
TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



Statewide Management Office

Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences

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ANNUAL REPORT

CONTRACT YEAR 2014 - 2015



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From the TECTA Interim Program Director

The statewide TECTA program remains committed to providing affordable, accessible, high quality professional development for child care providers working in Tennessee. Throughout the 2014-2015 year TECTA successfully assisted child care providers in achieving their training and education goals towards attainment of a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential, Technical Certificate, Associate, or additional degrees as funding was available. The eight (8) sites statewide not only provided opportunities for the successful professional advancement of supported students, in addition, staff actively participated as leaders in the early childhood field and local community efforts to improve the quality of child care across the state.

TECTA is proud to provide multiple training options. The Tennessee Child Care Online Training System (TCCOTS) continues to provide online training opportunities for entry level as well as ongoing training opportunities 24/7. The FREE 30 clock –hour TECTA Orientation is designed to provide a stimulus to motivate child care providers to seek further professional development and higher education. Orientation classes, specialized in specific early care and education areas provide an introduction to core content knowledge in the field. The TECTA professional development pathway uses a training and formal education career lattice concept as a means to ensure child care providers receive education preparation and tuition assistance advancing toward earning Early Childhood Education degrees. TECTA strives to maintain attention to research based best practices and remain current in widely accepted developments in the field.

As advocates for the future success of our supported students, TECTA Coordinators and Orientation Specialists must play a significant role in facilitating assistance with registration and enrollment to assure for a successful transition to college. TECTA site staff provide early childhood care and education course advisement and appropriate guidance with a focus on enabling students to prepare for attaining the CDA National credential and place students on a trajectory for attaining addition academic success. Upon completion of the first four academic courses, students receive technical assistance through coaching support to apply for the CDA credential. For directors in the field, the Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential process provides specific education preparation and evidence based 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. The technical assistance afforded in the multiple aspects of professional development that include feedback loops beginning in TECTA Orientation classes creates transitions for measuring improved quality and in the marking of significant benchmarks of student professional success.

TECTA maintains a strong commitment to the delivery of quality professional development that builds upon core knowledge and developing competencies. By providing ongoing professional development opportunities and financial supports for child care practitioners, the quality of care for Tennessee’s most vulnerable population-the children from birth to eight can be strengthened to support the goals and outcomes of the state’s QRIS framework.

Lin Venable

TECTA Statewide Interim Program Director

Acknowledgements

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Funding Support for the Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance



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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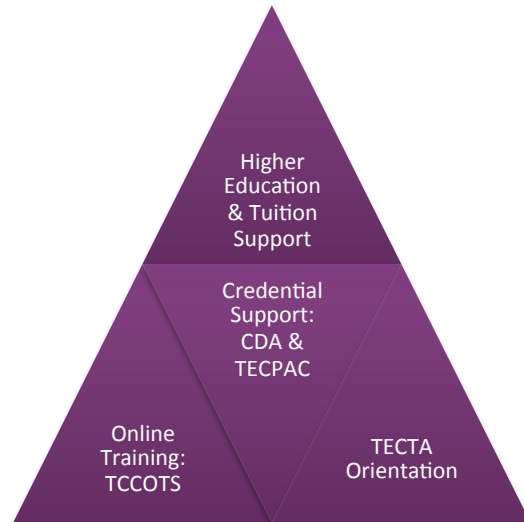
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TECTA's Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Allocations

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 sites statewide to provide 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. In addition, 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 utilizes the core professional knowledge and competencies based upon National Association for the Education of Young Children Standards and Guidelines for Professional Development in all aspects of the statewide professional development system.

Based upon the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) quality initiatives TECTA aligns with core knowledge and competencies through the common purpose of strengthen the capacity of child care providers to deliver quality services to young children and their families. TECTA builds upon a career lattice concept for ongoing professional development beginning with

Total FY 2015 Funding: \$2,574,400



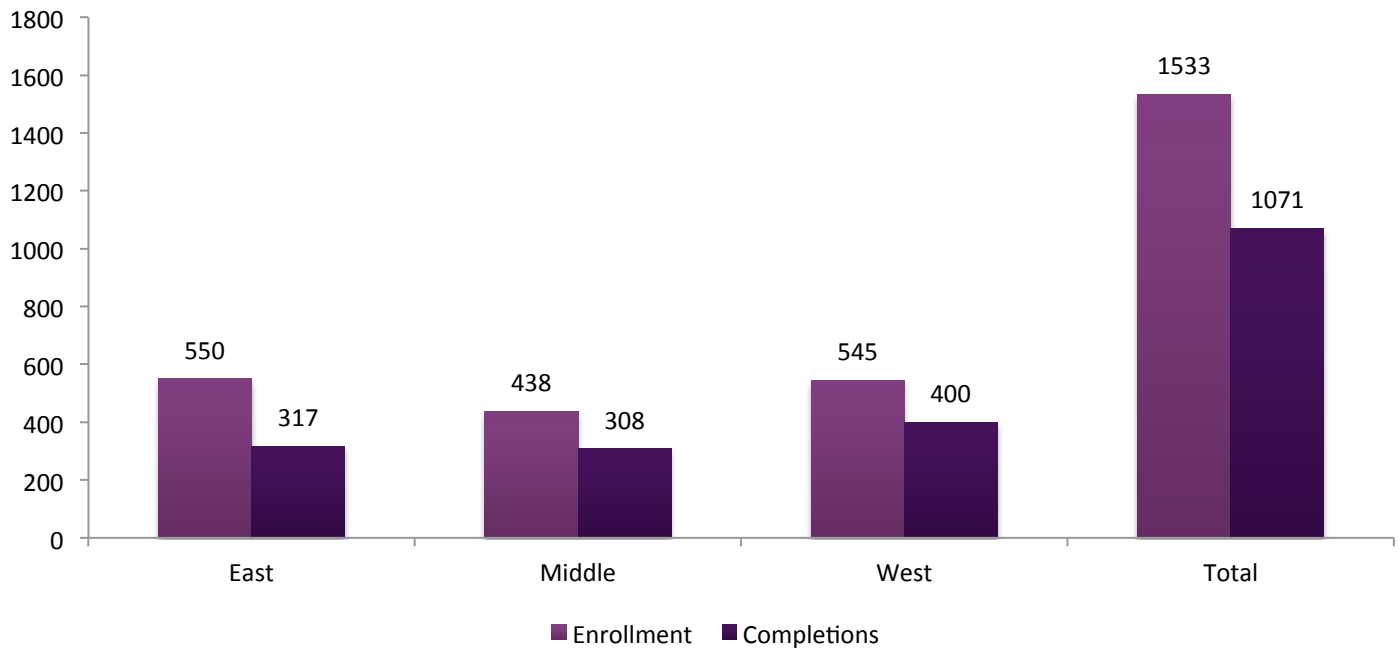
TCCOTS specifically designed online training Pre-service and Developmental Learning through structured TECTA Orientation training classes and on to provide access to higher education ensuring effective investment of public dollars to support the early care and education workforce. TECTA also provides 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.

Data is reported statewide and by respective regions under its proper scope. TECTA sites provide services to all 95 counties through access to the TECTA sites 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
East	Tennessee Technological University
	Chattanooga State Community College
	East Tennessee State University
	Roane State Community College

TECTA Orientation Enrollment and Completions

Fiscal Year 2015



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 - offered in a Hybrid format
Center Based - offered in Face-to-Face option only with make-up packets designed to be completed online
- Family Child Care - offered in both Face-to-Face or online
- Infant Toddler - offered in Face-to-Face option only
- School Age - offered in both Face-to-Face or online

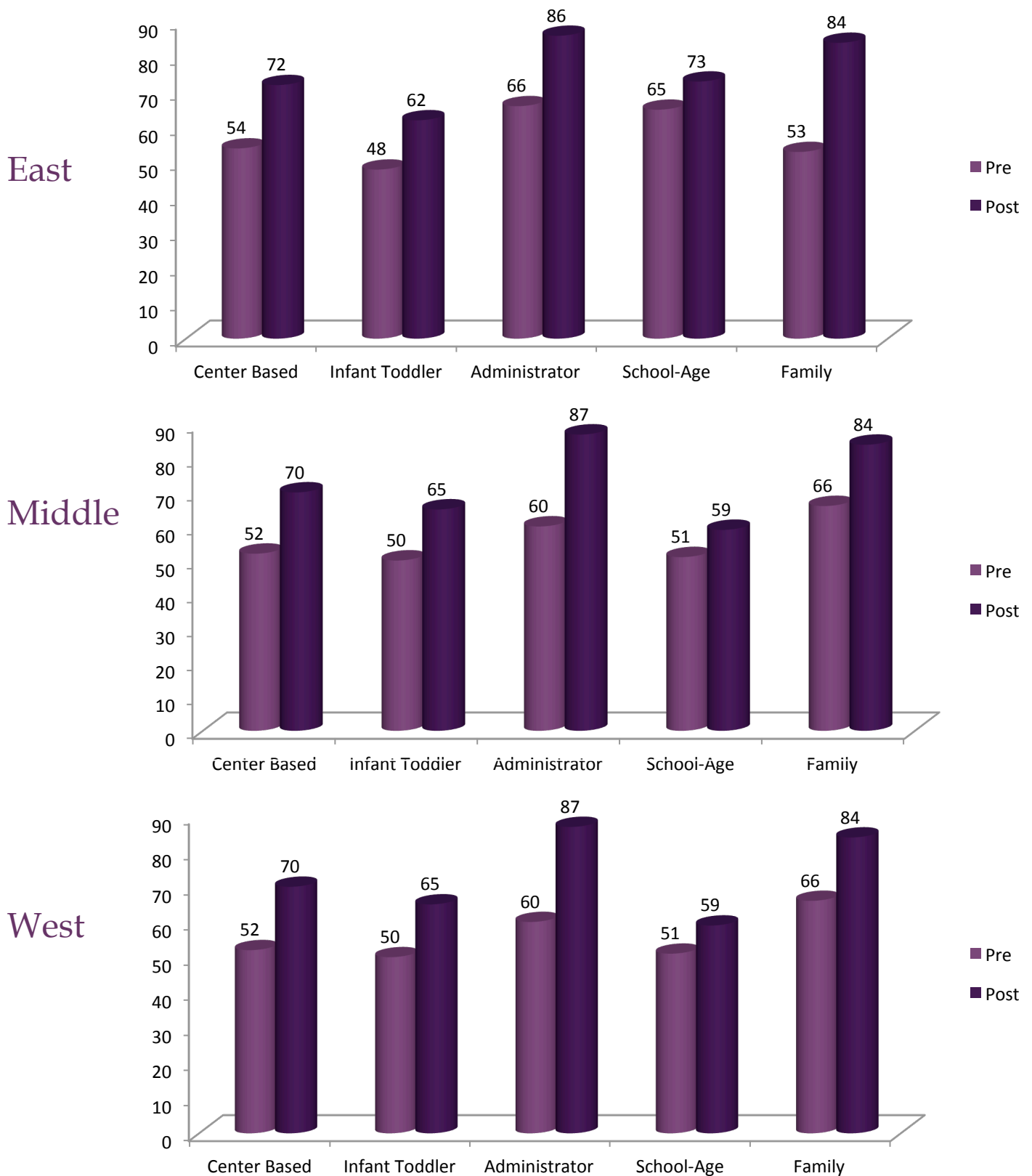
TECTA Orientation Enrollment

TECTA sites collectively held 61 Orientation classes this fiscal year. Over the course of three semesters (3), Summer 2014, Fall 2014 and Spring 2015; a total of 1,533 individuals were enrolled in TECTA Orientations Statewide. At the end of the Spring 2015 semester a grand total of 1,025 individuals completed Orientation with an additional 116 students eligible to make-up. Over the course of the three semesters enrollment class materials were prepared for a total of 245 students who did not report for class.

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

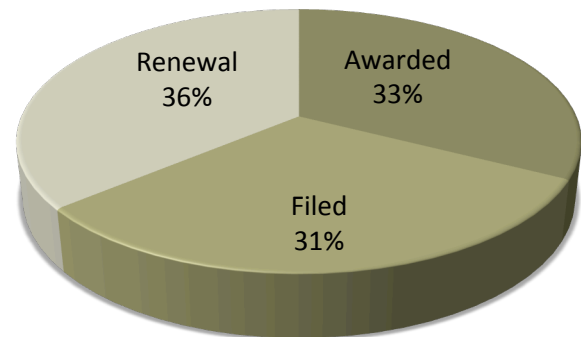
Correct Student Responses in Pre and Post Assessments Fiscal Year 2015



Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential Preparation and Assistance

TECTA sites provide technical assistance, mentoring, consultation and tuition scholarship assistance to CDA preparation participants. Scholarship funding is provided four (4) times a year by remitting payment directly to the Council for Professional Recognition in Washington D.C. The CDA Credential core set of Competency Standards provides the foundation for all TECTA training and is aligned with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Standards for Professional Preparation Programs used in NAEYC Early Childhood Associate Degree Accreditation system (ECADA). The TECTA formal education support pathway to earning the CDA credential is through completion of TECTA orientation, preparation coursework and documentation through TECTA sub-contract institutions. TECTA provided advisement and financial support for 234 individuals to file with the Council for Professional Recognition in Washington, D.C. to go through the process to obtain their CDA

CDA Credential Status
Fiscal Year 2015



credential. At this writing **75** individuals hold the status of in progress working toward completion in the next fiscal year.

Over the entire program year TECTA staff provided CDA technical assistance through mentoring support and CDA verification.

Hours of CDA Mentoring Support and Verification Visits
Fiscal Year 2015

	East	Middle	West
Mentoring Support	242	431.5	272.5
Verification Visits	159	303.5	65

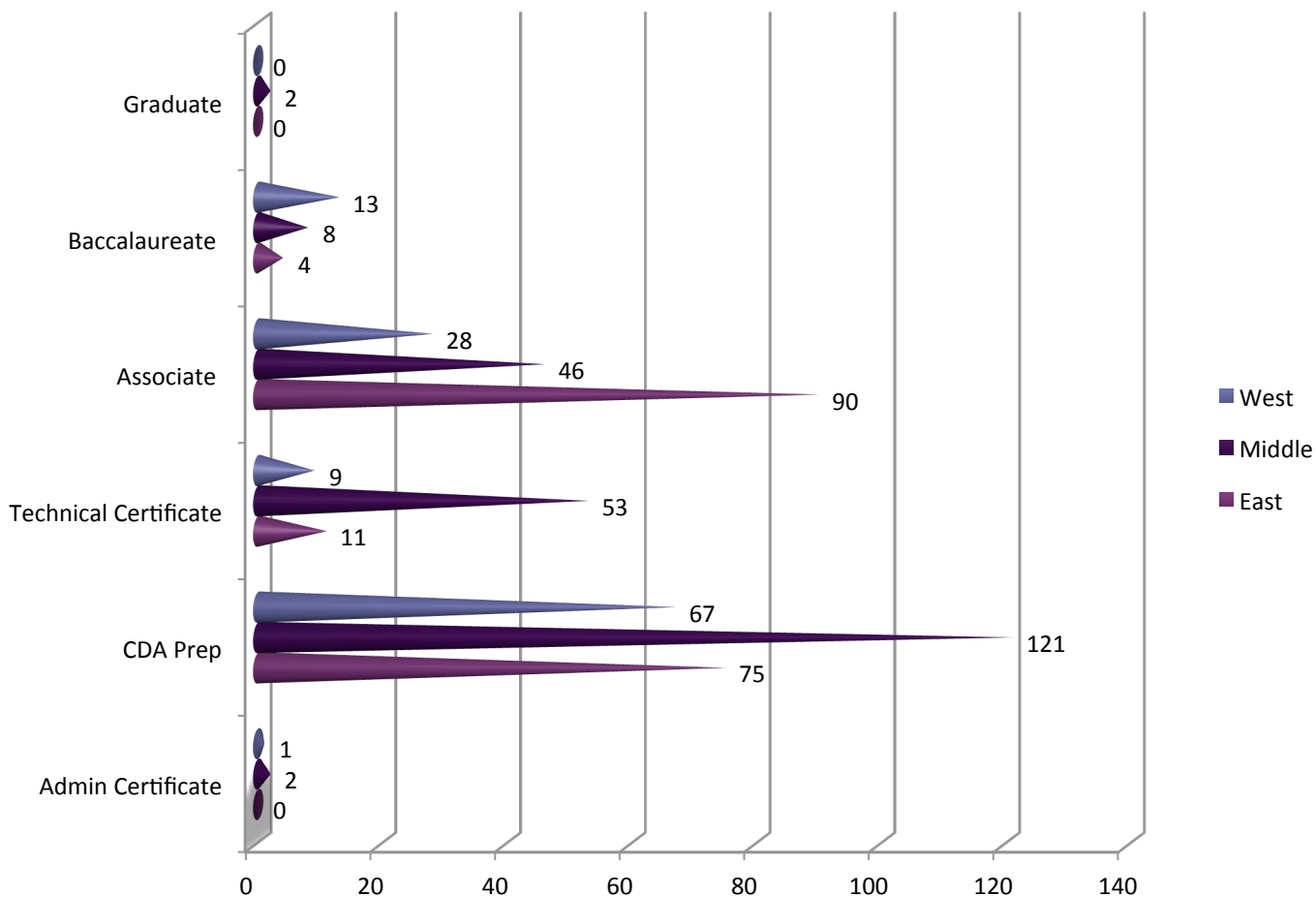
Financial Support for Early Childhood Education Coursework Across the State

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.

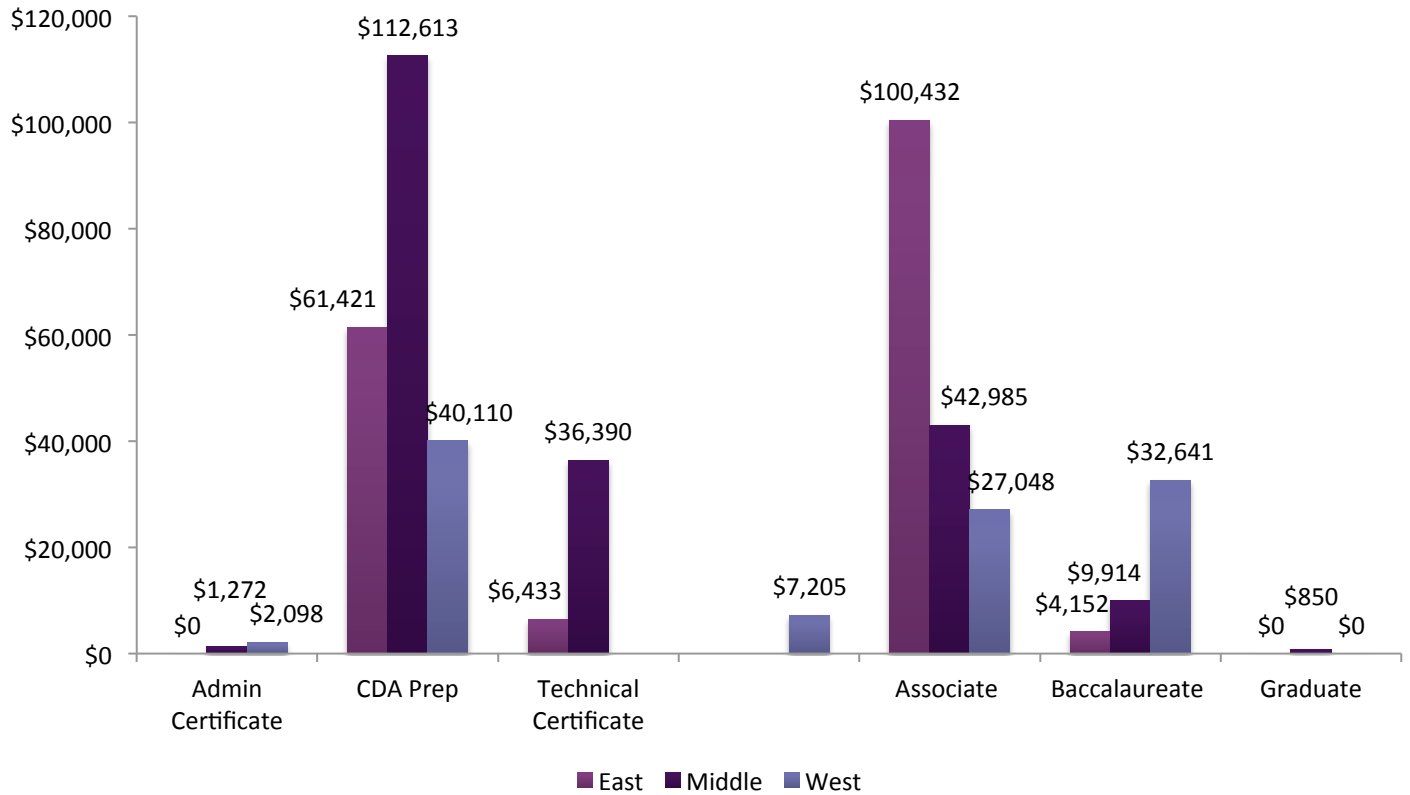
During the 2014-2015 year, TECTA provided \$485,561.60 in scholarship dollars to eligible students statewide. A total of 1,002 academic seats were supported which resulted in the support of 531 students.

TECTA Academic Support for Students by Education Level Fiscal Year 2015



Distribution of TECTA Tuition Support by Region

Fiscal Year 2015

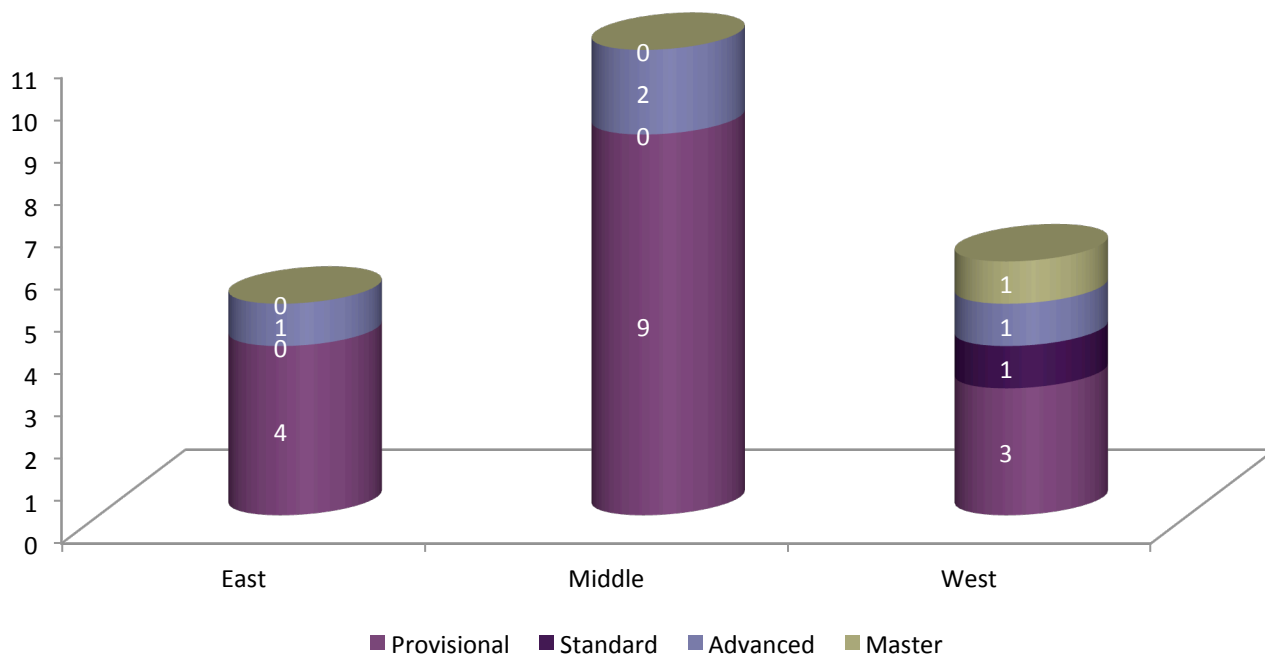


Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential (TECPAC)

Fiscal Year 2015

TECPAC Completers by Credential Level

Fiscal Year 2015



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 which 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 2014-15 fiscal year 24 directors entered the TECPAC Academy and a total of 22 directors 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 a total of 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.

*TN-ELDS training was revised last program year and the three trainings were replaced by a total of 5 new Revised TN-ELDS training based upon the revised standards. These three trainings ran during an overlap of program years during final testing during the month of July 2014.

TCCOTS Statewide Training Completions Fiscal Year 2015

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
Revised TN-ELDS for Infants: Birth- 12 Months 3 HR	1317
*TN-ELDS - Toddler: 13 - 30 Months - 3HR	704
Revised TN-ELDS for Toddlers: 13- 24 Months 3 HR	1030
*TN-ELDS - Pre-School 31 - 60 Months: 3 HR	808
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

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 Early Childhood Education faculty took place March 27, 2015. 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 Dr. John Townsend, associate Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges spoke about Tennessee Workforce Development and Alison Lutton from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Senior Advisor for the Early Childhood Workforce Systems Initiative spoke specifically about early childhood

professional development systems building. There were also presentations and updates from numerous partners on Globalization and Cultural Sensitivity, Health Focus Caring for Our Children, Tennessee Department of Human Services child care, Head Start and Tennessee Department of Education Pre-K.

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 Annual Steering Committee and State Partners Meeting

The COELS Director planned and implemented an annual Steering Committee Meeting that took place on March 26, 2014 at Tennessee State University – Avon Williams Campus. This year the Steering Committee heard about TECTA’s alignment with State professional development objectives and the national perspective of early childhood professional development from Alison Lutton from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Senior Advisor for the Early Childhood Workforce Systems Initiative. Dr. Sachin Shetty Assistant

Professor at Tennessee State University presented an outline of the TECTA Data Analytics Project working with students. The TECTA Data Analytics Project objectives are twofold in providing valuable data analysis of TECTA program services as well as providing students with real 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.

Seventh Annual TECTA Summer Research Institute

The Seventh Annual TECTA Research Institute took place on Saturday, May 30, 2015 at Tennessee State University Avon Williams Campus. The goal of the Research Institute this year was to provide family involvement and engagement strategies to improve the quality of care young children receive in child care. Tracks of training related to Infants and Toddlers, Preschool, Family Child Care and School-age settings. Sessions also focused on improving the understanding in the administration of child care programs and resources to support a more systemic effort to engage families in their children's learning and development. The day ended with a presentation on the importance of social and emotional growth and development and engaging families in supporting children positive behavior through relationships.



The Opening Session of the TECTA Summer Research Institute included panelists from child care and community organizations.



Attendees took pictures with special guest Moozie the Cow.



Dorcas Sheffield leads a session on quality customer service.



Paul Coggins led the closing session on Parent and Family Engagement.



Pam Godwin leads a session on "Finding Joy in the Classroom."

TECTA Success Stories: In Their Own Words

TECTA at DSCC: Deonza Turner



To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Deonza Turner. I am a future graduate of Dyersburg State Community College. I will graduate May 2015 with an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education. I began the TECTA program in 2006. My plans were at the time to just receive a CDA, which I did obtain through the program. However, I continued taking Early Childhood classes. Those classes counted towards my training hours for the star quality system every year where I was employed. As time went by and college credit hours accumulated, I began to want to obtain my degree. Nine years later with taking one to two classes per semester along with the help from the TECTA program, I will finally become a college graduate. My plans are to continue my education at UT Martin. I want to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Child and Family Consumer Sciences.

Sincerely yours,
Deonza Turner

TECTA at STCC: Kimberly Whiteside



Elizabeth,

I did it! Thank you so much for your help and support over the past 4 1/2 years. Without you and TECTA this would not have happened!

Kim

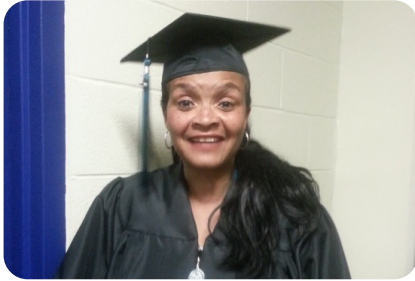
TECTA at STCC: Alexis Schill



"Thanks for all your help. I am so excited! I have all my paper work for my file. I could not be more excited for myself. I have waited a long time for this.... I was not gonna let all that confusion run me away. I have been waiting three whole years for this and now no one will stop me from going to school! Thank u sooooo much!"

TECTA Success Stories: In Their Own Words, continued

TECTA at TSU: Lori Garner



Tracy, I also want to take the time out to say thank you. You have also been a blessing. I am so proud to have someone like you to look up to. When I was standing in the graduation line, and I saw you taking pictures that meant a lot. I cannot wait until this summer when I am finish with my next degree. I want to hurry and get started at TSU because my son and I have been praying that we can get our bachelor's degree at the same time. We both have been working very hard.

Thank you so much for helping me stay motivated.

Sincerely,
Lori Garner

TECTA at APSU: Wanda Risner



"...I cannot say enough about the TECTA group and what they are doing for the children in TENNESSEE. I have earned my CDA and have learned so much more through the 4 college

courses I had to take, not to mention the thrill to know I am 50 and can still learn and make a difference in a child's life with the help of TECTA. All I had to do was apply myself and they did the rest. I have also received my CDA Credential.

...What has cost me \$200.00 would have cost me over \$5000.00. Without TECTA I would have never been able to do all I've done and my children in my daycare would not have benefited from all they have.

TECTA is there for all daycare operators to take advantage of. They are an awesome group of people, who strive to help you help children in this world. They are always a phone call or email away and will help you through any situation you may come up on. They will walk you through the education level you want to get to in life whether you think you can handle it or not. They are awesome and sincere in every way. I thank God for TECTA and the awesome journey I have been through. They are for the children and if we are not for the children who will be. Thank you TECTA, I love you all."

TECTA at TTU: Meghan Padgett

...I want to say a big thank you to TECTA! Without them, I wouldn't be able to be where I am now. They have supported me financially by paying a big part of my college classes as well as providing the books I needed for the classes. They have been a huge support and blessing. Also, they have been a big support



TECTA Success Stories: In Their Own Words, continued

to me emotionally as well. They have wonderful staff that is willing to help you in any way. They are selfless and willing to answer as many questions you have with a patient and amazing attitude. They will pray with you and support you and help you to better yourself so you can better care for the children you have in your classrooms. Thank you TECTA for helping me complete this stage in my life and showing me what it's really like to have a love for teaching. I owe ya'll one!

Sincerely,

Meghan Padgett

TECPAC: Debbie Snyder



"...I feel that the children, families, teachers, and our programs have also benefitted from TECPAC greatly. The TECPAC class made me accountable for my administrative responsibilities and also gave me insight to giving someone else (assistant administrator) some accountability as well. I feel the quality of the center now and over time is more probable to success than before. My early childhood skills have been renewed and also integrated into a management position. I am very grateful for the possibility of NAEYC Accreditation and the leadership expertise that I have received. I am glad that the Department of Human Services of Tennessee acknowledges the well documented relationship between overall

administrative practices and quality outcome for children, families, and teachers through the TECPAC program. ..."

TECPAC: Tara M. Hurdle



"...First of all having this academy in place is amazing and I wish even more people would take advantage of it. Second, I am honored to have been giving the opportunity to be apart. I do not have the credentials behind my name like some; however I still have the intelligence and experience to carry me on this administrator journey. I have discovered areas where I excel and didn't realize I was excelling as well as areas I am deficient and need improvement and new systems in place. Finally, this academy has caused me to stop talking about doing something, but actually doing it. I have found that I have these great ideas in my head and meet and tell people what we're going to initiate, but never write it down...no more after this class. I am just reminded at every turn that everybody is not in my head to know these ideas and I actual have to document the systems I want to impact the lives of the people I serve.

I am excited not only for myself but my center, my staff, my children and my families to continue those things I've started in the academy. Again I am grateful for the opportunity, the growth and the experiences!"