "brag" about the overall grade point averages of T.E.A.C.H. IOWA recipients averaging about 3.6 out of 4.0. It shows you are committed and successful!

Thank you for your efforts in submitting your grades to us. If you haven't submitted your grades for fall semester 2007, or any previous semesters, please do so at this time.

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

Jon Beede, a Registered Child Development Home Provider from Creston, is a T.E.A.C.H. Iowa recipient. In the fall of 2004 Jon started with T.E.A.C.H. Iowa. In May 2006 she attained the Child Development Practitioner diploma and in December 2007 she finished her Associate in Science (Career Option), all through Marshalltown Community College online. Jon is also nationally accredited with NAFCC (the National Association of Family Child Care), Child Net certified, and has her CDA credential. All of her necessary paperwork is all turned in for a QRS-rating; she is shooting for a 5-star rating. As a wife and mother of two college students, Jon and her family have hosted four exchange students in the last eight years. She also has provided care for 6 full-time children for twenty years but yet finds time to enjoy her flower gardens. "I would have never dreamed of going back to college with two daughters in high school if I had not been informed of T.E.A.C.H. IOWA. I would like to thank T.E.A.C.H. IOWA for this opportunity to help me financially climb the ladder of success in the field of early childhood education."



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.

Did You Know? ...

Minimum Wage Increases and T.E.A.C.H.

An important goal of our program is to help increase your compensation. Of course, that means that we are delighted to see that minimum wage is increasing, and we hope this means that your hourly salary increases, even if you were already above the minimum wage limit. Our T.E.A.C.H. counselors, over the next few months, will be verifying your employment and wages to ensure that those who were not paid at least \$7.25 per hour are now at that level or above. Remember, it is a requirement of your T.E.A.C.H. contract that you submit a wage update to us at least once a year. Home providers, the easiest way to do this is to submit a copy of your income tax schedule C when you complete your 2007 tax forms. Center staff, please send us a copy of your pay stub, showing your hourly rate, every time you receive a pay increase, and at least once every contract year. We can advocate for you if you keep us informed!

Iowa AEYC Website

In early January, all of our forms and materials for applications and reimbursements will be available on our website, www.iowaaeyc.org. Please feel free to go there anytime for the forms you might need for our program, and encourage potential new participants to print applications from the website as well. We hope this will help us all as we strive to reimburse you as soon as possible each semester!

CDA credentials

Did you know that once you complete 12 college credits in early childhood education it is likely that you have met the training requirement to apply for your CDA credential? Many of our state programs and initiatives, including NAEYC accreditation, are requiring a CDA credential for teachers and providers who do not have a college degree. Go to www.cdacouncil.org to read more about the requirements and how to apply. T.E.A.C.H. has funding available to help you with the \$325 assessment application fee, and also provides bonuses when you've been awarded your CDA credential. On your way to a degree? Consider earning your CDA as a step on your journey. Call your T.E.A.C.H. Counselor for more information.

Don't miss Day on the Hill

The 2008 Early Childhood Day on the Hill will be at the Iowa Capitol on February 14, 2008. Go to our website, www.iowaaeyc.org, for a registration form. Don't miss this opportunity to let your voice be heard.

Are you a member of AEYC?

If not, please consider joining the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children. Go to membership@naeyc.org or call Iowa AEYC at (800) 469-2392 if you have any questions. The following NAEYC members have been nominated as candidates for the 2008 election. The January 2008 issue of Young Children and NAEYC's website www.naeyc.org will feature candidate statements and photographs. An election ballot with complete candidate information will be mailed to all NAEYC members by January 15, 2008 and must be returned no later than March 1, 2008.

Governing Board Affiliate Liaison (vote for one) – Reeve Sullivan Murphy and Tom Rendon (Iowa)

Governing Board At Large (vote for two) – Dina Castro, Stephanie Curenton, Rebecca Gomez, Denise Mauzy

If you are not a current member of NAEYC, become a member by December 31 to ensure your eligibility to vote in the upcoming elections. A past president of Iowa AEYC and a member of our Governing Board, Tom Rendon, is a candidate for the NAEYC Governing Board. What an opportunity to have an Iowan speaking at the national table! Tom is the Coordinator of the Iowa Head Start State Collaboration Office and the Iowa Even Start Coordinator at the Iowa Department of Education, and the Chair of the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA Advisory Committee. Please don't forget to vote!

Earn a gift certificate

Did you know that if a friend or co-worker applies for a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship, and lists your name as how they learned about T.E.A.C.H. we will send YOU a \$15.00 gift certificate for materials for your child care program, courtesy of Lakeshore Learning? Remind your friends about how T.E.A.C.H. has helped you!

Sue Russell comes to Iowa

Sue Russell, President of Child Care Services Association, North Carolina, and the founder of T.E.A.C.H., visited Iowa in July 2007 for our annual monitoring visit. The Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children holds the license from Child Care Services Association (see their website at <http://childcareservices.org>) to provide T.E.A.C.H. for the state of Iowa. Sue has recently begun her term as the President-elect of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. She will become president in July of 2008. We are delighted to have "friends in high places" promoting T.E.A.C.H. and workforce issues on a national level!