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# TECTA TIMES

Volume 7, Issue 2

## Tennessee Celebrates the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the QRIS

By Dr. Celeste Brown

The Tennessee Department of Human Services was proud to celebrate the 15th Anniversary of the state's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). A celebration event was held on December 14, 2015 in Citizen's Plaza. It included speakers from Child Care Services, Assessment, and the Tennessee Department of Education.

The celebration began with a welcome by Dr. Raquel Hatter, Commissioner of the Department of Human Services. Dr. Hatter sees the Department as a resource department, and not a welfare department which will focus on two-generational approaches to breaking poverty cycles, assisting parents and children at the same time. She also stated that the Department is also working in tandem with the Tennessee Department of Education in reaching shared goals by announcing that all child care certificate program children will be enrolled in the Imagination Library.

Dr. Hatter emphasized that the Department will use language that does not include the word "vulnerable," which connotes families as weak. She stated, "We want



**Dr. Raquel Hatter, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Human Services, describes the Department's focus on breaking poverty cycles.**

those we serve to acknowledge their human potential. A stronger family equals a stronger community, equals a stronger Tennessee."

The celebration also included remarks from the Tennessee Department of Education. The departments of Education and Human Services have begun more collaborative initiatives to improve the low rates of early reading. Deputy Commissioner Dr. Vicki Kirk elaborated on the work of the Governor's Children's Cabinet and the goals for gains in literacy including training for pre-service teachers. Joey Hassell, Assistant Commissioner of Special Populations and Student Support, and Lisa Wiltshire, Office of Early Learning,

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## Declarations from the Program Director

By Lin Venable

Implementing photos into the early childhood classroom has been a practice long believed to help focus learning and capture student perspectives. The use of photography to record and document various activities serves as a great reminder of events for adults as well. It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words and as I review our spring newsletter I am struck by the number of photos that represent an active spring for TECTA and the Center of Excellence where TECTA has been housed over the past twenty-five year history.

A picture is not only worth a thousand words, photos can reflect and encourage a student's professional development journey. Only a small portion of this newsletter reflects some of the student success stories we have celebrated during this program year. The real success of TECTA is knowledge gained, the number of classroom procedures and activities made developmentally appropriate for young children in care, and an increased sense of professionalism among TECTA participants.

The final images include a couple of the Week of the Young Child events where TECTA staff have had the pleasure of being involved. TECTA is proud to be a part of Tennessee's early childhood education efforts



**Lin Venable now serves as TECTA's  
Interim Program Director**

that have improved the lives of young children and their teachers through TECTA training and support.

Thank you to all who have been involved with TECTA during the year and we look forward as TECTA embarks on our next journey of providing new professional opportunities next program year!

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## Tennessee Celebrates the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the QRIS, continued

discussed the Department's strategies for long-term improvements in reading and preparing today's Pre-K students for post-secondary success.

Teresa Dorian from Assessment and Dr. Katari Coleman from Child Care Services provided the group with a history of the QRIS system, the impact it has had on program quality, and how Tennessee's success has positively influenced quality rating systems in other states, specifically South Carolina.

Work has begun this spring for the Department including a new focus on customer service, joining the Department of Education and the focus on literacy, aligning with the Child Care Development Block Grant reauthorization, ensuring a smooth process for subsidy funding for the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Grant participants, continued promotion of the Imagination Library, inclusion of Drive to 55 efforts within TECTA and CCR&R, and assisting all partners with promoting all of these new initiatives.

## COELS Hosts the Annual TECTA Steering Committee Meeting

By Dr. Celeste Brown

Each year the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences holds the TECTA Steering Committee Meeting of invited state partners and important TECTA stakeholders. This year's meeting was held on March 17, 2016 at Tennessee State University. During this meeting the Committee is updated on the activities conducted by TECTA in the previous year and discuss topics and issues that will affect the program in the upcoming year.

Officials from the Tennessee Department of Human Services, Metro Nashville Public Schools, higher education, and child care, as well as staff from TECTA Management were in attendance. TECTA Management staff provided updates on the initiatives from the past year. Dr. Katari Coleman from the Tennessee Department of Human Services updated the Committee on the events and activities from the Department and Valerie Williams, Director of the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences led a discussion about the upcoming structural changes within the Tennessee Board of Regents and their possible impact on the TECTA program.

The next meeting will be held in the spring of 2017.



**Lin Venable opens the meeting by sharing an inspiring story.**

**Johnel Anderson and the rest of the TECTA Management staff provided updates on the past year's events.**




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## TECPAC Program Issues 200 Administrator Credentials

By Dr. Celeste Brown

At the end of Academy I in the fall of 2015, the TECPAC program issued its 200<sup>th</sup> Administrator Credential. The Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential, or TECPAC, program began in 2008 with the goal of providing recognition to Tennessee's child care directors with education and experience in leading the day to day operations of a child care center or family child care program. Each director that is accepted in to the Administrator Academy receives specialized training on setting goals,

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**Norma Mason, TECPAC Program Manager, shares information with the incoming spring 2016 Academy participants.**

## TECTA Hosts Two-Day Higher Education Institute



**Lisa Walsh leads a group discussion on course design and course materials.**



**Margaret McKinley, Motlow State Community College, discusses challenges faced by faculty and students.**



**Dr. Vicki Kirk, Tennessee Department of Education, shares the latest efforts of the state's *Read to be Ready* program.**

By Dr. Celeste Brown

The annual TECTA Higher Education Institute began on Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> with a full day meeting on Friday, March 18, 2016. This annual event is an assembly of faculty who discuss continuity in Early Childhood courses statewide including textbooks, CDA courses, articulation and the Tennessee Transfer Pathways, and working with the Council for Professional Recognition for those providers that take the academic route to earning a Child Development Associate Credential.

The Thursday session was led by Lisa Walsh (TECTA Mgmt.) and included faculty and administrators from several Early Childhood academic departments to discuss the CDA course design, the required prerequisites, and the latest textbooks that are available.

The full-day session held on Friday featured presentations from Margaret McKinley, an Adjunct Faculty at Motlow State Community College, and Dr. Vicki Kirk, Deputy Commissioner and Chief Academic Officer for the Tennessee Department of Education. Dr. Kirk discussed *Read to Be Ready*, the initiative to improve the reading proficiency of third-graders from 43% to 75% by 2025. You can read more about *Read to Be Ready* at [www.readtobereadytn.com](http://www.readtobereadytn.com).

Having an opportunity to address the issues unique to Tennessee Early Childhood faculty with experts and colleagues is an annual commitment of the TECTA program as it works to provide quality, updated curriculum, knowledge of Tennessee policies and regulations, and materials for our students.

**L to R: Carlette Hardin, APSU Dean of Education, Steven Shumate, TN DHS, and Lisa Maddox-Vinson, APSU TECTA**



## COELS Celebrates Its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

By Dr. Celeste Brown

The Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on April 4, 2016. The event helped kick off the 2016 University-wide Research Symposium Week. Several invited guests included the president of Tennessee State University, Dr. Glenda Baskin Glover, academic deans and department heads, state officials, and TN Rep. Harold Love.

Tennessee's Centers of Excellence were created established by action of the Tennessee General Assembly and the Governor of Tennessee to expand research in public higher education and contribute to the overall economic and community development base of the state and receive funding each year from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC).

Attendees of the celebration were treated to a history of our Center and its programs and a proclamation of our cumulative funding history. According to conservative estimates, the Center has obtained approximately \$300 million dollars in external funding from federal, state, private, and local services since its founding. The Center's director, Ms. Valerie Williams, also presented figures depicting the overall return on investment from THEC. For the past four fiscal years, the Center has provided a return of \$19-\$21 in external funding.

**Top: Director Valerie Williams presented the history of the Center.**



**Bottom: Ms. Williams presents Dr. Glover with a gift from the Center.**



After 30 years the Center continues to promote professional development and education to build communities one person at a time. Each program year provides new opportunities for TECTA and other programs to help enrich the lives of parents, child care providers, and communities.

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## TECPAC Program Issues 200 Administrator Credentials, continued

becoming leaders, family and community relationships, and many more topics. Each participant also creates a professional portfolio which documents their leadership styles and the specified activities they take part in to meet the NAEYC Core Standards.

Each director also has their program assessed using the Program Administration Scale (PAS) or the Business Administration Scale (BAS), which are instruments used nationally to measure the leadership and management of Early Childhood programs. Since the program began, every child care agency's scores have improved from

pre to post assessment due to the directors' participation in the Administrator Academy.

The Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential is administered by the Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance, approved by the Tennessee Board of Regents, 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.

# The Times Spotlight:

## TECTA Student Success Stories



**Jackqueline A. Pittman**  
**Director, Next Generations Learning Center**  
**Southwest Tennessee Community College TECTA Site**

“I would like you and the world to know that I really enjoyed all of my TECTA classes. Taking these classes has really stepped my knowledge up on taking care of children even my own grandchildren. I have been in this field for nine years now and each year things change. I’ve had some of the best Instructors in the world. I learned so much that I received a promotion on my job. I do know that hard work pays off, I was promoted to Director, I never thought that would ever happen but it did and I’m very gracious for it. I also learned a lot from Ms. Priscilla in my CDA class. We all know that this world needs lots of Prayer but it also needs lots of LOVE and that starts with our little babies. I feel after taking these classes I can someday have my own Center. I would like to give a special THANKS to all of my Southwest Instructors, TECTA, and CDA.”GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU”



**Kristea Cancel**  
**Owner, Smart Play Inc.**  
**Tennessee Tech**  
**University**  
**TECTA Site**

Having worked in Corporate America for 15 years prior to moving to Cookeville and opening Smart Play, Kristea knew she had a love for children, but taking on the task of a curriculum focused preschool, she also knew she needed more childcare focused training. She was elated when learning of the CDA program offered through TECTA. The level of training, class content, and instructor knowledge have all been top notch and have greatly contributed to an increased understanding that would taken years to obtain in a center. She is truly grateful for the opportunity to matriculate through this program.



**Martin Hines (pictured with Claudia Rodriguez, TECTA at APSU Site Coordinator)**  
**Owner, Kimmy’s Christian Academy**  
**Austin Peay State University TECTA Site**

We are so proud of Martin Hines for his goal of becoming a CDA! Martin’s wife, Kim Hines, has recently graduated with an AAS in Early Childhood Education with the financial support of TECTA. The Hines family are proud owners of Kimmy’s Christian Academy.

## TSU Hosts 2016 Week of the Young Child Community Event

By Dr. Celeste Brown

On April 13, 2016 the Tennessee State University Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and TECTA hosted “A Celebration of Our Youngest Learners: Children Matter - Work, Together, Build Together, Learn Together.” The event was a celebration that included interactive learning centers, games and reading sessions and fresh flowers presented by staff and students from several of the University’s academic departments.

The celebration catered to children in every way. Several parents attended and participated alongside their children. The event was held on campus in the indoor football practice facility which provided plenty of open

space for the children to dance and move around. The event welcomed close to 200 children from local childcare programs and Pre-K programs.

Each year since 1971, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) has designated one week to celebrate young children. Regional, state, and local AEYC affiliates; early childhood programs, and community organizations participate by planning events and celebrations around a central theme. This year’s theme was “A Celebration of Our Youngest Learners.” Overall, it was a fantastic and educational day for everyone involved.



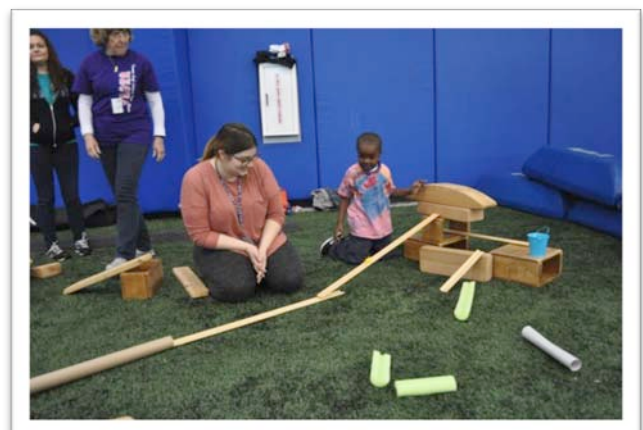
The COELS presented a mosaic activity and distributed crayons, stickers, and activity sheets for the children.



Child Development and Family Relations prepared play dough for the children to manipulate into shapes.



Nursing students led the children in several physical fitness routines.



Lin Venable and the Early Childhood students explored ramps and pathways.

## City of Clarksville Hosts The Second Day of Play

By Dr. Celeste Brown

On Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, Clarksville's families joined together in the second Day of Play at the Wilma Rudolph Event Center. TECTA at APSU, TRAEYC, Mid-Cumberland CCR&R, and the Early Connections Network coordinated the event. Over 1800 people attended including 22 child care centers and family/group homes. The event included community

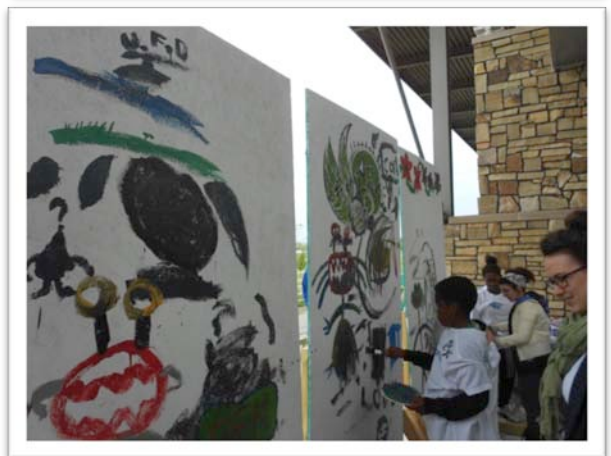
information booths and activities in seven play zones: Creative Play, Adventurous Play, Story Play, Constructive Play, Musical Play, Physical Play, and Make Believe Play. The Day of Play was designed to create public awareness of the importance of play for young children and how it affects social, emotional, physical, language and intellectual development.



**Top L & R: The event organizers included staff from TECTA at APSU.**

**Right: Families met several characters including Tucker the Turtle.**

**Bottom L & R: The event's exhibits were interactive and allowed the children to be creative.**





## Summer Kicks off with the Eighth Annual TECTA Summer Research Institute

By Dr. Celeste Brown

The Eighth Annual TECTA Summer Research Institute took place on Saturday, May 21, 2016. TECTA sponsors the Summer Research Institute each year for Early Childhood educators and administrators. This year's theme was "A Told B and B Told C: Let's Talk about Early Literacy," which borrows a phrase from the popular children's book *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault.

The Institute consisted of breakout sessions based on peer-reviewed research and interactive training sessions that provide professional training hours for the attendees. The event included twelve workshops that focused on literacy for infants, techniques for bringing stories to life, kindergarten readiness, and several other topics. The Institute also included keynote addresses by invited speakers and several exhibitors who provided information on local programs, resources, and materials.

The Ninth Annual TECTA Summer Research Institute will be held in June of 2017.



(Top) Alesia Hunter from the Center for Imagination at Beech Creek Ministries and (Bottom) Klem-Mari Cajigas from the Nashville Public Library Foundation discussed how to bring stories to life.



Zora Bates dressed up as The Cat in the Hat.



Connie Casha discussed dialogic reading techniques to keep children engaged.



TECTA provided free books and resources for all attendees.

## CONFERENCE CALL

Mark your calendars for these upcoming conferences and events.

### **2016 ETSU Annual Early Childhood Conference**

The Millennium Center by Sodexo  
East Tennessee State University  
Johnson City, TN

**July 14-16, 2016**

<http://etsu.edu/coe/child/programs/conference/>

### **National Head Start Association (NHSA)**

#### **2016 Innovation Summit**

“The Next Generation of Ingenuity”

Cedarbrook Lodge  
Seattle, WA

**July 25-27, 2016**

[www.nhsa.org](http://www.nhsa.org)

### **Chattanooga Area Association for the Education of Young Children (CAAEYC)**

#### **2016 Fall Conference**

Boyd Buchanan School  
Chattanooga, TN

**September 10, 2016**

<http://www.chattaeyc.org/>

### **National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI)**

#### **46<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

Renaissance Orlando at Sea World  
Orlando, FL

**October 1-4, 2016**

[www.nbcdi.org](http://www.nbcdi.org)

### **Tennessee Association for the Education of Young Children (TAEYC)**

#### **62<sup>nd</sup> Annual TAEYC Conference**

“A Brand New World: Nothing without Joy”

Cool Springs Marriott  
Franklin, TN

**October 12-15, 2016**

<http://www.taeyc.org/>

### **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)**

#### **2016 Annual Conference**

Los Angeles, CA

**November 2-5, 2016**

<http://www.naeyc.org/conference/>

### **Two Rivers Association for the Education of Young Children (TRAEYC)**

#### **Fall 2016 Mini-Conference with**

**Lisa Maddox-Vinson**

“Let's Snap, Clap, Wiggle and Giggle Our  
Way with Literacy and Music”

Austin Peay State University  
Morgan University Center

Clarksville, TN

**November 12, 2016**

<http://tworiversaeyc.wix.com/traeyc>

### **ZERO TO THREE**

#### **Annual Conference 2016**

“Building Powerful Connections”

New Orleans, LA

**December 7-9, 2016**

[www.zerotothree.org](http://www.zerotothree.org)

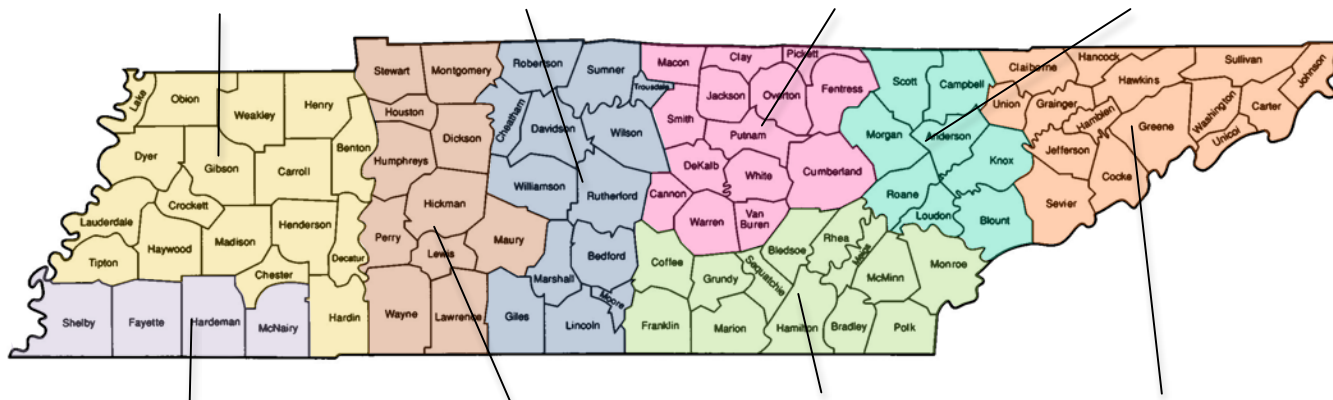
# CONTACT THE TECTA SITE IN YOUR REGION FOR MORE INFORMATION

Dyersburg State  
Community College  
(731) 855-9190

Tennessee State  
University  
(615) 277-1695

Tennessee Tech  
University  
(931) 372-6444

Roane State  
Community College  
(865) 481-2000 ext. 2254



Southwest Tennessee  
Community College  
(901) 333-5534

Austin Peay State  
University  
(931) 221-7300

Chattanooga State  
Community College  
(423) 697-2697

East Tennessee  
State University  
(423) 439-7854

## The TECTA Service Areas

The institutions currently selected by the statewide management office to serve as coordinating institutions are:

<u>APSU</u>	<u>CSCC</u>	<u>DSCC</u>	<u>ETSU</u>	<u>RSCC</u>	<u>STCC</u>	<u>TSU</u>	<u>TTU</u>
Dickson	Bledsoe	Benton	Carter	Anderson	Fayette	Bedford	Cannon
Hickman	Bradley	Carroll	Claiborne	Blount	Hardeman	Cheatham	Clay
Houston	Coffee	Chester	Cocke	Campbell	McNairy	Davidson	Cumberland
Humphreys	Franklin	Crockett	Grainger	Knox	Shelby	Giles	Dekalb
Lawrence	Grundy	Decatur	Green	Loudon		Marshall	Fentress
Lewis	Hamilton	Dyer	Hamblen	Morgan		Robertson	Jackson
Maury	Lincoln	Gibson	Hancock	Roane		Rutherford	Macon
Montgomery	Marion	Hardin	Hawkins	Scott		Sumner	Overton
Perry	McMann	Haywood	Jefferson			Trousdale	Pickett
Stewart	Meigs	Henderson	Johnson			Williamson	Putnam
Wayne	Monroe	Henry	Sevier			Wilson	Smith
	Moore	Lake	Sullivan				Van Buren
	Polk	Lauderdale	Unicoi				Warren
	Rhea	Madison	Union				White
	Squatchie	Obion	Washington				
		Tipton					
		Weakley					

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