

# National Early Childhood Education Workforce Convening



## 2024 Convening Program



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

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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

### Explore North Carolina's Model Salary Scale Toolkit: Taking Strides Towards Implementing Salary Scales in North Carolina

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

**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 Otte**, Director of Workforce Initiatives, Iowa AEYC and remarks from **Sandy Weathersbee**, CEO, Providence Preparatory School.



## 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 Liaison, 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

# THURSDAY, APRIL 11

## 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

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



**Plenary Panel**..... Grumman Auditorium  
9:30 am - 10:45 am

## 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 Bardel**, Executive Director, Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana; **Candace Weber, Ph.D.**, Partnerships Director, Louisiana Policy Institute for Children

**Lunch**..... Trillium Dining Room  
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm

## 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

Presenters: **Diane Manning**, T.E.A.C.H. NH Counselor, Southern New Hampshire Services; **Amanda Enos**, Early Childhood Apprenticeship Program & T.E.A.C.H. Support, Southern New Hampshire Services

### 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 WAGE\$ 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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