

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood[®] IOWA

Volume 5, Issue 4

Fall 2008

Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children

The CDA Credential in a Nutshell

— Stacie Steveson, CDA Coordinator

It seems no matter where you go these days, people in early care and education are talking about the CDA Credential. Do YOU know about the CDA Credential? Are you working on your CDA Credential? Are you considering going back to college? Here is some information that should be able to help you with all of this.

The CDA (Child Development Associate) Credential is a nationally recognized credential awarded to those who have demonstrated the required competency through both experience and education in working with young children ages birth through five years. The CDA Credential is awarded to three groups: infant/toddler child care teachers, preschool teachers, or family child care providers.

Many Iowans are seeking their CDA Credentials this year, as basic-level education or to enhance their skills. Some CDA candidates have associate or bachelor's degrees in a field other than early childhood education and are looking for an early childhood credential to meet some position or regulation requirement. Others are using the CDA process as a first taste of experiencing college, without the requirement of committing to a full degree program. Some are required to earn their CDA Credential because of the standards set by their employing program. Others use the CDA Credential to raise their level of professionalism for registration, licensing, Iowa's Quality Rating System, the Quality Preschool Program Standards, Head Start Standards, or NAEYC accreditation.

How do I earn the CDA Credential?

In order to receive the CDA Credential, you must meet the eligibility requirements, complete 120 clock hours of early childhood education training and complete: a professional resource file, parent opinion questionnaires, a formal observation, an oral interview, and a written assessment.

Formal child care education and training in our state is offered in a variety of ways. Several colleges have a specific CDA course for college credit. Other colleges have a non-credit course specific to the CDA requirements. In 2008, the Community College Early Childhood Alliance designated four 3-credit classes (12 credits) as the CDA courses for state-wide consistency: ECE 103—Introduction to Early Childhood Education, ECE 133—Child Health, Safety & Nutrition, ECE 243—Early Childhood Guidance, AND one of the following: ECE 158—Early Childhood Curriculum I, ECE 159—Early Childhood Curriculum II, OR ECE 221—Infant Toddler Care/Education.

Many of you participating on the T.E.A.C.H. program have already completed these classes or comparable ones, on your way to a degree. Have you considered applying for the CDA credential as a step in your professional development journey? Even though your long term goal may be to earn the associate or bachelor's degree, the CDA brings other benefits until you achieve that final goal. Call your T.E.A.C.H. counselor for more information or how we can help. You don't have to be in a formal CDA class to apply college coursework towards achieving your credential.

T.E.A.C.H. can help!

The CDA Assessment Scholarship provides financial assistance to eligible providers who want to earn the CDA Credential. The scholarship will pay 85% of the CDA Credential assessment fee (\$276.25). T.E.A.C.H. IOWA will award a bonus (\$200) to eligible providers who attain the CDA Credential. The CDA Assessment Scholarship does not cover CDA Credential renewal fees.

If you have questions about how to start the CDA Credential process, how you can meet the 120 clock hours of training, or how to utilize a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship, call Stacie Steveson, CDA Coordinator at: 515.331.8000 x. 14 or e-mail at stacie@iowaaeyc.org.

Meet our Newest T.E.A.C.H. Counselors



Brian Fett – I am Brian, a new T.E.A.C.H. Counseling Specialist for people working toward their CDA or Associate Degree at any DMACC campus. I received my BS from Central College in Pella in General Studies with concentration in Psychology, Communications, and Spanish. I have worked in the field for 20 years primarily with children with disabilities. I have been a center provider/teacher, director, para-educator in the school system and a foster parent. I have also done respite and supported community living. My partner and I live in Ankeny with two sons that we adopted. I enjoy spending time with my family, traveling, and shopping. I look forward to this new challenge and getting to work with all of you.



Toranna Wermes – Toranna has a BA in Education from the University of Nevada, and a MA from the University of Northern Iowa. She has more than 30 years experience in early childhood field, including nearly a decade with Child Care Resource & Referral. Besides her passion for early childhood, she enjoys music and art, writing short stories, traveling, reading, and foreign languages. She lives in Des Moines with her husband, Andy, and her Shetland Sheepdog, Gentry.



Jamie White – My name is Jamie White and I am a new T.E.A.C.H. Counseling Specialist serving the United Way centers. I received my BS in elementary education with a minor in early childhood education from Black Hills State University in South Dakota. I have a variety of experiences in the field including child care center director and preschool consultant. I live in West Des Moines with my family.

Did You Know?

Important Announcements for T.E.A.C.H. Recipients

Iowa AEYC and T.E.A.C.H. are changing banks for our checking account. You may notice your checks look a little differently. PLEASE be sure to cash all checks that we have issued to you before mid-November as soon as possible, but no later than the end of December, to make sure they are still honored by the bank.

Please remember that we want **ALL T.E.A.C.H. recipients** to complete and update a **FAFSA application EVERY year**. Sometimes your circumstances change, and you are eligible when you were not before. Please update this application every year – the easiest time is right after you submit your tax return!

Iowa College Student Aid Commission has put together a very useful website for college students and those considering college. The website has information on how to apply for and manage grants and loans. It also contains other useful information including links, newsletters, monthly tips, advice, and other information to guide your decision making. To use this website, simply visit <http://www.iowacollegeaid.gov>. Navigating the website is easy. The homepage has quick links and tabs to quickly answer your questions.

REMINDER: Don't forget to let us know what you are taking for next term; Form R's are on our website for your convenience.

Information we need from you each term: Form R (courses you plan on taking), Form B (or B/C if you are a home provider) with a copy of your book receipts, Form C if you are a center employee and if you are eligible for release time (at end of term), and a copy of your grades as soon as you receive them.

We need a current contract on file at all times. And when you receive a diploma, degree, endorsement, or CDA credential, we need a copy.

CDA Credentials: many of our recipients received their CDA credentials in the past few months. Congratulations!

Kathy Angerman, Sioux City
Annalecia Halloway Thornton, Davenport
Sara Magnuson, Denison
Theresa Reetz, Deloit

Molly Reif, West Des Moines
Patricia Smith, Coralville
Elizabeth Teneyck, Arion
Christian Tull, Lamoni



Quality Rating System: the following T.E.A.C.H. recipients and sponsoring programs have received their QRS rating recently. Congratulations!



Angela Robinson, Janesville
Xochipilli Children's Center,
Des Moines



Jen Arkland, Carroll
Patricia Danielson, Norwalk
Kids & Company-Longfellow



Crystal Schaefer, Carroll

College Honors: the following T.E.A.C.H. recipients received college honors recently.

Graduates:

Laura Greve, AA in Early
Childhood; Northeast Iowa,
August 2008
Amy Hoffman, AA in Early

Childhood; Northeast Iowa,
August 2008
Kimala S. Smith, AS in Early
Childhood Education;
Marshalltown, May 2008

Diploma:

Linda Ferry, ECE Diploma,
Kirkwood, May 2008

President's List

Kim Richman, DMACC

Congratulations

Congratulations to Brenda O'Halloran for receiving her Certificate of Accreditation for Family Child Care from the National Association for Family Child Care.

Congratulations to Crystal Schaefer who is the proud parent of a new baby girl, Cheyenne Jo, born September 11.

Received a good QRS Rating? Are you on the Dean's or President's List at your college? New Babies? Marriages? Other good news to share? Please let us know so we can put it in the next newsletter.

Contact Us:

Barb Merrill, Executive Director/Program Manager

Email: bmerrill@iowaaeyc.org

Pam Ellis, Degree Coordinator/Counseling Specialist

Email: pam@iowaaeyc.org

Brian Fett, Counseling Specialist

Email: brian@iowaaeyc.org

Stacie Steveson, CDA Coordinator/Counseling Specialist

Email: stacie@iowaaeyc.org

Karen Thelin, Counseling Specialist

Email: karen@iowaaeyc.org

Toranna Wermes, Counseling Specialist

Email: toranna@iowaaeyc.org

Jamie White, Counseling Specialist

Email: jamie@iowaaeyc.org

Pat Dautremont, Administrative Assistant/Data Specialist

Email: pat@iowaaeyc.org

Karen Teel, Office Assistant

Email: karenteel@iowaaeyc.org

5525 Meredith Drive, Suite F

Des Moines, IA 50310

Phone: 515-331-8000

Toll Free: 800-469-2392

Fax: 515-331-8995

www.iowaaeyc.org

"Education for Iowa's Child Care Workforce"

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA

From the Director: T.E.A.C.H. and Iowa's Quality Rating System

Iowa's QRS recognizes programs that are seeking to achieve and maintain quality child care. As you probably know, it is voluntary but incentives are provided. Points towards higher levels on the QRS can be earned by taking college credit classes, earning the CDA credential, or completing a college degree in education specific to the age group for whom care is provided. Sounds like something you are all working towards by participating in T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood IOWA!

As T.E.A.C.H. looks at more and more participation without a comparable increase in our funding, we may put additional eligibility requirements in place. One of our current funders, the Department of Human Services using Federal child care quality dollars, is requesting that all new home providers approved for a T.E.A.C.H. contract be participating in the QRS at a level TWO or higher to be accepted on T.E.A.C.H. Our other funders may also move to similar requirements. What does this mean for you?

If your program is on the QRS, let us know your QRS level. Be sure to work to maintain a level two or higher. Please let us know how we can help you move up on the QRS. If not yet working on QRS, please consider getting started! Your T.E.A.C.H. counselor can give you the name and contact information for the CCR&R QRS specialist in your area.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your loved ones,

Barb



UNI 2+2 Opportunity

— Pam Ellis, Degree Coordinator

Are you aware that UNI 2+2 is a program that can help people with Associate's degrees work toward Bachelor degrees? The program is available for students who have completed or are completing an A.A. degree and want to earn a bachelor's degree in education without traveling to the UNI campus every day. UNI faculty deliver course work either onsite at a community college, over the ICN or WebCT, or on the UNI campus.

They have a DMACC cohort that starts in Spring 2009 (with a Fall orientation), and a statewide cohort that starts in Summer, 2009 (with a Spring orientation). These cohorts are for a B.A. In Elementary Education. In order to be considered for a TEACH Bachelor's Scholarship, you would need to continue on to get an Early Childhood Endorsement.

If you are interested in joining one of these cohorts, OR if you want to let UNI know that you would be interested in an Early Childhood Cohort down the road, please contact Roger Kueter at roger.kueter@uni.edu. You can cc this e-mail to Pam Ellis at pam@iowaaeyc.org.

An Associate of Arts degree is different than an Associate of Science in Early Childhood Education. If you have questions about this difference or about other options that may exist as you make educational choices, contact your T.E.A.C.H. counselor.



T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA

Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children

5525 Meredith Drive, Suite F; Des Moines, Iowa 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 Floyd-Mitchell-Chickasaw and Polk; and from the child care programs who co-sponsor a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship recipient.