

Advancing Careers ECE Pathways

For Georgia's Childhood Care and Education Professionals

Georgia Association on Young Children

Advancing Careers Stats at a Glance

October 2006 to May 2007

- 315 Phone Calls Requesting Information on Professional Development
- 7,166 Direct Contacts by Advancing Careers Staff with Georgia's Childhood Care and Education Professionals
- 6,252 Professional Development Publications Distributed

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The 41st Annual GAYC Conference is just around the corner!

October 12 & 13, 2007



Want To Explore Your Interests? Start Here!

We all have areas of child development that we find especially interesting. One way to learn more about your special interest is to read about it and there are many resources right at your fingertips! Many organizations' websites, like NAEYC, as well as the Georgia Public Library system offer online links to peer-reviewed journal articles that can enhance your knowledge and serve as a source for information on child development related topics. Check out these websites:

- Visit NAEYC at www.naeyc.org and type in any topic of interest in the search bar located to the left of the screen.
- Visit Zero to Three at www.zerotothree.org to search for information on topics related to children ages 0 to 3.
- Visit Child Care Exchange at www.childcareexchange.com and check out the free resources located to the right of the screen.

- Visit Healthy Childcare at www.healthychildcare.net to check out articles from their publication *Healthy Childcare*.
- At any public library you may access GALILEO, Georgia's Virtual Library without a password. Contact your local library for a password to access the database from home. Visit www.galileo.usg.edu and search for any topic related to child development. You can conduct a basic keyword search or an advanced search if you want specific information related to your interests.
- The internet offers a wealth of resources to build your knowledge of child development. Check it out and watch for more websites of interest in future issues!



It's New! The Professional Development Registry

How can you document and receive a transcript of your professional growth and achievements? Complete the new Registry! The Georgia Early Care and Education Professional Development Registry is a statewide system that guides, tracks and recognized the professional growth and development of individuals working in early care and education. When you participate in the registry, you join other professionals in Georgia who have documented their training, experience and education.

Who can participate? Staff and administrators of child care centers, family child care providers, trainers, consultants, technical assistance providers, and after school care providers.

Why should you participate? The Georgia Registry is an efficient system to keep track of your ongoing training, education and experience in

early care and education. **Through your participation, you help to shape a more professional image for this field and at the same time you have a record of your achievements to share with others.**

How do you participate? You can participate by completing an application either online or by requesting one by mail. **Added bonus: Once you have completed the application and the certificates you submit have been verified, a transcript can be printed and you will receive credit for one hour of Bright from the Start approved training.** To find out more and to complete an application visit the Georgia Early Care and Education Professional Development System website at www.training.decal.state.ga.us. Have questions? Call 706-583-0248 or email GECEPDS@georgiacenter.uga.edu

Finding Help at Advancing Careers

Are you looking for a way to increase your training and education level but don't know where to start? How do you know where to go back to school and if it's the right choice for you? Going back to school can be very confusing and can sometimes be challenging to find all of the information to help you make the right decision.

Don't feel overwhelmed! There are a lot of people who want to help you. Advancing Careers is a program that helps child-hood care and education professionals by offering more information on:

- Career Counseling and Education
- Professional Development Materials
- Training and Development
- Advocacy for Professional Development

And best of all...it's FREE! If you are looking for a place to explore or find out about education opportunities, how to afford going to school, and career development opportunities in child-hood care and education, we can help. Call Advancing Careers at 1-888-405-2238 or visit us online at www.gayconline.org. We can provide personal assistance to help you every step of the way.

Call Advancing Careers

1-888-405-2238

www.gayconline.org

I Think I Can...Furthering Your Education

For many people, going back to school is a big decision. Check out these success stories of individuals who advanced in their careers through education.

Charlene's Story

Charlene is 40 years old and has 2 children. She worked with 4-year-olds in a Head Start program and learned of the federal regulation requiring 50% of all staff at Head Start centers to have an Associate's Degree. Charlene selected a Georgia public college that offered a two-year degree. She could receive the Pell Grant and the SCHOLARSHIPS program. After completing 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours with a B average, she could be eligible for the HOPE Scholarship. After finishing her degree, Charlene was eligible for INCENTIVE\$. Best of all, the financial assistance doesn't have to be repaid.

Rosa's Story

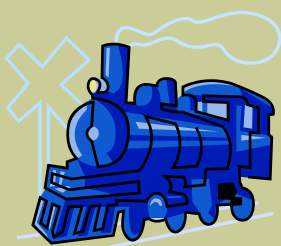
Rosa enjoys caring for babies and longed for an opportunity to go back to school. Unfortunately, Rosa thought she didn't have enough money to attend school. She also didn't know there was an Infant and Toddler Technical Certificate of Credit (TCC). Rosa finally decided to visit her local technical college to talk with both an ECCE advisor and financial aid. She found out

that she qualified for the HOPE Grant because she was a Georgia resident, she was attending a technical college to receive a TCC or diploma and she didn't need to have a B average until later. Rosa also qualified for the Federal Pell Grant because she had not yet earned a Bachelor's or a Professional degree and she met the low income requirements of the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). To achieve her TCC, Rosa took 5 classes for 25 credit hours and gained the knowledge and skills for working with children ages birth through three. She also had the potential to transfer some classes into a technical college diploma or Associate's degree. She also found out she could use some of the same courses towards her CDA Credential.

Tomeka's Story

Tomeka worked with 3-year-olds in a church-based program and desired to become a family childcare provider. She spoke with her son's child care provider about the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Agency. Tomeka qualified for the SCHOLARSHIPS Program and received funding for a majority of her tuition and books as well as counseling support. She called Advancing Careers for information on CDA Credentials and found out that she met several of the requirements (at least 18 years of age, high school diploma or equivalent, and worked in a setting with children ages birth to 5). Tomeka decided to enroll in the CDA TCC program at her technical college so she could receive the HOPE Grant.

The famous artist Vincent Van Gogh once said "If you hear a voice within you say 'You cannot paint' then by all means paint and that voice will be silenced." Let us add your success story to our list of child care professionals who have achieved their dreams by growing professionally. Send your success story to advancingcareers@gayc.xohost.com.



Where Should I Go To School? Getting Started at Your Local Technical College

Finding the right school and program of study for you is a big step in growing professionally. Since 1985, the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education has enrolled over 1,800,000 students through its technical colleges and services. During this time, Georgia has built a statewide system of 34 technical colleges and 31 branch campuses. If nearly 2 million individuals have gone back to school to help them grow professionally, so can you. You can find a complete list of technical colleges and the one closest to you by visiting www.dtae.org and clicking on "List of Technical Colleges" from the menu on the left of the screen.

Choosing the right program of study for you is also important. Program of study options include a Technical Certificate of Credit (TCC) like a Child Development Associate (CDA) or Infant and Toddler Specialist, a Diploma, or an Associates Degree. Talk with an ECCE advisor and choose the right program for you. Make sure to ask if the courses you will take will count for credit at a 4-year college. You may learn that some of your courses cannot transfer to other programs to help you continue your education. Have your advisor help you choose courses that will count toward further education

Visit the Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education's website for a complete list of technical colleges and degree programs. If you would like help in taking this big step, call a professional development advisor at Advancing Careers at 1-888-405-2238 to help you get started. Interested in other institutions of higher education? We can also help you with other two-year and four-year colleges and universities.



Visit

www.dtae.org

For a complete list of technical colleges

The Language of Education: Defining Terms

With so many abbreviations and acronyms, the language of education can be difficult to understand. Find the terms listed in bold below to help you to become familiar with terms and acronyms associated with education and career advancement.

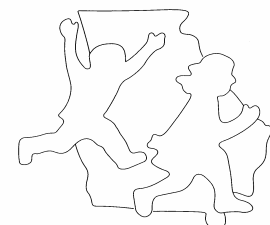
- TCC**– Technical Certificate of Credit at Technical Colleges
- CEU**– Continuing Education Unit for community-based training
- PLU**– Professional Learning Unit used by public schools
- BFTS**–Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
- CDA**– Child Development Associate Credential
- FAFSA**– The Federal Application for Student Financial Aid
- Articulation**– Credit hours eligible for acceptance toward a higher degree such as an Associates or Bachelors Degree
- EFC**– Expected Family Contribution calculated for PELL Grants

B R B A O S E E P N I U M E H Y
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The Georgia Association on Young Children is the state affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the Southern Early Learning Association (SECA).





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Finding Help At Your Local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency

Have you checked out the services and resources at your CCR&R lately? The Georgia Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies is composed of 14 regional Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&R). The mission of the agency is to improve the quality of care in Georgia and it offers many services to providers to support the development of quality childcare in Georgia. Among the services for providers, the CCR&R's:

- Offer state-approved training for parents, providers, and foster parents to assist in meeting the needs of the children in their care
- Technical Assistance for current or potential providers looking to improve the quality of care being provided or to seek credentials or accreditation

- Lending library/resource room with educational resources, toys, adaptive equipment, and materials for providers and parents
- Advocacy to support affordable, accessible, quality child care
- Technical assistance and support to include children with special needs into typically developing settings
- Quality improvement funds and technical assistance to family and group child care providers through a competitive grant process

To find your nearest CCR&R call 1-800-466-5681 or visit www.gaccrra.org to learn more about the services offered to parents, providers, and the community. Use your local CCR&R services to help you grow professionally! Call today!

Professional Development Opportunities

Also visit www.training.decal.state.ga.us

GAYC Institute, NAEYC Accreditation: Guiding Your Center to Meet High Standards, June 25-29, 2007, Atlanta, GA. For more information, call 404-222-0014 or email gayc@alxmail.com

17th Annual National Association for Family Child Care Conference, August 15-18, 2007, Anaheim, CA. For more information, visit www.nafcc.org

41st Annual GAYC Conference, October 12-13, 2007, Duluth, GA. For more information, visit www.gayconline.org

NAEYC Annual Conference, November 7-10, Chicago, IL. For more information, visit www.naeyc.org

