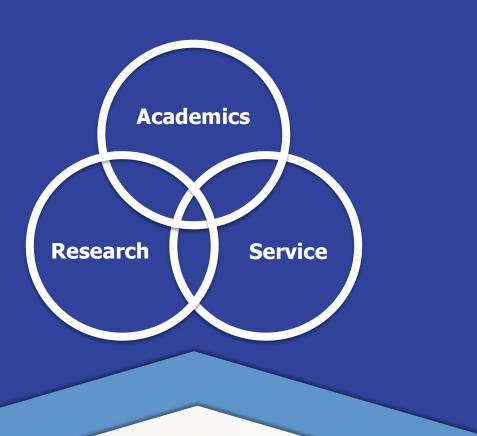


Building capacities to strengthen communities through education



Tennessee State University

Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

2015 Annual Report Issue 3

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 2015 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 2014 to June 2015. 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.

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Building Capacities to Strengthen Communities Through Education



Valerie Williams, B.E., M.B.A.
Interim Director
Center of Excellence for
Learning Sciences

Leadership in Academics, Research and Service

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance (TECTA)

Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential (TECPAC)

Tennessee Childcare Online Training System (TCCOTS)

Tennessee CAREs Early Head Start

Tennessee State University - Early Head Start Child Care Partnership

Social Services Competency Based Training (SSCBT)

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

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

Major Accomplishments in 2014 - 2015

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 23 High School Orientation Equivalency certificates to high school students in during the 2014-2015 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.

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 \$2,574,400 by the Tennessee Department of Human Services to support a higher education network of 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 2015 fiscal year, and provide support through the CDA credentialing process.

- The Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential (TECPAC) process, which
 includes tuition, technical assistance and instruction in the form of an Administrator Academy as
 well as the Tennessee Child Care Online Training System (TCCOTS) that provides online training
 to meet child care training requirements, are managed by TECTA under the same contract.
- TECTA builds upon a career lattice concept for ongoing professional development beginning with TCCOTS' specifically designed online Pre-service and Developmental Learning through structured TECTA Orientation training classes and on to provide access to higher education ensuring effective investment of public dollars to support the early care and education workforce.

Online Training

- TCCOTS Fiscal year 2015 ended with 17,857 completers across 20 training modules, which represents 48,429 training hours. Within this program year the Revised Tennessee Early Learning Developmental Standards were finalized and added as online modules.
- The TECPAC program has completed its fifth year of full online implementation in 2015 with 22 Administrator Credential recipients.
- TECTA completed its partnership with the Tennessee Department of Health to support the professional development of home visitors through an online TECTA Orientation. All enrollees in the orientations were employed by the Tennessee Department of Health and were home visitors or the supervisors of home visitors working in different programs directed by Department of Health. This online Orientation allowed participants to gain the knowledge to acquire a Home Visitor CDA from the Council for Professional Recognition. There were 188 direct service workers and supervisors who completed this Orientation during the last two years. The average number of enrollees per Orientation was 18 and the average completion rate was 88%.
- SSCBT In March of 2015, 4 SSCBT participants received their credentials at the 102nd 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.

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 seven years, 100% of administrators have increased their scores from pre to post assessment 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's 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.
- The Early Head Start Child Care Partnership grant provides funding for Early Head Start programs in private child care centers in Nashville.
- 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 2015 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.

- The Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences has had the opportunity to be a sponsor for several conferences and community events including the 102nd Anniversary Conference for TCSW and the Seventh 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 the mission through several programs including: the Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance, the Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential, the 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 by promoting the educational, social, physical, and psychological well being of children and families.

The Center of Excellence Awarded Funding to Expand Early Head Start Program



In December of 2014, US Department of Health and Human Services announced the first wave of selected grantees to receive part of \$500 million in new funding for new or existing Early Head Start programs to partner with local Nashville child care centers and family child care providers serving infants and toddlers from low-income families. The Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences submitted a proposal for this new program and received a preliminary award of \$1.5 million to scale-up the current Early Head Start program, Tennessee CAREs.

TECTA Joins National Discussion on Workforce Development

TECTA is taking part in national efforts to evaluate and improve the systems and policies that impact the development of the early childhood workforce. A larger conversation is building around effective systems of workforce development, specifically the processes and core components.

Dr. Valora Washington, president and CEO of the Council for Professional Recognition, published an article in Child Care Exchange entitled, "Degree Programs: Progress and Pitfalls for ECE II." In it, she describes the current state of college preparation within the field of early childhood education. The article specifically highlights

Tennessee State University and the TECTA program.

Lin Venable and others from the Tennessee Department of Education and Department of Human Services are involved in a state policy learning table coordinated by the BUILD Initiative and the Center on Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) has invited TECTA to represent Tennessee on a pilot project that is tasked with developing a set of quality indicators that measure effective state professional development systems.

Tennessee State University Purchases the Trenton Early Head Start Facility

The Tennessee State University Foundation has acquired the Trenton Community Resource Center from the Trenton Special School District for the purchase price of \$1. The facility houses the Trenton Early Head Start Center in Gibson County.

Previously owned by the Trenton Special School District, Trenton Rosenwald School is now known as the Trenton Community Resource Center. The Center of Excellence has already made large investments in the facility. The Center received provisions from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 and renovated a wing of the building, expanding to two infant and two toddler classrooms. Acquisition of the building creates many opportunities for the Center to continue to serve Gibson County.





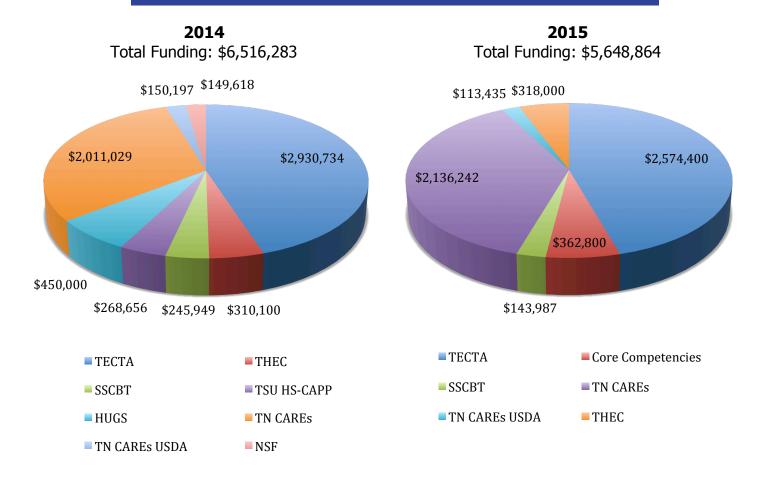
COELS Joins TSU Departments in a Community Event for the Week of the Young Child



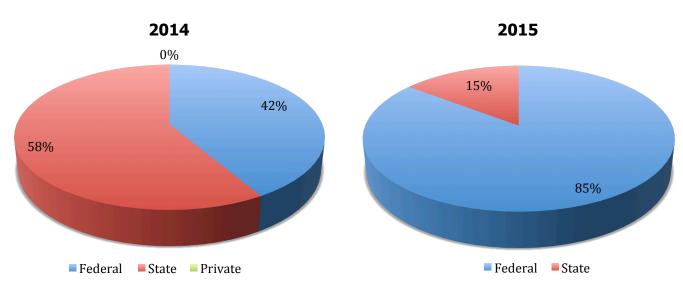
On April 15th the Tennessee State University Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and TECTA hosted a community event titled "Children Matter: Work, Together, Build Together, Learn Together." The event was a celebration that included interactive learning centers, games and healthy foods presented by staff and students from many of the University's academic departments.

COELS: Data at a Glance

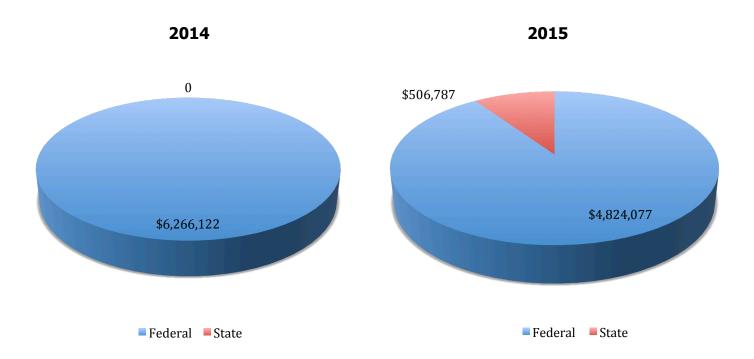
Revenue by Program



Revenue by Funding Source

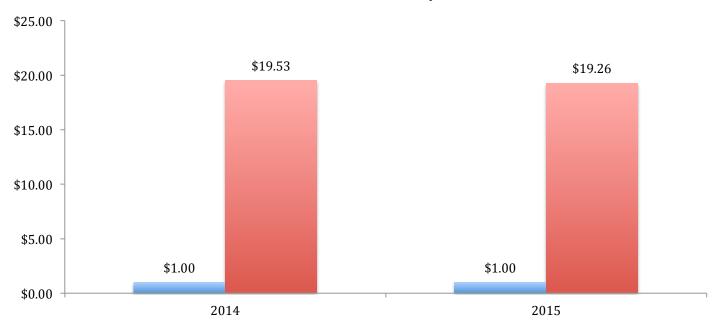


Total Proposal Submissions by Source



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 \$19.53 during the 2013-2014 fiscal year and \$19.26 during the 2014-2015 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 Hosts Tennessee Home Visitor Institute

Staff from the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences and the Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance helped to organize the 2014 Home Visiting Training Institute on August 3-6, 2014 in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. TECTA and COELS staff hosted the event and worked to register the attendees. This conference served as a training opportunity for Home Visitors in area Head Start programs and those working within the Tennessee Department of Health.



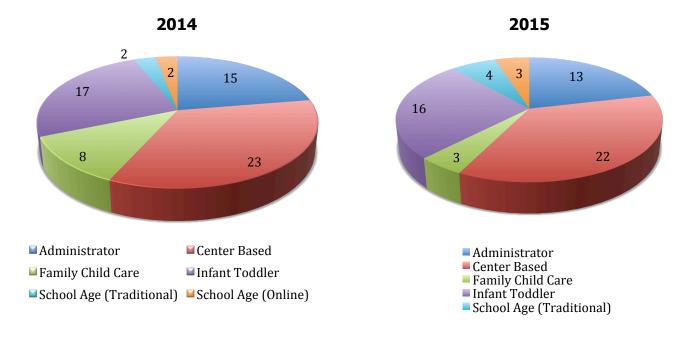
TECTA Hosts the Sixth Annual Summer Research Institute

Over 150 providers attended the TECTA Summer Research Institute at Tennessee State University's Avon Williams campus on Saturday, May 30th. The Institute is organized by TECTA Management to provide training and resources to Early Childhood staff and administrators in middle Tennessee. The theme for this year was "Recipes for Success: Blending Parents, Families, and Communities." The opening session consisted of a panel discussing "What does Parent and Family Engagement Look Like in the Early Childhood Classroom." The closing session featured Paul Coggins from Tennessee Voices for Children. Mr. Coggins is the Team Tennessee Coordinator for the Family Engagement Program of Positive Solutions for Families.



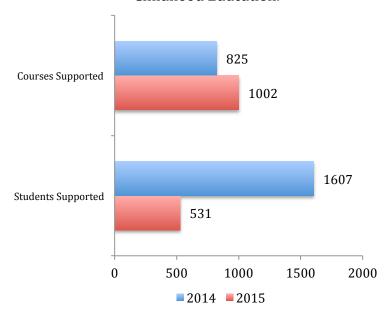
Total Orientations Held by Type

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



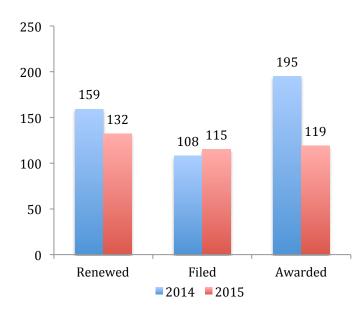
Total TECTA Supported Students in Academic Coursework

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.



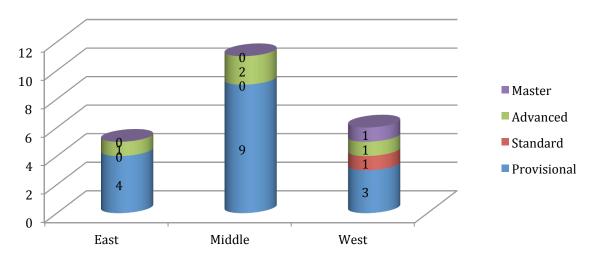
Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential (TECPAC)

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. 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 and 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 TotalsTECPAC Completers Participation by Credential Type



This fiscal year marks the shift in TECPAC from a yearlong Academy to two Academies held with the program year. During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, 22 successfully completed the Academy process. A pre and post assessment was performed on all students and 100% of the students increased their score substantially on post assessment. On average the increase in assessment scores from pre assessments to post assessments was 68%. Directors entered the program scoring as low as a 1.7 and exited the academy upon completion with a 5.0.

Tennessee Child Care Online Training System

(TCCOTS)

During the 2015 fiscal year there were 17,857 certificates of completion granted, which represents 48,429 training hours. Furthermore, there are an additional 15,238 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 finalized and added as online modules. Three trainings (*starred below) were replaced by a total of five new Revised TN-ELDS trainings based upon the revised standards. These three trainings ran during an overlap of program years during final testing in July 2014 so they are included in this report.



The chart below lists the total number of completions statewide for the current and new modules.

TCCOTS Statewide Training Completions

Completion Certificates Issued by Module

Module Title	Completions
Administration for Child Care Centers - Intermediate- 2 HR Training	336
Before You Begin: New Caregivers- 3 HR Training	3206
Before You Begin: New School-Age Caregivers - 2 HR Training	1214
Brain Development Advanced- 2 HR Training	520
Brain Development Intermediate- 2 HR Training	889
Family Child Care Contracts and Policies- 2 HR Training	300
Family Child Care Marketing- 2 HR Training	228
Family Child Care Record Keeping- 2 HR Training	192
Gold Sneaker - 2 HR Training	786
Inclusion- 2 HR Training	677
Promoting Social and Emotional Development - 3 HR Training	1061
*TN-ELDS - Infant: Birth - 12 Months - 3 HR	508
*TN-ELDS - Toddler: 13 - 30 Months - 3HR	704
*TN-ELDS - Pre-School 31 - 60 Months: 3 HR	808
Revised TN-ELDS for Infants: Birth- 12 Months 3 HR	1317
Revised TN-ELDS for Toddlers: 13- 24 Months 3 HR	1030
Revised TN-ELDS for Two Year-Olds: 25- 36 Months 3 HR	897
Revised TN-ELDS for Three Year Olds: 37-48 Months 3 HR	854
Revised TN-ELDS for Four Year-Olds: 3 HR	1380
TN-SADS- School-Age: 3 HR	950
Total Completions	17,857

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 Staff and Children Participate in National Autism Awareness Month

The Tennessee CARES Early Head Start program strives to provide learning opportunities for young children.

Each year the month of April is set aside as National Autism Awareness Month. Events recognizing children's special needs are held across the country. The Tennessee CAREs Paris Housing Center celebrated this year by decorating and wearing donated t-shirts emblazoned with puzzle pieces, the emblem for the Autism Speaks movement.







Social Services Competency Based Training (SSCBT)

SSCBT is a 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.

SSCBT Program Welcomes New Graduates



The Center of Excellence has been a collaborative partner of TCSW for many years and helped sponsor the 2015 Conference. Alex Atkinson presented awards for the sixth 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.

Four SSCBT participants received their credentials at the 102nd Annual TCSW Conference. Tina Hyleman, Len Karl, Brittany Toliver, and Crystal Ward all earned The Credential upon completing the Social Services Competency Based Training (SSCBT) program. Participants are family service workers that come from various Head Start and Early Head Start agencies in Tennessee.

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.





TSU-15-0199(A)-10b-61080 – Tennessee State University is an AA/EEO employer.

Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences

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