



Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance

Tennessee State University

Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences

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ANNUAL REPORT

CONTRACT YEAR 2013 - 2014



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From the TECTA Interim Program Director

Despite funding reductions TECTA had a successful 2013-2014 year assisting child care providers achieve their training and education goals towards attainment of a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential, Technical Certificate, Associate, Bachelor or Graduate Degree. The realignment to eight (8) sites statewide resulted in the reorganization and expansion of the services provided by the APSU, ChSCC, TTU, and TSU sites serving the middle Tennessee area. A seamless transition enabled students and staff to acclimate to new service areas and find no interruption in services.

The FREE 30 clock -hour TECTA Orientation provides an active stimulus to motivate child care providers to seek further professional development and higher education. The addition of offering more Orientation classes specialized for Administrators this year as a later request by the Tennessee Department of Human Services provided a challenge to sites. Still, TECTA Coordinators and Orientation Specialists arose to the task and provided extra classes. TECTA site staff continued to focus on CDA advisements as well as technical assistance through coaching support in order to enable child care providers to prepare for attaining the CDA National credential. The Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential, for directors in the field, provides specific preparation and evidence that TECTA is contributing to the enhancement of child care quality across the state as measured by the Program Administration Scale and Business Administration Scale.

TECTA is proud of its education and preparation lattice concept as a means to ensure early childhood teacher and caregiver preparation and recognition including training and tuition assistance toward Early Childhood Education degrees. Although funding streams are limited, TECTA strives to maintain attention to research based best practices and remain current in widely accepted advances in the field of early care and education. We look forward to continued collaborations with statewide partner agencies, professional organizations, and higher education institutions to support the needs of the child care providers across the state as well as seek out new opportunities. TECTA maintains a strong commitment to the delivery of quality professional development opportunities through training and education for professionals in the early care and education field in order to strengthen the quality of care for Tennessee's most vulnerable population-the children from birth to eight.

Lin Venable

TECTA Statewide Interim Program Director

Acknowledgements

Authors and Contributors

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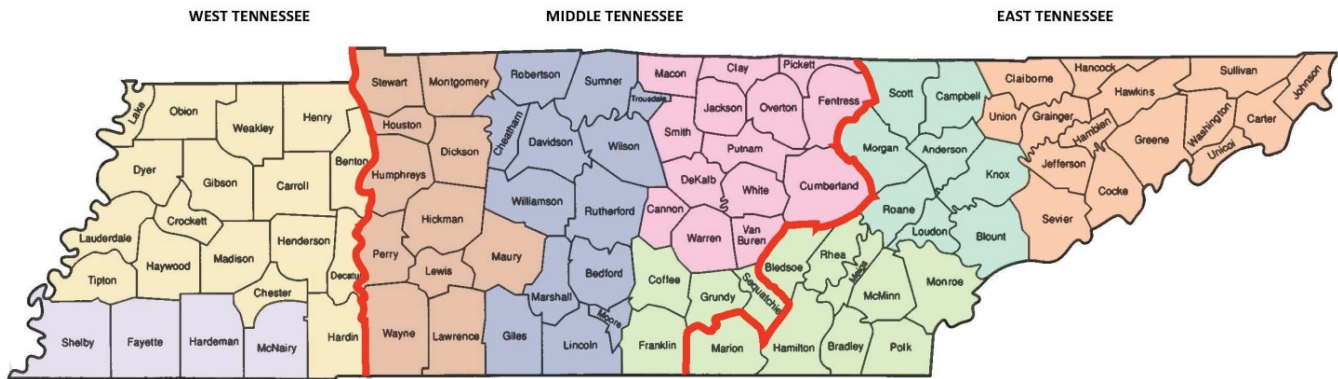
The TECTA program is funded through a contract with the Tennessee Department of Human Services and the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences at Tennessee State University.

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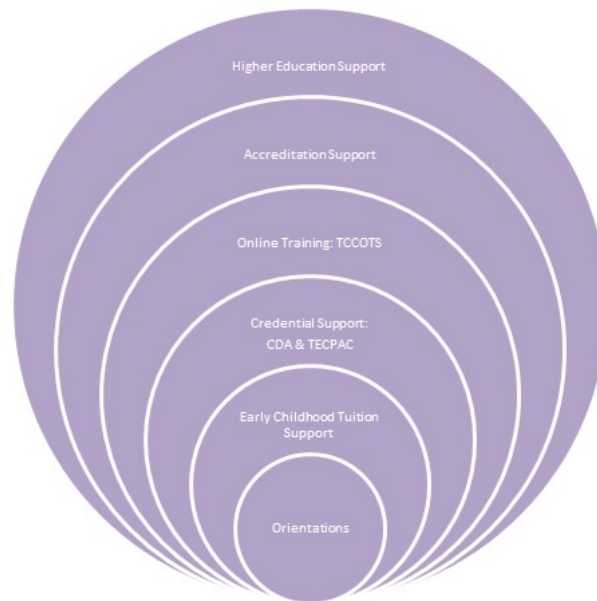
TECTA's Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Allocations

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 fiscal year, and support through the CDA credentialing process. In addition, The State Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential (TECPAC) process, which includes tuition, instruction and technical assistance, and the Tennessee Child Care Online Training System (TCCOTS) are managed by TECTA. TCCOTS specifically provides online training tied to QRIS-Pre-service and Developmental Learning. TECTA also provides assistance to the early childhood education higher education community with an annual Higher Ed Institute and many other supports to other early childhood professional organizations.

TECTA utilizes the core professional knowledge and competencies based upon National Association for the Education of Young Children Standards and Guidelines for Professional Development. We continue to explore new relationships across entities providing services to children and families and

Estimated Budget Allocations - FY 2014

Total Funding
\$2,930,734



work diligently to maintain and enhance partnerships.

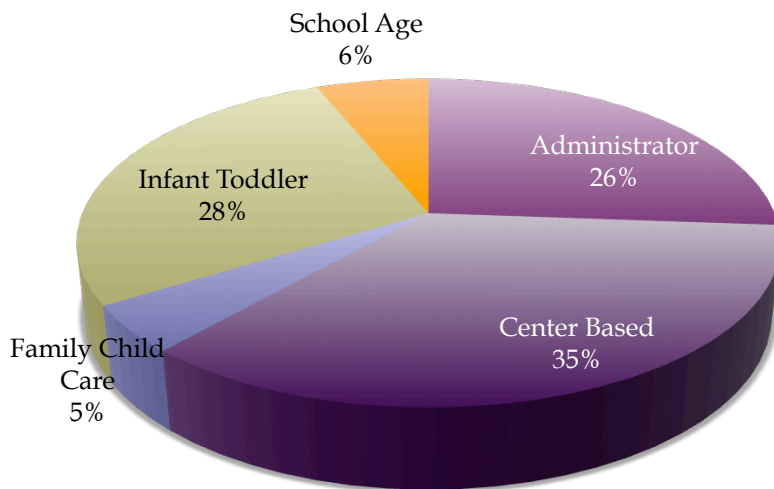
All data is reported by respective regions under its proper scope. TECTA sites are able to provide service to all 95 counties across Tennessee. The regional location of the TECTA sites are defined below:

Region	TECTA Site
West	Dyersburg State Community College Southwest Tennessee Community College
Middle	Austin Peay State University Chattanooga State Community College (2 counties only) Tennessee State University Tennessee Technological University
East	Chattanooga State Community College East Tennessee State University Roane State Community College

TECTA Orientation Enrollment and Completions

TECTA Orientations Offered Statewide

by Type
Fiscal Year 2014



TECTA Orientation is 30 hours of free Early Childhood training centered on the professional core competencies that are based on research and best practices and that are relevant to the child care programs in the state of Tennessee and the National Association for the Education of Young Children “guidelines” to early childhood professional preparation. TECTA Orientation is an academic gateway that prepares participants for continued professional development and tuition support.

TECTA Orientations are offered in five specializations:

- Administrator
- Center-Based
- Family Child Care
- Infant/Toddler
- School Age

TECTA sites collectively held 65 Orientation classes this fiscal year.

TECTA Orientation Enrollment

Over the course of three semesters (3), Summer 2013, Fall 2013 and Spring 2014; a total of 1,742 individuals were enrolled in TECTA Orientations Statewide. At the end of the Spring 2014 semester 1,117 individuals completed Orientation.

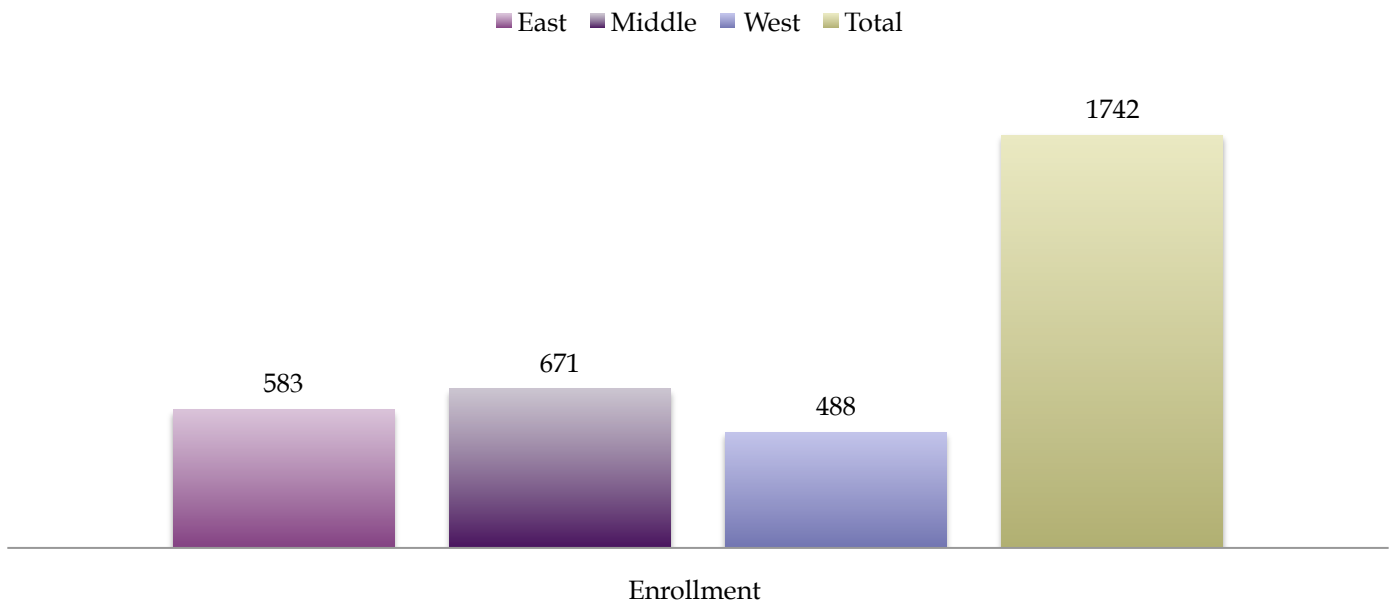
Orientation Pre and Post Assessments

In reviewing the data for the Pre and Post assessments, all Orientation classes demonstrated student gains in percentages of correct responses.

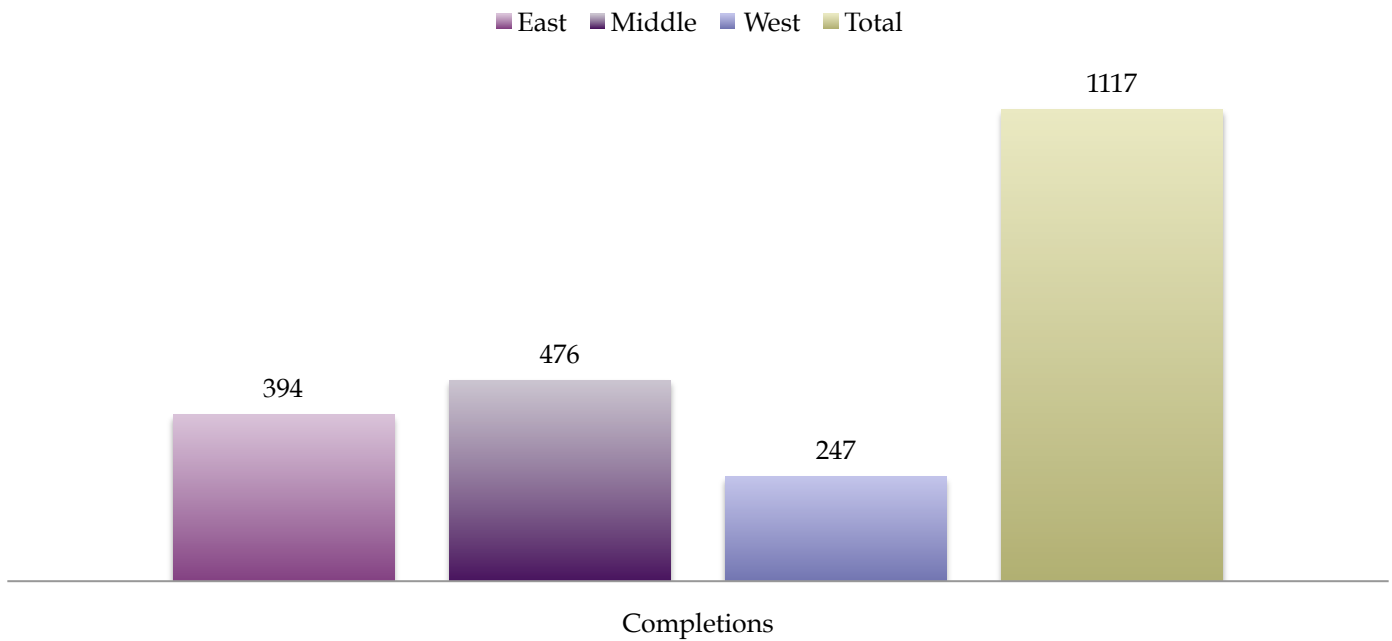
Correct Student Responses in Pre and Post Assessments

Orientation Type	Percentage of Correct Responses
Center Based Pre-Assessment	55%
Center Based Post-Assessment	71%
Administrator Pre-Assessment	65%
Administrator Post-Assessment	75%
School Age Pre-Assessment	53%
School Age Post-Assessment	74%
Infant Toddler Pre-Assessment	48%
Infant Toddler Post-Assessment	61%
Family Child Care Pre-Assessment	52%
Family Child Care Post-Assessment	54%

TECTA Orientation Enrollments by Region Fiscal Year 2014



TECTA Orientation Completions by Region Fiscal Year 2014



Overall Orientation Evaluations reported strong satisfaction with instructional content, instruction, and methods of instruction using adult learning methodology.

Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential Preparation and Assistance

The CDA Assistance Program includes tuition support, technical support, technical assistance, consultation, mentoring, and assessment fee scholarships to students completing the CDA preparation coursework and documentation through TECTA sub-contract institutions.

TECTA program services also include access to early childhood resources for checkout, textbook loans for CDA preparation courses, CDA advisement, and technical assistance visits provided by TECTA staff.

During the 2013-2014 Fiscal year the CDA's awarded across the state exceeded expectations.

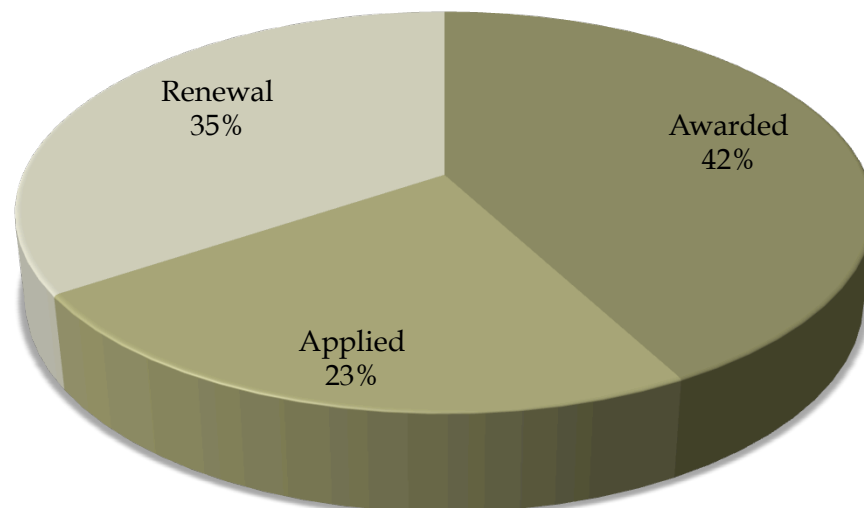
- **Applied - 108**
- **Awarded - 195**
- **Renewal - 159**



TECTA provided advisement and financial support for **162** individuals to file with the Council for Professional Recognition in Washington, D.C. to go through the process to obtain their CDA credential.

CDA Credential Status

Fiscal Year 2014

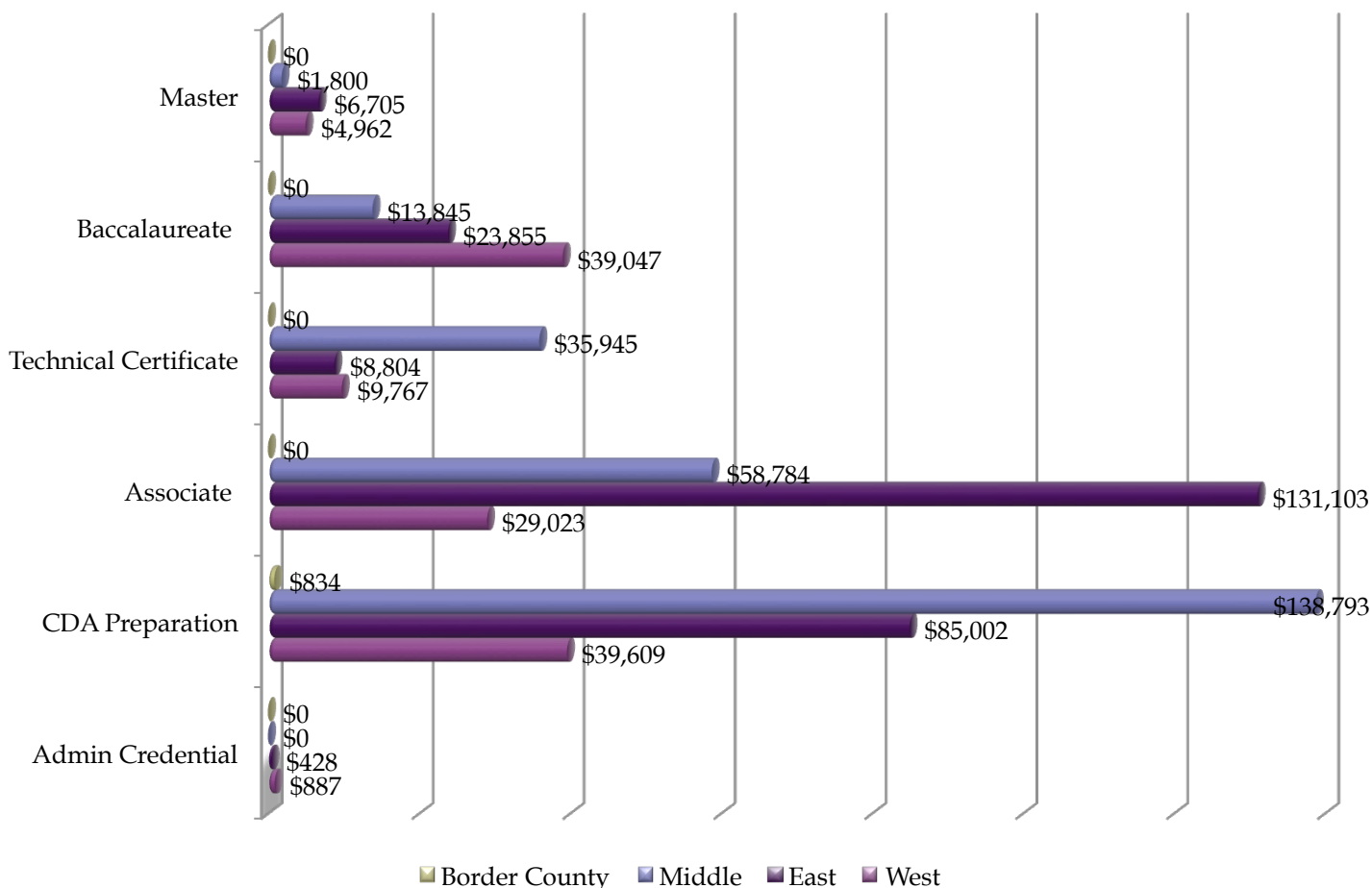


Financial Support for Early Childhood Education Coursework Across the State

The TECTA program provides tuition assistance and support for students who attend courses accessed through the eight TECTA regional offices located in Tennessee Board of Regents institutions across the state. Courses are available on the various campus sites, on-line via Regents On-line Degree Program (RODP), or in local community sites that are accessible in each of the state’s ninety-five (95) counties.

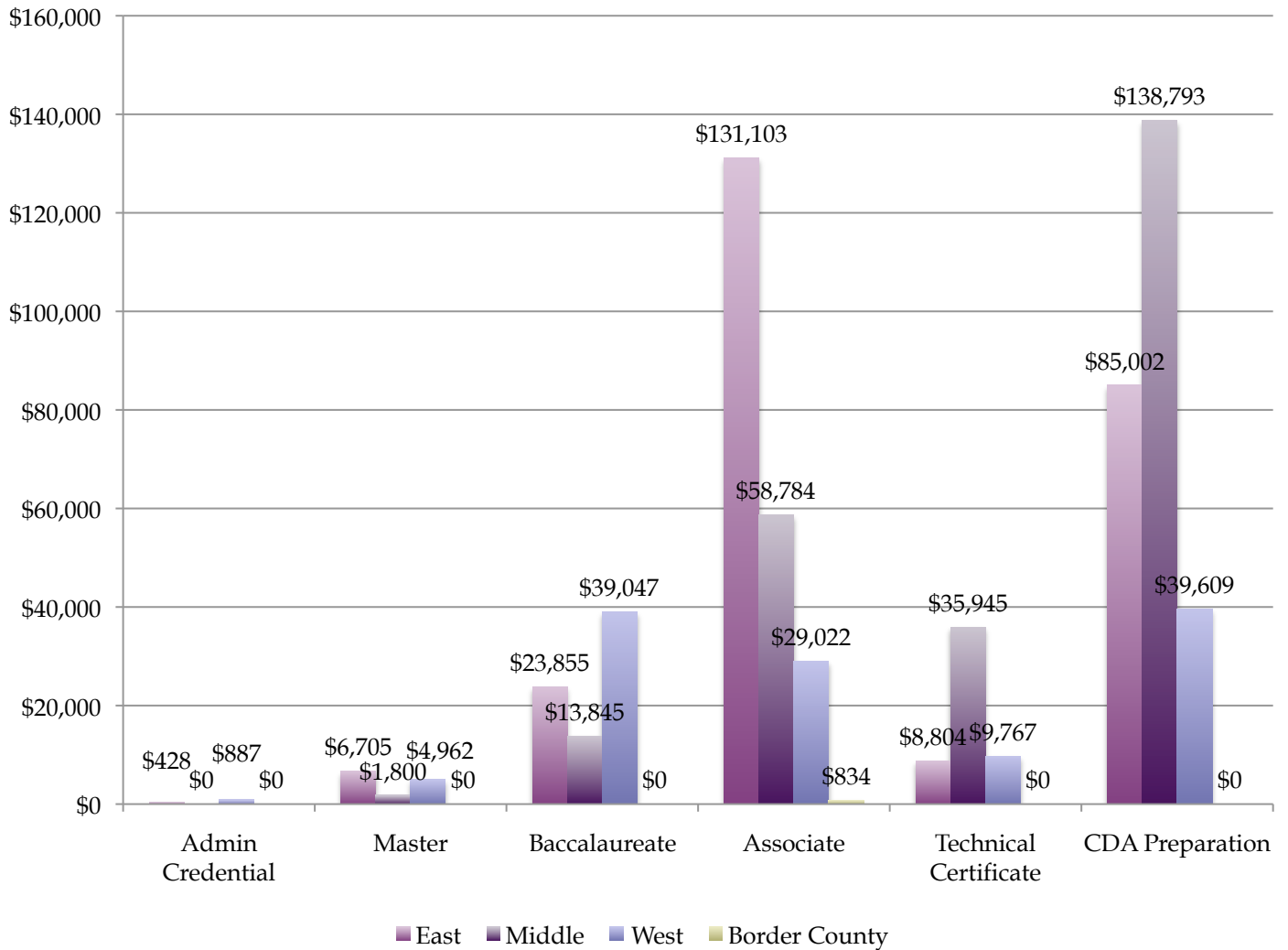
During the 2013-2014 year, TECTA provided \$629,193 in scholarship dollars to eligible students statewide. A total of 1,607 academic seats were supported which resulted in the support of 825 students.

TECTA Academic Support by Education Level Fiscal Year 2014



Distribution of TECTA Tuition Support by Region

Fiscal Year 2014



Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential (TECPAC)

Fiscal Year 2014

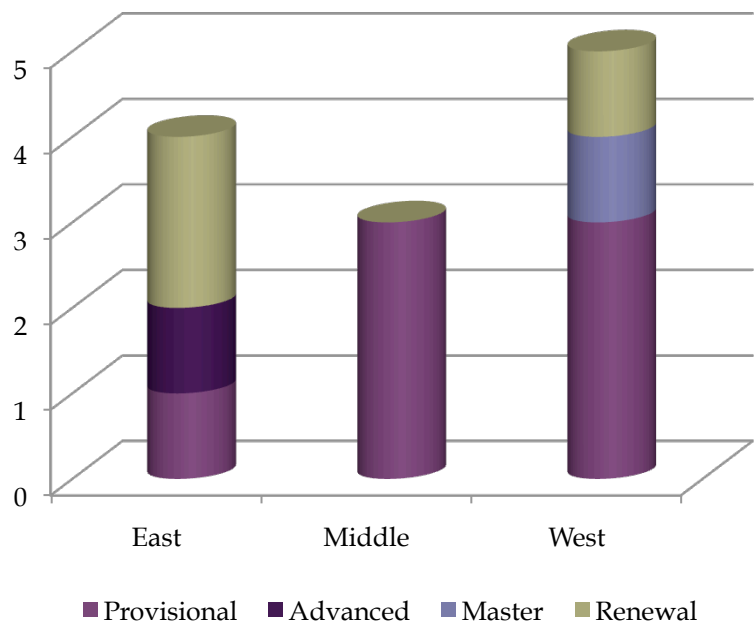
The Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential (TECPAC) is the recognition awarded to Early Childhood Administrators who have demonstrated the specific competencies for effective leadership and management through academics, experiences, and portfolio assessment.

TECPAC is 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, granted by Tennessee State University's Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences, and funded through a contract with the Tennessee Department of Human Services and Tennessee State University, Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences.

During the 2013-14 fiscal year 12 directors entered the TECPAC Academy and a total of 9 directors successfully completed the academy process. We marketed the TECPAC Academy in May of 2013 by sending a mass email to approximately 300 directors across the state of Tennessee. Many responded expressing an interest in enrolling. After reviewing transcripts, several directors were placed on a professional development plan. Others were not eligible because they were assistant directors. In June 2013 we successfully enrolled 12 students. We were pleased to have 9 of 12 students, 75%, complete the Academy.

TECPAC Completers by Credential Level

Fiscal Year 2014



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. Finally, three students successfully renewed their credentials. Two students renewed at the Advanced level and one at the Standard Level.

Tennessee Child Care Online Training System (TCCOTS)

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.

TCCOTS Statewide Training Completions Fiscal Year 2014

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
Total Completions	14,940

Collaboration with Partner Agencies and Professional Organizations

TECTA continues to partner with many organizations and provide more educational opportunities to child care providers across the state and/or facilitate greater understanding of the training and educational needs of children and providers.

An example of a wonderful collaboration is the High School TECTA Equivalency approved by DHS. This Equivalency recognizes the

accomplishments of High School Students who have completed the Early Childhood Education Careers I & II courses with a grade of a “B” or better which qualifies them for TECTA financial and technical assistance once they have completed high school. This fiscal year TECTA awarded 14 certificates to eligible high school graduating seniors.

TECTA Higher Education Institute

TECTA’s Annual Higher Education Institute for both Community College and University ECED faculty took place April 11, 2014. This event connects Early Childhood Education Faculty from both community colleges and universities, with early education and care programs and projects across the state. This year there were presentations and updates from numerous partners on Assessment, Student Leadership, Head Start, Pre-K, Child Care, etc.

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.

*Volunteer State
Community College
Accreditation 2013*



*Motlow State
Community College*

*Self-Study Submitted
2014*



*Nashville State
Community College*

*Accreditation
2007/Reaccreditation*



Sixth Annual TECTA 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.

The Institute is an annual event organized by the TECTA Management staff to provide training and resources to Early Childhood faculty, staff and administrators in middle Tennessee and is free to attend.



Heather Hicks discusses preschool quality

Brocklin Qualls from the Council for Professional Recognition provided the closing address.



Pat Wade, Assistant Commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Human Services delivered the opening keynote.



TECTA staff registered over 250 attendees



TECTA Annual Steering Committee Meeting

The COELS Director, Valerie Williams, planned and implemented an annual Steering Committee Meeting that took place on April 10, 2014 at Tennessee State University - Avon Williams Campus. This year the Steering Committee heard testimonies from TECTA Supported Students and updates on State Higher Education Initiatives such as *Drive to 55* and *Tennessee Promise*. Attendees took part in work groups led by TECTA staff members to assist TECTA in planning for the future.



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

TECTA Success Stories

TTU-TECTA: A HOMEGROWN SUCCESS STORY

Contributed by Darcey Neyman, Site Coordinator for TECTA at TTU



Shellie Willis

This is a success story I have been waiting to write for such a long time! This is Shellie Willis. She came to the TTU TECTA site nearly five years ago wanting to strengthen her skills and knowledge in

the field of Early Childhood Education.

She was volunteering in her church's licensed early childhood

program and had the desire to take her passion for helping young children a step further. I know she expected to learn a wide range of new knowledge relating to early childhood education, but what she didn't expect was to learn the value of herself and the confidence that she too could be a college graduate! Throughout her journey I watched as she screamed in sheer excitement after receiving an A in one of her classes to watching her sob over not understanding how letters could be a part of Math. But the one thing she never did was give up! She persevered through the good times and the bad times! She grew into a person who was uncertain about the direction in her life and whether she was capable of doing certain tasks into someone who now mentors other TECTA supported students who

Continued on next page...

TECTA Success Stories, continued

look up to her for advice and encouragement! Sometimes in life we measure success by numbers and money, but when in reality the ability to help one person can actually positively affect hundreds of lives and save hundreds of thousands of dollars in other areas. This one individual who received assistance from TECTA has a positive influence on hundreds of young children, shares her knowledge with friends who are experiencing struggles with their own young children, has become a better parent to her children and grandchildren, and now mentors and encourages hundreds of other early childhood educators. So statically she is one person whom TECTA has assisted both financially and emotionally through her journey but if you take a moment that one person has had a greater effect on society as a whole!

TSU TECTA: Bianca Tarantola



Bianca Tarantola

Bianca Tarantola has had many obstacles in her young life, but she persevered. She was extremely excited to dawn the cap and gown for the first time in her life. Bianca had to drop out of high school, so she never experienced the captivating atmosphere of a graduation event. She earned her GED, then

began the journey towards their Child Development Associate Credential (CDA). Through medical setbacks, she persevered, and on May 14, 2014, she did it! She received her

Technical Certificate, with honors in Early Childhood Education. This is a major accomplishment for Bianca, but she has not completed her journey, but a major milestone. Bianca is in summer school pressing towards her Associates Degree.

Bianca wrote, "Dear Cathy, Tracy, and Stacy, and Everyone at TECTA,

I would not have been able to achieve my Technical without the help of TECTA. I wanted to take the time to thank everyone for your support and help. My dreams are coming true because of your organization and the people like you who are the glue that holds it together. This program helps people like me who are trying to make a difference in their own life by bettering themselves through education, bettering the lives of other's by serving the families and children within a community, and bettering the lives of coworkers by being competent, knowledgeable, and educated in the area of Early Childhood Education. This will be my first time walking for anything in my life. Thank you for all you do.

Love Always,

Bianca