TN CAREs Early Head Start Family Participates in 2013 March for Babies

- News
  3 | TN CAREs Family Joins the Paris March for Babies
  6 | SSCBT Program Welcomes Seven New Graduates

- Outreach
  4 | TSU–HSCAPP Project Comes to a Close
  5 | COELS Sponsors Nashville Early Childhood Conferences

- Awards
  7 | COELS Staff Receives Awards For Years of Service
  7 | COELS Staff Members Win Organizational Elections

- Calendar
  8 | Upcoming Events For 2014
Building Capacities to Strengthen Communities Through Education

Valerie Williams
Director

Leadership in Academics, Research and Service

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS
Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential (TECPAC)
Head Start Career Advancement Partnership Program (HS-CAPP)
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
Tennessee State University is committed to supporting the communities in which we reside, including those in west Tennessee. The Tennessee CAREs Early Head Start program serves 140 infants and toddlers and their families by providing education as well health, nutritional, and other services to children and their families. The program includes six center-based child care facilities in Henry, Weakley, and Gibson counties in northwest Tennessee.

The 2013 Paris, Tennessee March of Dimes March for Babies was held on October 12th and included participants that are a part of the Tennessee State University family. Tanya Parsons and Krystal Kendall are both teachers in our Tennessee CAREs Early Head Start program and are teachers of the 2013 March of Dimes ambassador for Henry County, Ali Giesler — pictured above in the baby stroller being pushed by her grandmother Kathy Taylor.

The March for Babies was one of several events to raise money for the March of Dimes, which is dedicated to improving the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality in the Paris community.

The 2014 Paris March for Babies will be held on Saturday, October 11, 2014 at 10:00 am.

The 2012-2013 Annual Public Report for the TN CAREs program is available at www.tnstate.edu/learningsciences/service.aspx.
The Tennessee State University Head Start Career Advancement Partnership Program, or TSU-HSCAPP, will graduate its final students in the summer of 2014. Since 2008, 42 students have earned Associates, Bachelors, and Masters degrees from TBR institutions with tuition support from TSU-HSCAPP. The program is projected to graduate 50 students by the end of the summer semester.

TSU-HSCAPP is a federally funded partnership between Tennessee State University’s Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences and three Middle Tennessee Head Start and Early Head Start agencies.

In addition to Tennessee State University, TSU HS-CAPP partners with Columbia State Community College, Nashville State Technical Community College, Roane State Community College, Tennessee Technological University, and Volunteer State Community College. The primary purpose of the partnership is to assist these three agencies in meeting the requirements of the federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-134) which mandates that by 2013, at least 50% of the national Head Start teaching corps hold a bachelor or higher degree in Early Childhood Education or a related field.

TSU-HSCAPP began in the fall of 2008 by providing laptops to Head Start teachers to give access to online classes. The program had its start as the Partnership for Academic Training with Head Start, or PATHS project from 2003 to 2008, which shared the same project goals. Since then the program has provided tuition support and mentoring to Head Start classroom teachers.
COELS Sponsors Nashville Early Childhood Conferences

Fifth Annual TECTA Summer Research Institute • June 22, 2013

Over 150 participants attended the TECTA Summer Research Institute at the TSU Avon Williams campus. The Institute is organized by the TECTA Management staff to provide training and resources to Early Childhood faculty, staff and administrators in middle Tennessee. The 2013 Institute included 20 workshops on topics related to curriculum, development, and best practices for the care of young children.

The 2014 Institute is scheduled for June 21, 2014.

Bottom left: Dr. Clarissa Willis provided the keynote and closing addresses. Attendees received several hours of training from 20 workshops.

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 the TCCOTS exhibit.

COELS was a gold-level sponsor for this event and distributed information and resources in the exhibit space.
Seven 2013 participants completed the program and received their credentials at the 100th Annual TCSW Conference. The graduates are Billie Jo Campbell, Pearl Shelton, Ashley Tripp, Claudius Pratt II, Marlin McGuire, Margarita Rodriguez, and Phyllis Gore. 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.

The Center of Excellence has been a collaborative partner of TCSW for many years and helped sponsor the 2013 Conference. Alex Atkinson presented awards for the fourth 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.

The SSCBT program is a national training program developed by the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences at Tennessee State University and offered jointly by Tennessee State University and Portland State University in Oregon.

The next Tennessee SSCBT class has begun and this year the program has two cohorts running simultaneously. The groups have completed Module II and are on track to complete this spring. The next TCSW conference will be in March 24-26, 2014 in Nashville, Tennessee where the current students who successfully complete will receive their credentials.

For more information about the SSCBT program, visit www.tnstate.edu/learningsciences.
COELS Staff Members Elected to Serve as Leaders in Professional Organizations

Alex D. Atkinson Wins Region III NCURA Election

The Center of Excellence congratulates Alex D. Atkinson for his recent election as the Region III Treasurer for the National Council of University Research Administrators. Mr. Atkinson serves as the Program Director for Financial Affairs and the Director of the SSCBT Program. He also serves as the advisor to the Tennessee State University Chapter of Collegiate 100.

Established in 1999, NCURA serves its members and advances the field of research administration through education and professional development programs, the sharing of knowledge and experience, and by fostering a professional, collegial, and respected community.

COELS Staff Join the Board of NAAEYC

The 2014 Board of Directors for the Nashville Area Association for the Education of Young Children (NAAEYC) can count four COELS staff among its members.

Stacey Nieman has been elected President of the local affiliate. Melissa Fleck and Cathy Brashear joined the Board in 2014 as President-Elect and Secretary, respectively. Norma Mason has also joined the board as Chair for Program Director Support.

Dr. Katari Coleman Joins the SECA Editorial Committee

Dr. Katari Coleman has joined the Editorial Committee for the Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA). SECA publishes newsletters and periodicals with information of interest to the Early Childhood community. Dr. Coleman currently serves as the statewide program director for the Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance (TECTA), housed within the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences at Tennessee State University.
The Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences is grateful for the opportunities to support families, students, and young children. Our organization understands that small, positive changes can have a major impact. We thank Tennessee State University for its support for our programs in 2013 and we look forward to working hard for the academic and Early Childhood communities in 2014.

COELS Staff Looks Forward to 2014

COELS staff members ended 2013 in a festive fashion at the Mid-year Staff Development Training.
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.