

# IMD Strategies for College Classrooms

## Discussion Questions

- What are three to five ways you make a difference for young children?
- What are two myths you have heard about early childhood education or the work you do?
- What can you say to the parents of the children in your program about how you make a difference?
- What does it mean to you to be an early educator?
- What does society tell you about the value of your work? What makes you say this? Is there evidence to support your view?
- What does the research say about the importance of early educators?
- What gets in the way of you explaining to people in the community how you make a difference?
- Why is it important to be an informed advocate for early childhood education?
- Why is your work important – to you, to children, to families, to society at large?

## Activities & Assignments

- Choose one of the 10 Ways I Make a Difference and discuss ways early educators do make a difference for young children, families and society.
- Create an activity to educate the families in your program about how you make a difference for their children.
- Design an activity to do with children, families, colleagues or the community at large using the IMD materials.
- Select one of the Key Resources for Educating & Engaging Your Community & State Leaders and be prepared to discuss it with the class.
- Research an early childhood issue impacting the community or state and create a letter to your legislator in support of or against an issue. Use the sample letter to provide an example for your classmates.
- Use one of the 18 Ways to Educate & Engage your Community & State Leaders and design a plan for how you are going to implement the activity.

## Assessment of Knowledge and Skills

- Create an information booth in the class on how teachers make a difference and have students from other classes evaluate it for content and visual appeal. Modify the booth based on feedback and then display at a community event or fair or at an early childhood education conference.
- Make presentations to the class about the importance of an educated workforce using IMD tools to support key points or provide talking points for group discussion.
- Role-play conversations with families, colleagues, and legislative and policy leaders using IMD tools to make the case for additional or maintained resources for early educators/programs.
- Submit activity plans for using IMD tools with identified audiences.