National Early Childhood Education Workforce Convening

Hosted by the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® National Center
Powered by Child Care Services Association

2024 Convening Program

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

Registration ................................................................. Atrium
7:30 am – 4:30 pm

Continental Breakfast ............................................................. Atrium
7:30 am – 8:30 am

Opening Welcome and Keynote Address ......................... Grumman Auditorium
8:30 am – 10:00 am

Database Personal Technical Assistance ....................... Southwest Day Office
By Appointment Only

Concurrent Session I
10:30 am – 11:45 am

Strategies for Being Proactive (or Reactive) When Your State Wants to Deregulate Child Care
Location: Grumman Auditorium
Presenter: Lauren Hogan, Strategic Advisor and Content Writer, NAEYC

Making Successful Connections through Mentoring Relationships to Encourage and Engage Early Childhood Educators
Location: Bellflower
Presenter: Sue Hancock, Founder/Consultant, Hancock Professional Development Resources and Consulting

Eye on DEI: Creating Equitable Teaching and Learning Spaces for the ECE Workforce
Location: Redbud A
Presenters: Maria Eugenia Alvarez, Biliterate Content Specialist, EarlyEdU Alliance at University of Washington; Eliana Medina, Associate Director of Integrated Learning, Cultivate Learning and EarlyEdU Alliance

Centering Equity and Access in the Design and Delivery of ECE Apprenticeships
Location: Redbud B
Presenter: Randi Wolfe, Executive Director, Early Care & Education Pathways to Success (ECEPTS)

Navigating Higher Education Career Pathways with the Child Development Associate (CDA)
Location: Windflower
Presenter: Veronica Commodore, Manager, Community Engagement & Learning, The Council for Professional Recognition

Location: Azalea
Presenters: Ashley Allen, Board member, North Carolina Institute for Child Development Professionals; Erin Speer Smith, Coordinator, North Carolina Institute for Child Development Professionals

Concurrent Session II
1:15 pm - 2:30 pm

Wellness: The Missing Ingredient (Counselor Community of Practice for T.E.A.C.H. and WAGE$ Staff Only)
Location: Azalea

Presenters: Sharon Little, Higher Education Liason, Child Care Services Association; Jessica Pridgen, T.E.A.C.H. NC Scholarship Program Specialist, Child Care Services Association

Tips, Tricks, and Lessons Learned for Digital Transformation
Location: Bellflower
Presenters: Jennifer Tedder, Director, Child Care WAGE$® Tennessee, Signal Centers; Alli Tootle, Deputy Director, Child Care WAGE$® Tennessee, Signal Centers

What Do All Those Numbers Mean? Cost of Quality Versus Quality Oriented Cost Based Approach
Location: Redbud A
Presenters: Catherine Huddleston-Casas, Associate Director of Workforce Planning & Development, Buffett Early Childhood Institute; Susan Sarver, Director of Workforce Initiatives, Buffett Early Childhood Institute

Advancing Change in Teacher Preparation Through Multi-partner Innovation
Location: Redbud B
Presenters: Kelli Cheliberg, Assistant Professor, Teacher Education Department, College of Menominee Nation; Terry Lock, Director of Hawai‘i ECE3 Project, University of Hawaii Manoa

New Counselor Training- Module Two: T.E.A.C.H. Overview and the Role of the Counselor
Location: Windflower
Presenter: Megan Burk, Director of Workforce Initiatives, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® National Center

Reimagining the CDA Credentialing Process
Location: Grumman Auditorium
Presenter: Dr. Calvin Moore, Jr., CEO, The Council for Professional Recognition

Lunch ................................................................. Trillium Dining Room
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Opening Welcome and Keynote
A Call to Action, the Critical Need for ECE Workforce Advocacy
We are pleased to welcome keynote presenter: Albert Wat, Senior Policy Director, Alliance for Early Success; accompanied by Beth Ann Lang, Chief Program Officer, Child Care Aware® of Missouri and Ashley Otto, Director of Workforce Initiatives, Iowa AEYC and remarks from Sandy Weathersbee, CEO, Providence Preparatory School.
Concurrent Session III
3:00 pm – 4:15 pm

Kentucky Invests in Family Child Care As An Effort of the Commonwealth
Location: Azalea
Presenters: Karen “KT” Thompson, Professional Development Manager, Appalachian Early Childhood Network; Debbie Link, Executive Director, Child Care Council of KY; Sandra Woodall, CEO, EC LEARN; Sherri Meyer, Early Childhood Education Specialist, Family Child Care Network of Kentucky

Child Care WAGE$® Counselors/Specialists Roundtable (For WAGE$ Program Counselors/Specialists Only)
Location: Windflower
Presenters: Allison Miller, SVP, Compensation Initiatives, Child Care Services Association; Katherine Walker Brooks, WAGE$ Director, Child Care Services Association; Lakisha Best and Heather Johnson, WAGE$ and AWARD$ Plus Program Coordinators, Child Care Services Association

Moving Forward: Building Towards an Equitable Future for the ECE Profession
Location: Grumman Auditorium
Presenters: Lauren Hogan, Strategic Advisor and Content Writer, NAEYC; Dr. Calvin Moore, Jr., CEO, The Council for Professional Recognition; Debra Murphy, Professor, Cape Cod Community College; Pamela Truelove-Walker, Director of ECE Strategy, TMW Center for Early Learning + Public Health at The University of Chicago

Navigating Difficult Conversations (Counselor Community of Practice for T.E.A.C.H. and WAGE$ Staff Only)
Location: Bellflower
Presenters: Erin Young, T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship Manager, Child Care Aware® of Minnesota; Teresa Hanna, T.E.A.C.H. Coordinator, Pennsylvania Child Care Association

Building a Statewide T.E.A.C.H. & WAGE$ Ambassador Program
Location: Redbud B
Presenters: Jeannine Laughlin, WAGE$ Counseling Specialist, Iowa AEYC; Tierney Sothman, T.E.A.C.H. Counseling Specialist & Ambassador Specialist, Iowa AEYC

Higher Education Systems in North Carolina: Many Paths, One Destination
Location: Redbud A
Presenters: Sharon Little, Higher Education Liaison, Child Care Services Association; Dr. Mary Olvera, Program Administrator, North Carolina Community College System; Dr. Kristi Snuggs, President, Child Care Services Association

Networking ................................................................................................................. Atrium
4:15 pm – 5:00 pm

Reception/Light Hors d’oeuvres .................................................................................. Atrium
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

Registration .................................................................................................................. Atrium
7:30 am – 1:30 pm

Continental Breakfast ................................................................................................. Atrium
7:30 am – 8:30 am

Database Personal Technical Assistance ......................................................... Southwest Day Office
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Concurrent Session IV
8:00 am – 9:15 am

Child Care Policy Making & Advocacy: Taking Action
Location: Azalea
Presenters: Kyra Weber, Senior Manager, State Policy & Outreach, National Women’s Law Center; Sarah Yergeau, Senior Manager, Campaigns for Child Care, National Women’s Law Center

Supporting Career Advancement through Collaborative Relationships with Education Partners
Location: Bellflower
Presenters: Mandi Menard, ECE Program Specialist, Vermont AEYC; Paula Nadeau, Programs Manager for ECE Career Advancement, Vermont AEYC; Brenda Schramm, Director for ECE Career Advancement, Vermont AEYC

The National Early Care and Education Workforce Center: A Year in Review and Next Steps to Support the Workforce
Location: Windflower
Presenter: Lauren Walens, Senior Research Communications Specialist, Child Trends

WAGE$ Administrator’s Roundtable (For WAGE$ Program Leadership Only)
Location: Redbud A
Presenters: Allison Miller, SVP, Compensation Initiatives, Child Care Services Association; Katherine Walker Brooks, Child Care WAGE$® Program Director, Child Care Services Association

Building Early Childhood Apprenticeships: Creating a Mentor Strategy
Location: Redbud B
Presenters: Paul Lazenby, Executive Director & State Manager, Arkansas Early Childhood Association; Elizabeth Miller, T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship Counselor, Arkansas Early Childhood Association; Erin Young, T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship Manager, Child Care Aware® of Minnesota; Megan Burk, Director of Workforce Initiatives, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® National Center

Innovation in Workforce Development Across Pathway Programs in the US; Lessons Learned in Human Centered Design
Location: Grumman Auditorium
Presenters: Liz Hartline, Director of Workforce Initiatives, Bank Street College of Education; Jennifer Pyles, Facilitator/Coach Learning Starts at Birth, Bank Street College of Education
**Plenary Panel**

Quitting is Not an Option, Persevering during Difficult Times

We welcome Marica Cox Mitchell, Vice President, Early Childhood, Bainum Family Foundation who will moderate a discussion with Lauren Hogan, Strategic Advisor and Content Writer, NAEYC; Dr. Calvin Moore, Jr., CEO, The Council for Professional Recognition; Erica Phillips, Executive Director, NAFCC; Dr. Kristi Snuggs, President, Child Care Services Association

9:30 am - 10:45 am

Grumman Auditorium

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**Concurrent Session V**

11:00 am – 12:15 pm

Competency-Based and Job-Embedded: The Ticket to Advanced Credentials

Location: Bellflower

Presenter: Erin Kissling, Chief Learning Officer, Early Learning Indiana

Overview of the CDA Credentialing Process: An Inside Look at the CDA Exam and the Verification Visit Experience

Location: Redbud A

Presenter: Vilma Williams, Senior Manager, Multilingual Engagement and Learning, The Council for Professional Recognition

Uplifting the Strengths and Needs of Family Child Care Professionals

Location: Redbud B

Presenter: Erica Phillips, Executive Director, NAFCC

Innovative Systematic Change: Creating Child Care as a Benefit

Location: Azalea

Presenters: Sandra Woodall, CEO, EC LEARN; Andrea Day, Director, Kentucky Division of Child Care

Advocating for Infants & Toddlers in a Conservative State: Maintaining Momentum When Things Feel Impossible

Location: Windflower

Presenters: Julie Stoffel, Early Childhood Engagement Specialist, WECA; Kia Kjensrud, Executive Director, Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Innovative Local and State ECE Workforce Strategies: Lessons from Louisiana

Location: Grumman Auditorium

Presenters: Jen Roberts, Chief Executive Officer, Agenda for Children; Michelle DeMeulenaere, Ph.D., Program Manager for Early Childhood Initiatives, Louisiana Board of Regents; Kristie Barden, Executive Director, Children’s Coalition for Northeast Louisiana; Candace Weber, Ph.D., Partnerships Director, Louisiana Policy Institute for Children

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**Concurrent Session VI**

1:30 pm – 2:45 pm

T.E.A.C.H. NH and NH’s DOL Early Childhood Apprenticeship Program: Wraparound Supports for the CDA™ Credential

Location: Azalea


Navigating Higher Education’s Winding Pathway

Location: Bellflower

Presenters: Ana de Hoyos O’Connor, Professor/Community Coordinator, San Antonio College; Toshiba Adams, Professor, Milwaukee Area Technical College; Edith Locke, SVP Professional Development Initiatives, Child Care Services Association

Salary Scales for the Early Childhood Educator Workforce: Colorado and Illinois

Location: Redbud B

Presenters: Angela Ben-Zekry, ECE Recruitment and Retention Manager, Colorado Department of Early Childhood; Theresa Hawley, Executive Director, Center for Early Learning Funding Equity

Healthy Work Environments: Building and Maintaining Morale within T.E.A.C.H. and WAGES Teams

Location: Redbud A

Presenters: Kimberly Bynum, T.E.A.C.H. Program Manager, Child Care Services Association; Schquita Battle, T.E.A.C.H. Administrative Manager, Child Care Services Association; Amy Duffy, T.E.A.C.H. Senior Manager, Child Care Services Association

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