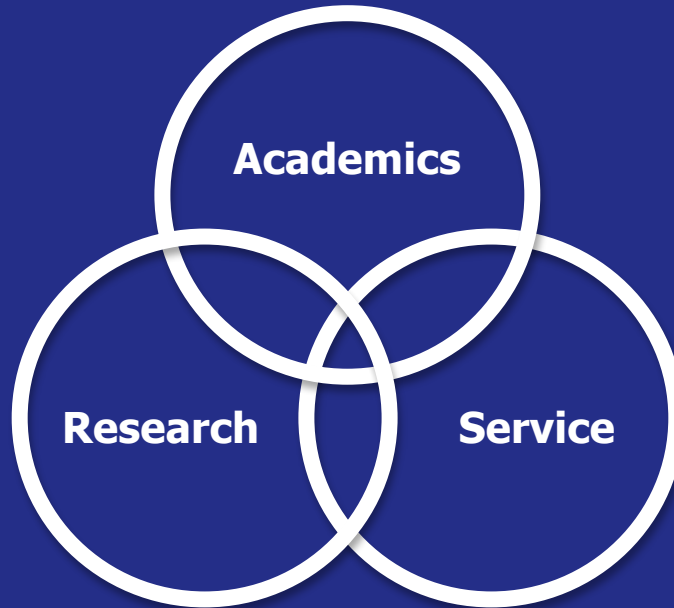




**TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY**

Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences

*Building capacities to strengthen
communities through education*



Tennessee State University

Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

2014

2014 Annual Report Issue 2

This annual report is published yearly by the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences at Tennessee State University for faculty, staff, students, alumni, and the Nashville community.

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Tennessee State University Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences 2014 Annual Report

Our Mission

The mission of the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences is to design and conduct multidisciplinary research and demonstrations concerning practices, policies, and programs that promote the educational, social, physical, and psychological well-being of children and families; and to disseminate research and information to improve public policy and the programmatic decisions of agencies, schools, institutions, and communities in Tennessee, the nation, and the global community.

About Tennessee State University

Tennessee State University (TSU) is a comprehensive, urban, coeducational land-grant university founded in 1912. The university has two convenient locations – a 450-acre main campus, with more than 65 buildings, located in a residential setting; and the Avon Williams Campus located in the heart of downtown, near the center of the Nashville business and government district.

Tennessee State University is a Tennessee Board of Regents University. The Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) is the sixth largest system of public higher education in the nation, with 45 campuses, over 185,000 students, and 15,000 full-time employees. The system consists of six universities – one of which has a law school and one of which has a medical school, 13 community colleges, 26 technical centers, and the system office. Institutions are located in 90 of the 95 counties in Tennessee, and offer a large variety of degrees and services.

Tennessee State University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution committed to educate a non-racially identifiable student body. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons who need assistance with this material may contact the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences, 615-277-1651.

About this Annual Report

This annual report covers the period from July 2013 to June 2014. The report represents the first in a series of reports on the year-to-year progress of the programs housed within the Center and includes specific events and program data. It summarizes the specific projects and programs that the Center has engaged in over the past year, but as with any summary, it does not fully capture the range and depth of activities undertaken. To more fully explore the Center, its mission and programs, visit our website at www.tnstate.edu/learningsciences.

Table of Contents

Major Accomplishments in 2013 - 2014	5
COELS: Data at a Glance	11
Program Reports	
Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance (TECTA)	13
Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential (TECPAC)	15
Tennessee Child Care Online Training System (TCCOTS)	16
Tennessee CAREs Early Head Start Program	17
Social Services Competency Based Training Program (SSCBT)	18



***Building Capacities to
Strengthen Communities
Through Education***

**Leadership in Academics, Research
and Service**

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential
(TECPAC)

Tennessee State University – TN CAREs Early Head Start

Tennessee Childcare Online Training System (TCCOTS)

Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance (TECTA)

Social Services Competency Based Training (SSCBT)

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

STEM Education

Teaching and Learning

Early Intervention Models

Student Learning Measurement

Early Childhood Educator Professional Development

P-12 Instructor and Administrator Professional Development

Birth to Three Curriculum, Program and Professional
Development



**Valerie Williams
Director**

Major Accomplishments in 2013 - 2014

The Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences aims to build the capacities to strengthen communities through education. As a non-instructional unit of the Division of Research and Sponsored Programs, our Center is committed to providing a creative, collaborative environment and the facilities to conduct significant research studies within Tennessee State University.

Through our core model of Academics-Research-Service, we strive to provide enhanced educational opportunities for all ages, conduct and disseminate research, and promote innovation through training programs for educational, human service, social service, and other agencies.

We believe that academics, research, and service together have the potential to create the basis for school, community, and business practices that promote the physical, educational and psychological well being of all children and their families.

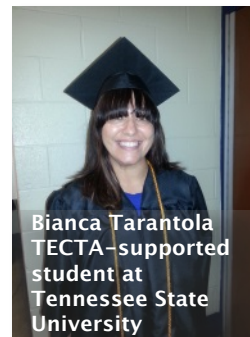
This summary shows the outcomes of several programs based on Tennessee State University's Five (5) Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) derived from the University's *2010-2015 Strategic Plan Goals and Expectations*:

1. Access and Diversity
2. Academic Quality and Student Success
3. Business-Friendly Practices
4. Revenue Generation/Research/Resourcefulness
5. Engagement

1. Access and Diversity

The University supports a concept of diversity that leverages the diverse characteristics of both our student body and our employees and results in continuous growth and development for the University.

- The TECTA program provides access to higher education coursework and degrees and promote life-long learning. The tuition support programs help participants lower the cost of academic courses, providing college access for traditional and non-traditional students in Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) colleges and universities across the state.



- TECTA provided 28 High School Equivalency certificates to high school students in during the 2013-2014 fiscal year. In collaboration with the Tennessee Department of Education, Division of Career and Technical Education, these students successfully completed the EC Careers I and II programs, meeting the standards for Center-Based Orientation, and become eligible for tuition support at any TBR schools.
- The Tennessee State University Head Start Career Advancement Partnership Program, or TSU-HSCAPP, graduated its final students in the summer of 2014. Since 2008, 50 students have earned Associates, Bachelors, and Masters degrees from TBR institutions with tuition support from TSU-HSCAPP.

2. Academic Quality and Student Success

Improve graduation rates, retention rates, and customer service, all within a maximized use of technology framework

- Tennessee State University was awarded \$2,930,734.00 tied to QRIS-Child Care Professional Development and Director's Qualifications to provide support to the eight (8) TECTA offices statewide to afford TECTA Orientation classes, tuition towards earning the National Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, technical certificate, or a degree in Early Childhood Education during the 2013-2014 fiscal year, and support through the CDA credentialing process.
- TECTA provided resources to support ECED faculty and staff across the state in an effort to promote National Best Practices within ECED Academic Programs and Early Childhood Associate Degree Accreditation status for TBR Institutions.
- TECTA sponsored an Early Childhood Associate Degree Accreditation Celebration on April 10, 2014. TBR ECED Representatives from all ECED Academic programs that sought or are seeking NAEYC Accreditation were in attendance.



Online Training

- TCCOTS – Fiscal year 2014 ended with 14,940 completers across 16 training modules, which represents 39,665 training hours. Within this program year the Revised Tennessee Early Learning Developmental Standards were approved by the Tennessee Department of Education. Since the approval of the new standards, TECTA has undertaken the task of editing the current TN-ELDS training to reflect the new standards and format of the new document.
- The TECPAC program has completed its fourth year of full online implementation in 2014 with nine Administrator Credential recipients.
- TECTA has partnered with the Tennessee Department of Health to support the professional development of home visitors through an online TECTA Orientation. All enrollees in the orientations are employed by the Tennessee Department of Health and are home visitors or the supervisors of home visitors working in different programs directed by Department of Health. This online Orientation allows participants to gain the knowledge to acquire a Home Visitor CDA from the Council for Professional Recognition. There were 75 direct service workers and supervisors who completed this Orientation during the 2014 fiscal year.
- SSCBT - In April of 2014, 24 SSCBT participants received their credentials at the 101st Annual TCSW Conference. The Credentials are earned following the Social Services Competency Based Training (SSCBT) program. Participants are family service workers that come from various Head Start and Early Head Start agencies around the nation.

3. Business-Friendly Practices

Our goal for business-friendly practices focuses on improvements in the quality of performance regarding the University's core business and educational functions through ongoing assessment and documentation of performance outcomes on such things as user/customer perceptions of our services, and using assessment results to make improvements.

- **TECPAC** – TECPAC participants are administrators of child care centers and home-based family child care programs. These participants are also members of the business community and provide services that support working families. In the program's six years, 100% of administrators have increased their scores following pre and post assessments on the Program Administrator Scale (PAS) or the Business Administrator Scale (BAS).
- **TN CAREs** – The TN CAREs Early Head Start program provides care for 140 children from low-income families in Henry, Weakley, and Gibson counties. The program partners with the local departments of education and Chambers of Commerce to increase awareness among community members and business leaders about the benefits of these programs.



4. Revenue Generation/Research/Resourcefulness

We seek opportunities to grow resources, to reduce operational costs and to strengthen our revenue base to support our mission as a regional land-grant university.

Revenue Generation

- **SSCBT** – The SSCBT program costs are funded through contracts with outside agencies and programs. These contracts provide the revenue for the Center to continue to offer the training at a low cost.
- **TECTA** – Tennessee Department of Health received federal funding for the Help Us Grow Successfully (HUGS) and other home visiting programs within the Maternal and Child Health unit. This funding allowed the program to launch into a pilot. The plan is to include participants from other organizations which would provide funding directly to the Center for training and other services.
- The Center continues to submit proposals for funding in the area of STEM research. Future research aims include the study of parent engagement in Early Head Start and studies related to early education.

Resourcefulness/Partnerships

- **TECTA** – The TECTA program partners with several state and regional organizations including, the Tennessee Departments of Human Services, Education, and Health; Tennessee Head Start Association; Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R); Project TOPSTAR; Tennessee Association

for the Education of Young Children (TAEYC); Tennessee Family Child Care Association (TFCCA); Early Childhood Comprehensive System (ECCS); Center for Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) and the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI)

- TCSW – The Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences is a university partner of the Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare (TCSW). The Center was a major sponsor of the 2014 annual conference. Other university partners include the University of Tennessee College of Social Work and the Lipscomb University Department of Social Work and Sociology.

5. Engagement

Our engagement goal highlights the University’s commitment to its service mission through its engagement in community service, land-grant activities, and international education.

- ECAC – The Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) is a project of the Governor’s Children’s Cabinet. One of the goals of the Council is to enhance collaboration and coordination across state departments in the areas of training for early childhood educators and providers and to foster parent engagement and empowerment. Commissioner Raquel Hatter of the Tennessee Department of Human Resources appointed Katari Coleman, TECTA Program Director, to the Council.
- The Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences has had the opportunity to be a sponsor for several conferences and community events including the 2013 Early Childhood Summit, the 101st Anniversary Conference for TCSW, and the Sixth Annual TECTA Summer Research Institute. The Center also hosts the annual TECTA Steering Committee Meeting.
- TN CAREs – Tennessee CAREs Early Head Start is a member of the Weakley County Interagency Council in west Tennessee. The Council sponsors events and provides resources and information to the region.



Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences (COELS)

Centers of Excellence were established by action of the Tennessee General Assembly and the Governor of Tennessee in 1984 to expand research in public higher education and contribute to the overall economic and community development base of the state. Tennessee State University was selected through a statewide competitive process and established a Center of Excellence.

Today, the Center employs over 80 full-time staff that carry on it's mission and goals through several programs including: the Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance, the Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential, Tennessee Child Care Online Training System, the Tennessee CAREs Early Head Start Program, and the Social Services Competency Based Training Program. These programs fit within the mission of the Center of Excellence, which creates programs that promote the educational, social, physical, and psychological well being of children and families.

The Center of Excellence Sponsors Local Meetings and Conferences

2013 Early Childhood Summit July 15-16, 2013

COELS was a gold level sponsor for the 2013 Early Childhood Summit. Hosted by the Tennessee Alliance for Early Education, attendees received information about the Center and the University. The TECTA program was also on hand to provide information about its services and attendees were able to register and sign up for online training at a TCCOTS exhibit.



The COELS Exhibit and the 2013 Early Childhood Summit

2014 TECTA Steering Committee Meeting April 10, 2014



The TECTA Steering Committee meets annually to get updates on the TECTA program and to help set the agenda for the next year.

The 2014 Annual TECTA Steering Committee Meeting was hosted by the Tennessee State University Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences on April 10, 2014. The meeting is an annual gathering of TECTA stakeholders to evaluate the current program initiatives and establish new goals for the future. The Committee includes representatives from TECTA, the Tennessee Department of Human Services, Head Start, and other organizations.

2014 TECTA Higher Education Institute April 11, 2014

TECTA held its annual Higher Education Institute on April 11, 2014. The one-day series of workshops brings Tennessee community college and university faculty together to discuss relevant topics in Early Childhood Education.

The Institute also included updates from our partners at the Department of Human Services, the Head Start State Collaboration Office, the Tennessee Department of Education, and the Tennessee CCR&R Network. This event continues to highlight the importance of higher education as a component of professional development for child care providers.



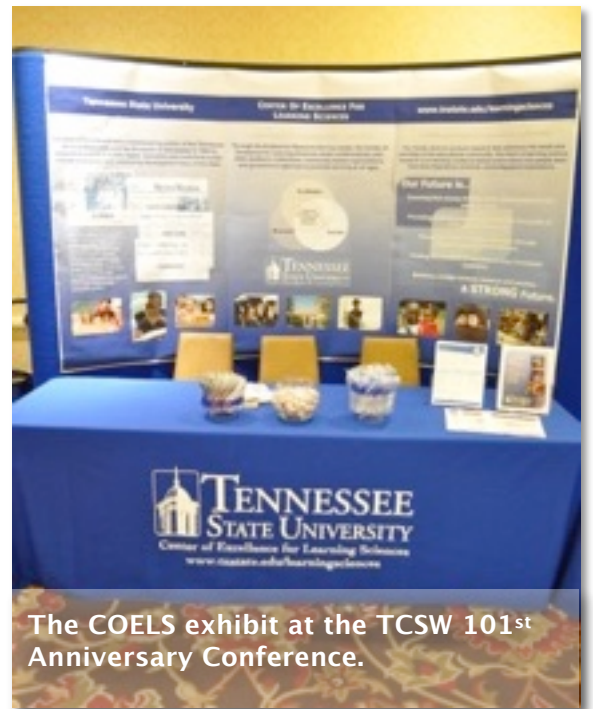
Dr. Kimberly King-Jupiter, Dean of the TSU College of Education, discusses the importance of program assessment



F. Chris Curra, Vanderbilt Ph.D. Student in Ed. Leadership and Policy and President of the Peabody Grad Student Association presented on Student Leadership

TCSW 101st Anniversary Conference March 24-26, 2014

The Center of Excellence has been a collaborative partner of the Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare (TCSW) for many years and helped sponsor several conferences including the 2014 Conference. Each year the graduates of the Social Services Competency Based Training (SSCBT) program are awarded their Credentials during the conference luncheon.



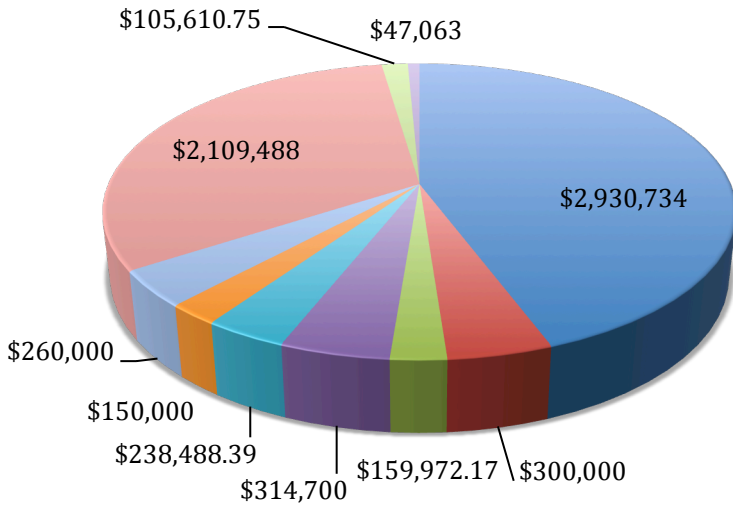
The COELS exhibit at the TCSW 101st Anniversary Conference.

COELS: Data at a Glance

Revenue by Program

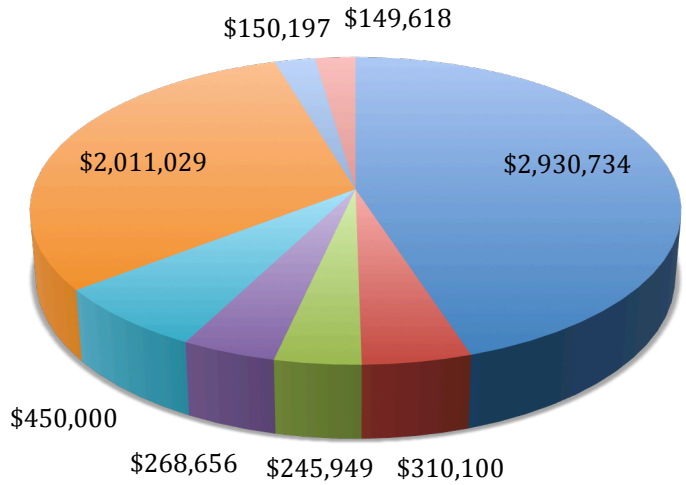
2013

Total Funding: \$6,616,056



2014

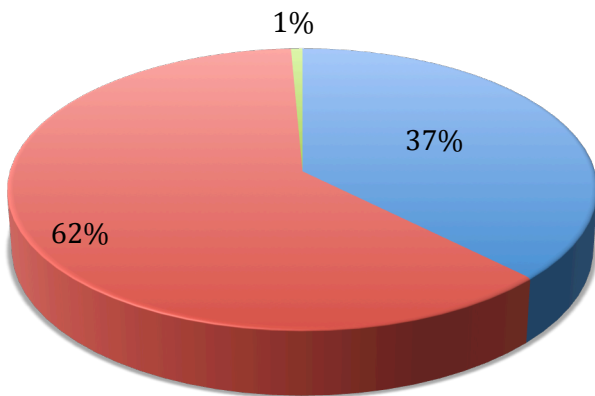
Total Funding: \$6,516,283



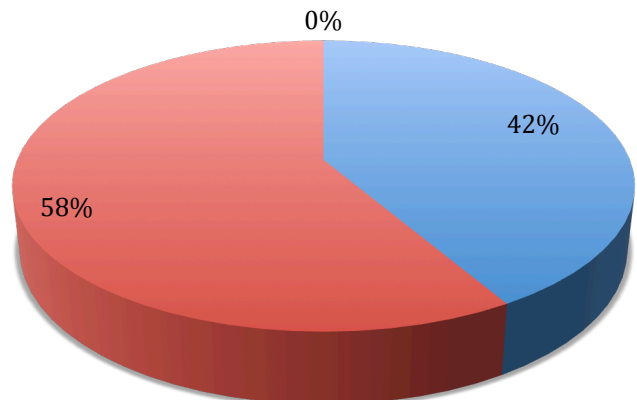
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|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| ■ TECTA | ■ TECTA ECAC Scholarship | ■ TECTA | ■ THEC |
| ■ University Match | ■ THEC | ■ SSCBT | ■ TSU HS-CAPP |
| ■ SSCBT | ■ HUGS | ■ HUGS | ■ TN CAREs |
| ■ TSU HS-CAPP | ■ TN CAREs | ■ TN CAREs USDA | ■ NSF |
| ■ NSF | ■ Revenue | | |

Revenue by Funding Source

2013



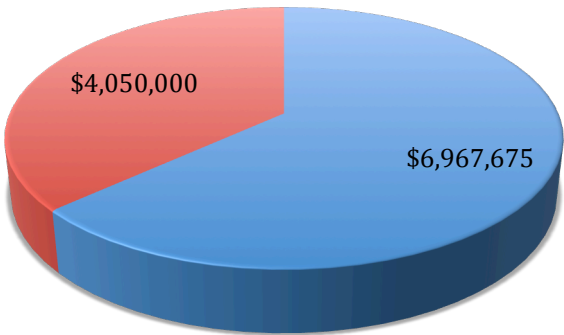
2014



- | | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------|
| ■ Federal | ■ State | ■ Private |
|-----------|---------|-----------|

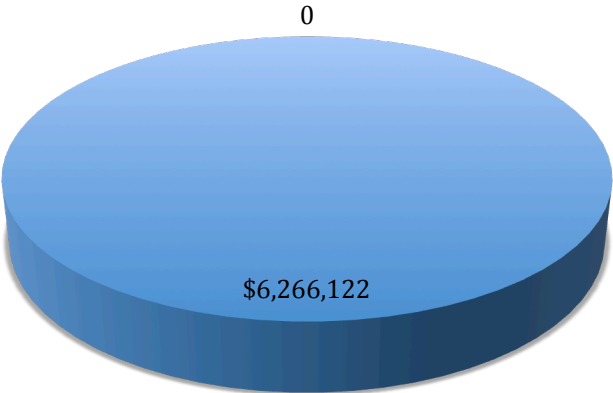
Total Proposal Submissions by Source

2013



■ Federal ■ State

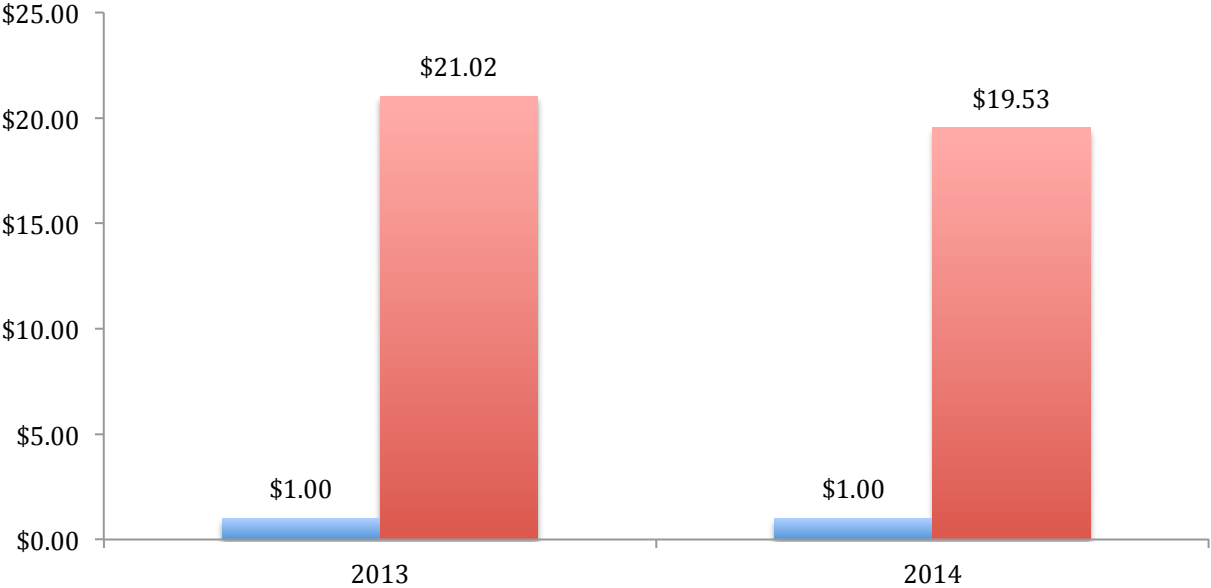
2014



■ Federal ■ State

THEC Appropriations and Return on Investment

For every dollar invested by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC), the Center of Excellence provided a return of \$21.02 during the 2012-2013 fiscal year and \$19.53 during the 2013-2014 fiscal year.



Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance (TECTA)

TECTA is managed by the Tennessee State University Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences and funded by Department of Human Services and provides the statewide child care professional development training and education system linked with the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) state university and community colleges of Tennessee. TECTA provides training, CDA National Credential scholarship support, technical assistance, career development advising, and academic support to any student currently working in a licensed child care agency and working toward a degree in Early Childhood Education. The education and preparation lattice concept of the TECTA program provides the means to ensure early childhood teacher and caregiver preparation and recognition including efficient articulation between Certificate, CDA, Advanced Certification, Associate Degrees at the 13 TBR 2-year institutions, and tuition assistance for advanced Early Childhood Education degrees for those who work in Tennessee Department of Human Services state licensed facilities.

TECTA Increases ECE Program Accreditation Across Tennessee

TECTA provided resources to support ECED faculty and staff across the state in an effort to promote National Best Practices within ECED Academic Programs and Early Childhood Associate Degree Accreditation status for TBR Institutions. In celebration of this effort, TECTA sponsored an Early Childhood Associate Degree Accreditation Celebration on April 10, 2014. TBR ECED Representatives from all ECED Academic programs that sought or are seeking NAEYC Accreditation were in attendance.



Dr. Katari Coleman and Lin Venable with staff from Volunteer State Community College at the ECADA reception in 2014.

TECTA Hosts the Sixth Annual Summer Research Institute

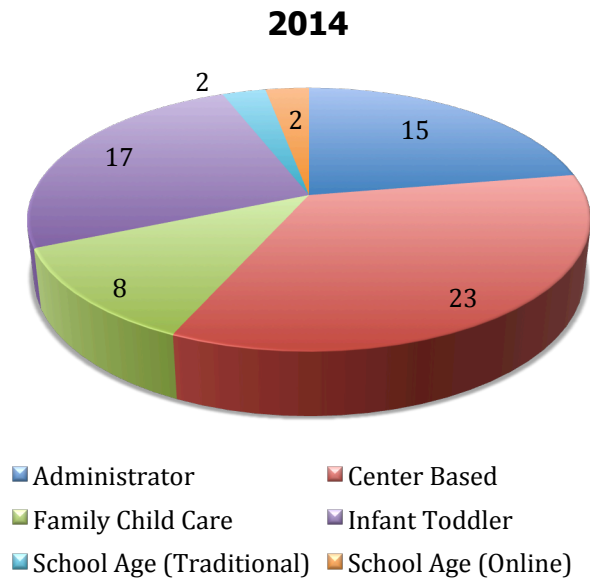
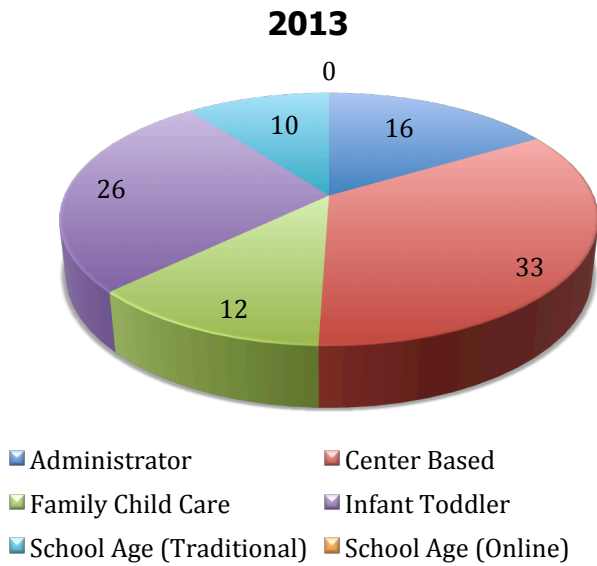
Over 250 participants attended the TECTA Summer Research Institute at TSU's Avon Williams campus on June 21, 2014 making it the largest Institute to date. The theme for the 2014 Institute was QRIS: The Building Blocks of Quality. The QRIS is the acronym for Tennessee's quality rating and improvement system, known as the Tennessee Report Card and Star Quality Program (STARS). The program rates child care agencies on a scale of one to three stars. The Institute included 14 workshops on topics related to understanding quality within this system, the foundation of quality, and demonstrations of quality.



TECTA staff registered over 250 attendees at the Summer Research Institute.

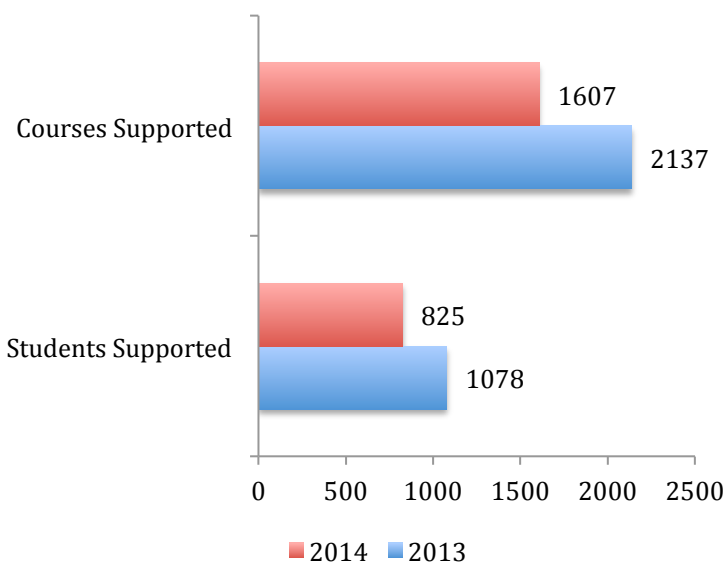
Total Orientations Held by Type

TECTA Orientation is the “gateway” to Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential preparation and tuition support for degrees in early childhood.



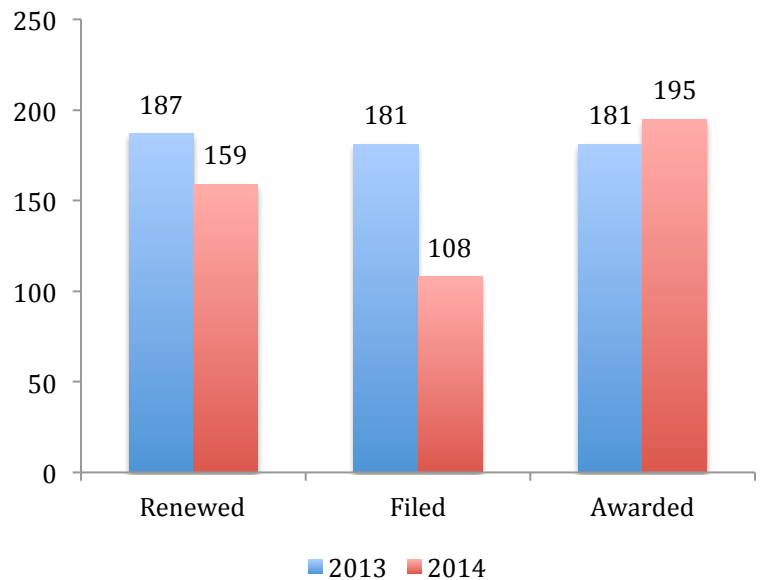
Total TECTA Supported Students in Academic Coursework

Upon completion of Orientation, TECTA provides financial support for continued learning, from earning a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential to earning advanced degrees in Early Childhood Education.



CDA Scholarship Awards by Type

The Council for Professional Recognition awards the CDA Credential. A CDA assistance program is coordinated with the TECTA local offices to provide competency-based instruction, supervised field experiences, and advisement to caregivers.



Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential (TECPAC)

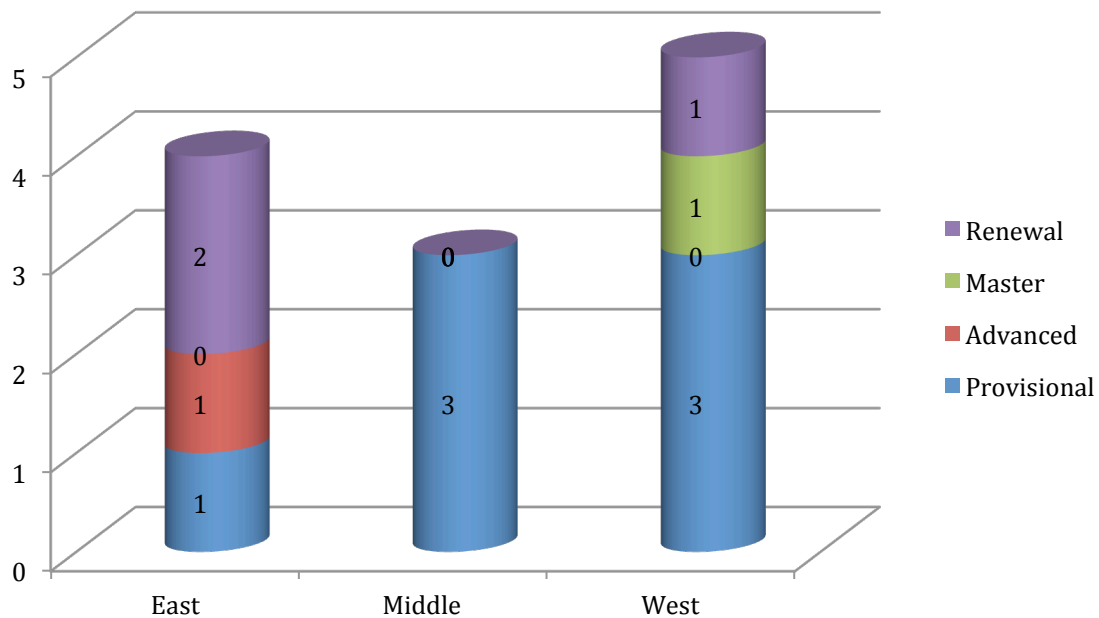
The TECPAC program began with a pilot in 2008 and ended its first full year in 2009. The program takes place through an Administrator Academy where program administrators attend ten sessions with focused topic discussions on sharing of best practices and resources over a ten-month timeframe. Selection for the Academy is based on an individual's education and experience as a program administrator in a licensed early childhood agency. Participation in the Academy is free, so candidates are able to enjoy the benefits of sharpening their leadership and management skills.



Any program administrator with a high school diploma or equivalent can begin, and those with an Associates degree and three years experience as a program administrator in a licensed early childhood agency meet the educational requirements for an alternate pathway for NAEYC program accreditation. Unlike a training certificate, the Administrator Credential is the recognition awarded to Tennessee Early Childhood program administrators who demonstrate specific competencies in leadership and business management. It is granted by the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences, administered by the Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance, approved by the Tennessee Board of Regents and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and funded by the Tennessee Department of Human Services.

TECPAC Year-end Totals

TECPAC Completers Participation by Credential Type



During the 2013-14 fiscal year 12 directors entered the TECPAC Academy and a total of 9 directors successfully completed the academy process. Pre and post assessments were performed on all participants and 100% of the participants increased their score on post assessment. On average the increase in assessment scores from pre assessments to post assessments was 68%.

Tennessee Child Care Online Training System (TCCOTS)

TCCOTS became operational in August of 2010 with 10 modules for early childhood professionals across the state acknowledged as acceptable child care training hours by the Tennessee Department of Human Services.

During the 2014 fiscal year there were 14,940 certificates of completion granted, which represents 39,665 training hours. Furthermore, there are an additional 14,956 module trainings that have the status of in-progress during the time of this report.

Within this program year the Revised Tennessee Early Learning Developmental Standards were approved by the Tennessee Department of Education. Since the approval of the new standards TECTA has undertaken the task of editing the current TN-ELDS training to reflect the new standards and format of the new document. The four new modules are in refinement during the time of this report and are expected to be finalized during the 2015 fiscal year.



Module Title	Completions
Administration for Child Care Centers - Intermediate- 2 HR Training	341
Before You Begin: New Caregivers- 3 HR Training	3108
Before You Begin: New School-Age Caregivers - 2 HR Training	1070
Brain Development Advanced- 2 HR Training	544
Brain Development Intermediate- 2 HR Training	1024
Family Child Care Contracts and Policies- 2 HR Training	249
Family Child Care Marketing- 2 HR Training	222
Family Child Care Record Keeping- 2 HR Training	178
Gold Sneaker - 2 HR Training	817
Inclusion- 2 HR Training	710
Promoting Social and Emotional Development - 3 HR Training	1024
Tennessee School-Age Developmental Standards- 3 HR Training	788
TN-ELDS - Infant: Birth - 12 Months - 3 HR	1372
TN-ELDS - Pre-School: 31 - 60 Months - 3HR	1797
TN-ELDS - Toddler: 13 - 30 Months - 3HR	1696
<i>Total Completions</i>	<i>14,940</i>

Tennessee CAREs Early Head Start Program (TN CAREs)

Since 1995, the Tennessee CAREs Early Head Start program has provided coordinated comprehensive, intensive, and continuous support services to enable families to attain self-sufficiency, while recognizing the integrity and unique needs of these families and children. Overall, Tennessee CAREs includes six facilities that care for over 100 children year-round, providing support services to families while preparing children to enter school. The program serves low-income families in Henry, Gibson, and Weakley counties.

Tennessee CAREs Early Head Start Program Fosters Parent, Family, and Community Engagement

The Tennessee CAREs Early Head Start program strives to provide learning opportunities for young children through family involvement in the program. Mr. Bruce Johnson, right, grandfather to a child in the program, built and installed squirrel feeders. He installed two feeders on the toddler playground and one on the infant playground along with several young helpers lending a hand.

Families are an integral part of the program in an ongoing way. Tennessee CAREs EHS believes that parents are the first and most important teacher of the child. Some

examples are parent engagement activities are: Open house, parent meetings, classroom volunteering, Week of the Young Child celebrations, home visits, daily experience sheets, group socialization periods, and fatherhood activities. During the Week of the Young Child, our program hosts several events and activities. During this week many community leaders and partners visit and share their time with the children at our centers.



Mr. Bruce Johnson demonstrates how a squirrel feeder works.



Mud Day at TSU-TN CAREs EHS



A veterinarian visited during the Week of the Young Child and shared how to take care of our pets.

Social Services Competency Based Training (SSCBT)

SSCBT is a one-year competency-based program designed to improve the knowledge and skills of human service workers in Head Start community action programs and social service agencies across the country. The Center awards the Social Service Practitioner Credential upon completion of the program.

SSCBT training is currently used in Tennessee, Mississippi, Minnesota, Washington, Oregon, North Dakota, and South Dakota and Ohio. The Credentials are earned following the Social Services Competency Based Training (SSCBT) program. Participants are family service workers that come from various Head Start and Early Head Start agencies around the nation.

SSCBT Program Welcomes New Graduates



The Center of Excellence has been a collaborative partner of TCSW for many years and helped sponsor the 2014 Conference. Alex Atkinson presented awards for the fifth year in a row. Mr. Atkinson is the Program Director of the SSCBT Program at Tennessee State University and the Program Director for Financial Affairs for the Center of Excellence.

Twenty-four participants received credentials at the 101st Annual Conference of the Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare. The Credentials are earned following the Social Services Competency Based Training (SSCBT) program. Participants are family service workers that come from various Head Start and Early Head Start agencies around the nation.

This program is designed for people involved in providing family support services, including case managers, home visitors, teachers, health services staff, and community workers. It is specifically designed for family services workers with limited intensive training or experience. SSCBT is one of the recognized Head Start Family Worker Credentialing Programs.

Earning the credential requires 90 hours of classroom instruction, Field Mentor observations, and a competency-based evaluation.



Alex Atkinson presented SSCBT credentials for the fifth year in a row at the 101st Anniversary Conference.



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