

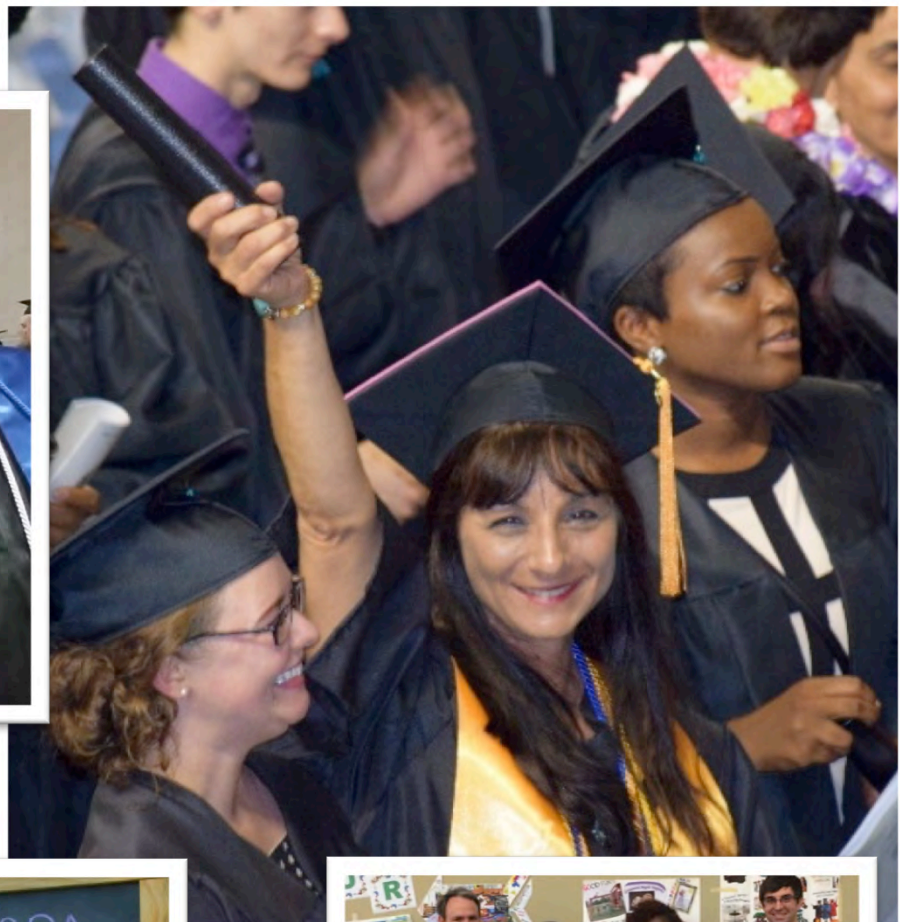
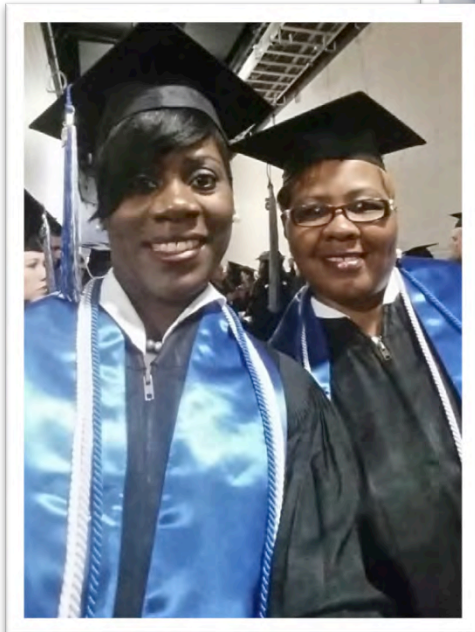
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the

TECTA TIMES

Volume 8, Issue 2

Special Edition: TECTA Student Success in 2016



Declarations from the Program Director

TECTA's early childhood professional development system model represents a continuum of learning and support activities and accomplishments designed to prepare individuals for work with and on behalf of young children and their families. TECTA's professional development pathway is aligned and grounded in NAEYC's standards and delivered in innovative ways in support of the vision of providing ALL children with access to high quality early education. From entry level in obtaining training through the Tennessee Child Care Online Training System or completing a TECTA Orientation and moving on to completing a CDA®, Technical Certificates and degrees, the many TECTA opportunities lead to improvements in the knowledge, skills, practices, and dispositions of Tennessee's early childhood professionals.

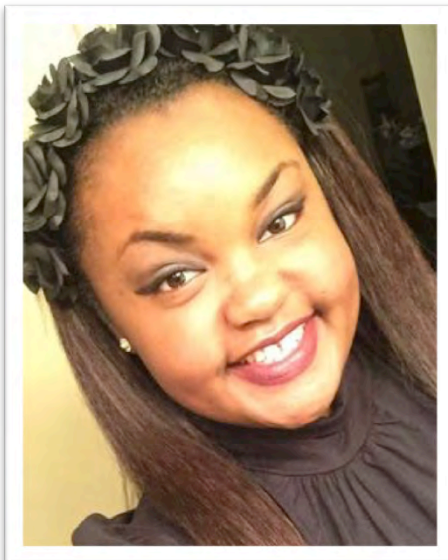
In this winter edition, it is our pleasure to feature some of our students who have embarked upon their personal, professional journey. These stories represent TECTA's statewide group of partnering institutions of higher education. I hope you enjoy reading about the various actions our students have taken to strengthen their early childhood knowledge and skills to ensure each and every child they touch has access to excellent early childhood education.

Lin Venable

TECTA Interim Program Director



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



Meneisha Harris

**Completed a Child Development Associate® Credential in
May 2016**

Southwest Tennessee Community College TECTA Site

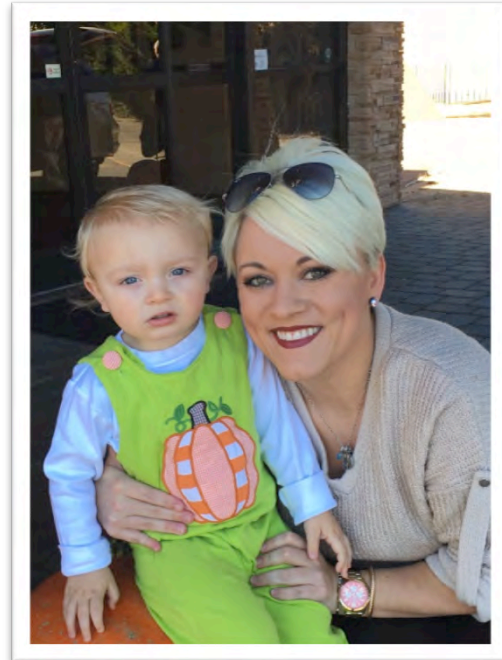
“Before TECTA I wasn't sure if I wanted to remain in early childhood education, I was just going to receive my training hours. But I soon realized there was much more to receive than just training hours. As an early childhood professional TECTA has helped me become greater. I am able to utilize everything from family relationships, to child development, to cultural diversity, and guidance in my daily routines just to name a few. TECTA has also helped me further my education and for that I'll be forever grateful!”

Special Edition: TECTA Student Success



Anna Morgan
Completed a Child Development
Associate® Credential in February 2016
 Austin Peay State University
 TECTA Site

“Without the help of my teachers, TECTA mentors, and peers I know that I would not have earned my CDA. I am grateful to have accomplished this through these great people.”



Jessica Weaver (pictured with son Neyland)
Child Development Associate® Credential
 Austin Peay State University
 TECTA Site

“I am so thankful for my family and Neyland for the love and support. My co-workers... and staff for always having encouraging words and always being helpful with assignments I needed to complete. And to Jennifer Jackson and all other TECTA staff for the many, many emails, phone calls, and meetings. If it had not been for each and every one I would not be in the place I am today! I wake up each morning eager to go to work! My mother always said, “Jessica loved school until they took glitter and glue away from her!” And I am back in a classroom teaching and learning everyday with the age children I love!”



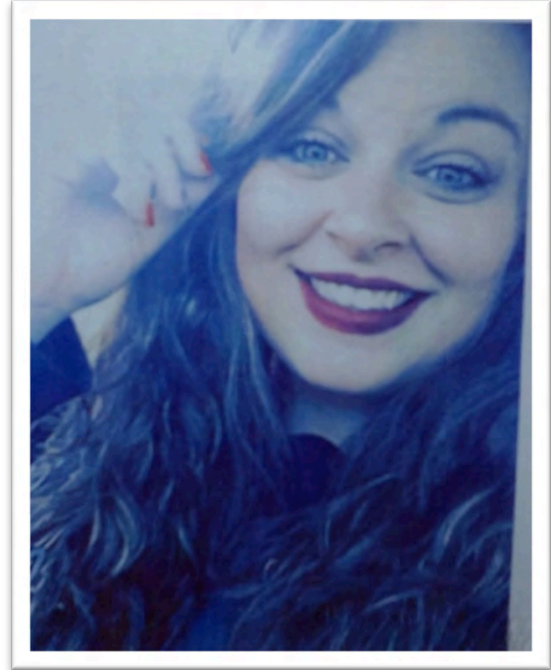
**Administrator Orientation Class
Spring 2016**
Chattanooga State Community College
TECTA Site

This group was eager to learn and also registered to attend Center-Based and Infant Toddler Orientations.



Melissa Preudhomme
Bachelor of Arts in May 2016
Early Childhood Education
Milligan College
East Tennessee State University TECTA Site

Melissa Preudhomme has been a long-time TECTA student. She has completed her first TECTA Orientation in 1999, was awarded her CDA Credential in 2001, earned her TECPAC Administrator Credential in 2010, received her degree from Milligan College and has now taken a full time job as a first-grade teacher in our area.



Kayla Hall
**Completed a Child Development
Associate® Credential in May 2016**
Southwest Tennessee Community College
TECTA Site

“As a childcare provider, I like to stay well educated and up to date so I can provide the best care for the children. TECTA helped open my eyes to the possibilities of furthering my career. Since May of last year, I have been working on achieving my CDA. I am almost complete and I sit and reflect on my time. The teachers have been so helpful and encouraging. It's also been great for me to see others with the same passion I have for children.”

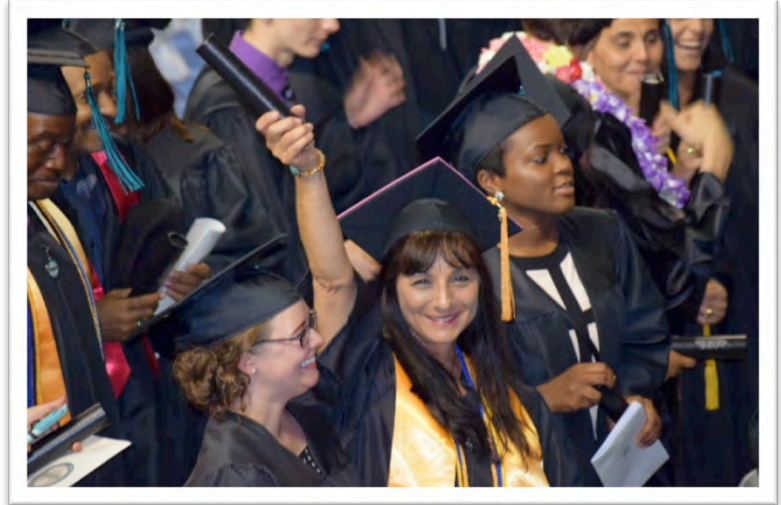
“I am so blessed and thankful for the opportunity Ms. Priscilla made me aware of. She has followed me from day one in TECTA and I can't wait until she sees me through to my last day of achieving my CDA.”



Cylinda Young
Associate of Science Degree
Early Childhood Education
 Southwest Tennessee Community College
 TECTA Site

When asked how she uses the information she learned at Southwest,

Cylinda looks around her early childhood room and smiled. “I use it all the time.” She glanced at photos of the children in various activities and around all the centers. “I bring the knowledge back to my classroom to be better for the children. I share it with my co teachers. You know I love these children like they are mine. I use it to be better for them.”



Suzanne Devine (center)
Technical Certificate in May 2016
 Austin Peay State University
 TECTA Site

“I remember sitting in my first early childhood class that first night and I kept hearing the teacher ask each student as she took roll if they were a TECTA student. The majority of the students were. I asked what TECTA was and learned it was the Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance and that they provided financial support and also provided our textbooks for our classes. That night when I got home I found your website and registered for the thirty hour mandatory training.”

“I will forever remember and appreciate your kindness and encouragement. [Claudia Rodriguez and Jennifer Jackson] were my personal cheering section and it made such a difference when things were hectic and seemed impossible!”



Jackqueline A. Pittman
Completed a Child Development Associate®
Credential in June 2016
 Southwest Tennessee Community College

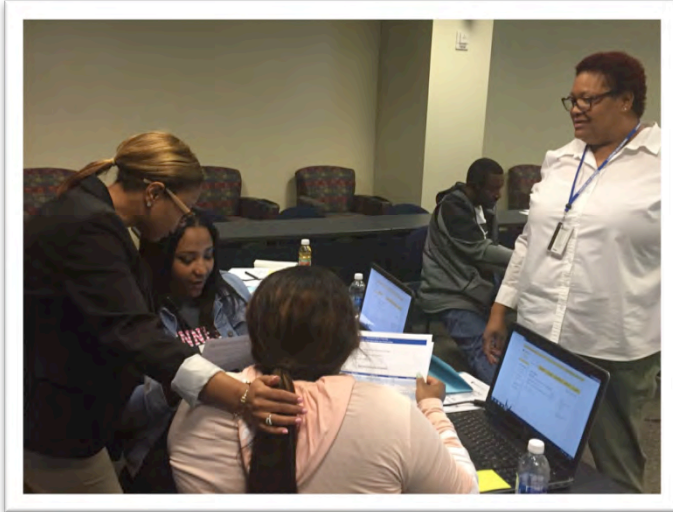
“I would like you and the world to know that I really enjoyed all of my TECTA classes. Taking these classes has really stepped my knowledge up on taking care of children even my own grandchildren. I have been in this field for nine years now and each year things change. I’ve had some of the best Instructors 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.”

The adjunct instructor, Tara Hurdle, for the Administrator Orientation is a new adjunct. This was her second semester teaching the administrator orientation for the TSU TECTA Site. Ms. Hurdle has worked her way through the TECTA program, starting in orientation, earning her CDA and Technical Certificate, and her Associate’s degree in Early Childhood. Tara is a great example of the vision/ mission of the TECTA program. Here is a sample of one of the comments from the class evaluations:

“This class was a good blend of information shared in our handouts, shared with each other, and by the instructor. Tara had such wisdom, patience, knowledge- she is a large part of what made this class so valuable.”

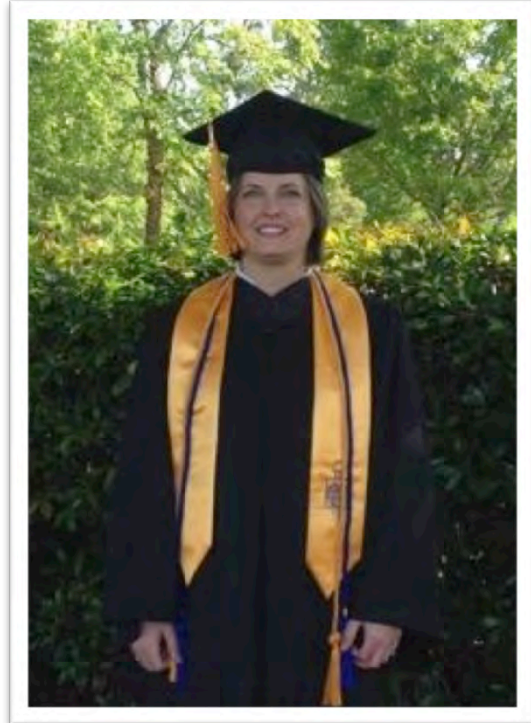


Tara Hurdle (second from left)
TECTA Adjunct Instructor, with a few
Administrator Orientation Completers
Spring 2016
 Tennessee State University
 TECTA Site



Felita Haynes (right)
Associates Degree
 Tennessee State University
 TECTA Site

Felita Haynes was supported by TECTA and earned her CDA. She went on to complete her Associate's degree partially supported by the TSU TECTA site and is on track to complete her Bachelors degree in May 2017. Ms. Haynes just started on a new path of her personal and professional journey as the Assistant Educational Coordinator the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences, Early Head Start Expansion/ Partnership program. We are very proud of her accomplishments.



Molly Floyd
Associate of Science Degree in
May 2016
Early Childhood Education
 Southwest Tennessee Community College
 TECTA Site

“TECTA opened my eyes to the importance of early childhood educators. It still blows my mind how pivotal the role of teacher is to the youngest members of society. Many people think that working at a daycare is easy or just babysitting. It is neither. It is teaching, lesson planning, giving, loving, working with families and so much more. There are so many skills that early childhood teachers need to be truly exceptional. TECTA has helped me to be a better teacher than I thought possible... This is huge for me as I never planned on ever attending college but I am so glad that TECTA opened the door for me.”



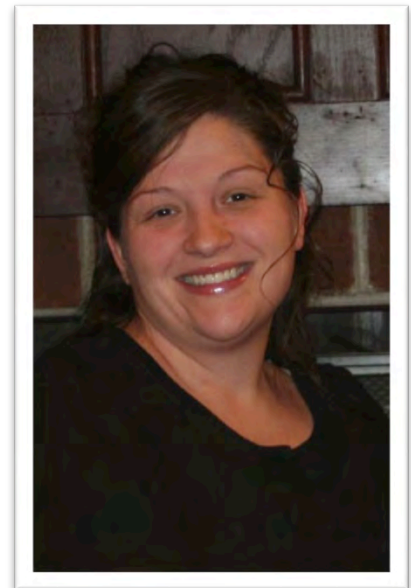
Teresa Dawson and Glenda McKinley
Bachelor of Science
Child Development
 Southwest Tennessee Community College
 TECTA Site

We are so proud of them for graduating in May of 2016 from the University of Memphis with majors in Child Development! The children at St. Williams Head Start are lucky to have such highly educated assistant teachers!



Emily Ellison
Child Development Associate® Credential
 East Tennessee State University TECTA Site

"Thank you for helping me reach my goals!"



Tabitha Tramel
Child Development Associate® Credential
 Tennessee Tech University TECTA Site

"I am now 3 years into being a director which was what I had prayed I would eventually get to be. I learned so much while taking the classes for my CDA, to name a few; how to interact, and build relationships with families, how to be professional with staff, families and the community. I have a passion for helping children become all that they can be and by taking my CDA I feel that I am better equipped to do so. I look forward to my next steps with TECTA to continue growing and learning all that I can."



**Upper Cumberland Association for the
 Education of Young Children
 Week of the Young Child Banquet and
 TECTA Graduation Ceremony
 April 11, 2016
 Tennessee Tech University TECTA Site**

Every year TTU TECTA works together with our local UC-AEYC and provides a wonderful evening to celebrate young children and those who provide such a great Early Childhood education for them. This year we had close to 200 attendees. We always have a wonderful guest speaker, dinner, and take time to recognize those individuals who use our TECTA services to further their education in Early Childhood Education.



Ron Morgan
Working on a Bachelors Degree in
Fall 2016
Jackson State University
Southwest Tennessee Community College



Jocelyn Carroll (left)
Technical Certificate
Austin Peay State University
TECTA Site

“Thanks to TECTA summer funds, I will be able to take one summer course bringing me another step closer to my big goal, an AAS Degree in Early Childhood Education. Thank you TECTA!”



Administrator Orientation
September 2016
Columbia State Community College
Austin Peay State University TECTA Site

Three students from this Orientation have gone on to enroll in college courses.



Marier Flores (right)
Completed an Associate of Science Degree
in Spring 2016
Working on a Child Development
Associate® Credential
Chattanooga State Community College
TECTA Site

“TECTA gave me financial and professional support. I am very grateful to TECTA for the support they gave me in accomplishing my dreams. When I look back I consider myself blessed beyond my words. I believe that my strong faith led me to overcome difficulties of being a single mother, having a full time job and a child with special needs.

Getting an education requires commitment and a lot of hard work but it is rewarding in so many ways. It is worth the time and effort to take advantage of the opportunity TECTA offers to pursue and achieve an education. I also believe that ANYONE who believes in herself can benefit from all the resources TECTA makes available to those of us working in the Early Childhood Education field.”



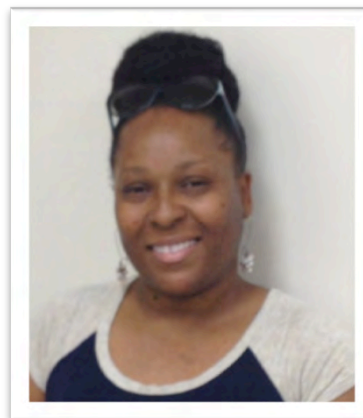
Lequita Prefre
Working on an
Associates
Degree
Southwest
Tennessee
Community
College TECTA
Site

Lequita Prefre came by our office to say thanks for all the help and to finish her graduation application. She finished her last three classes this week! Since her financial aid had been depleted with seven classes remaining, TECTA was the only way she could financially finish her degree!



Tekenya Brown
Working on a Child
Development
Associate® Credential
Southwest Tennessee
Community College
TECTA Site

Tekenya Brown is a current CDA candidate. She has been working hard to ensure that she provides the best quality education she can to the 3-4 year olds in her class. Her hardwork was noticed by her Director. She received the Teacher of the Month award for September 2016. She is currently enrolled in college courses.



Trina Davis
Associate of Science
Early Childhood Education
Southwest Tennessee
Community College TECTA
Site

The Times Spotlight:

Joanne Mills

TECPAC Graduate

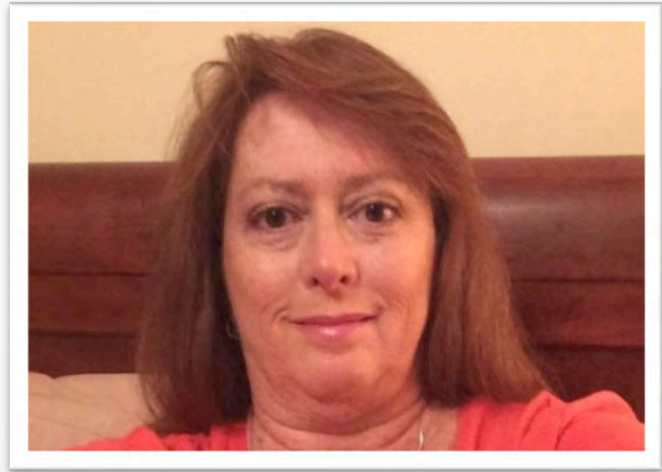
By Dr. Katari Coleman, COELS Research Director

Joanne Mills of Louden County, Tennessee was part of the 2008 inaugural TECPAC class instructed by Mrs. Sandra Stiles at Roane State Community College. Ms. Mills, having been in the field of child care for over thirty years, initiated her career as a director at Baptist Child Care Center in Lenoir City, Tennessee. This was a unique child care program established for employees of Baptist Health Care Center. It was part of a multi-generational model, as it was housed with a nursing facility.

Ms. Mills recalls her mindset after she completed her Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential, as she thought there should be something for directors. TECPAC became an option and she excitedly “took it!” She remembers the hard work, but more so remembers the skills she gained. She learned how to develop and obtain community resources, and how to properly implement parent engagement activities. The Program Administration Scale was “a good rating scale. It became obvious what you were weak in and what you did well.” She remembered learning about her staff’s personalities, and how their personalities fit with hers. And, her favorite part of the process was networking with other administrators. She said, “Hearing the perspective of others helped.”

Ms. Mills’ motivation for learning was turned on, and in 2011 she completed her Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education. She has renewed her Credential twice, which means that despite not pursuing a degree she took college coursework for the most recent renewal in 2016. She is still open to pursuing her Bachelors degree.

So what is Ms. Mills doing today? Early in 2015 Ms. Mills was made aware of the imminent closure of Baptist Child Care Center, so she got busy and found a building to open a child care program. She felt it was imperative that the parents had a place to bring their children, and the faithful and competent staff needed somewhere to continue to care for the children. Her additional focus was the county’s need for infant and toddler slots, as Louden



Joanne Mills was part of the 2008 pilot TECPAC class. She earned her Credential through the Roane State Community College TECTA Site.

County does not have many child care programs with infant and toddler care. Her passion and persistence resulted in Jo’s Kids: Innovative Discovery School located at 100 Robinson Drive, Lenoir City, Tennessee. The Baptist Child Care Center officially closed on May 29, 2015, and Jo’s Kids opened on June 1, 2015. Now she is responsible for so much more, because she no longer has the health care facility to fall back on for everyday things like maintenance. She stated that she is “still getting kinks ironed out.” However, she is thrilled to have the opportunity to serve the families of Louden County.

“I recommend the TECPAC program as something you do before you take on the duties of an administrator, like student teaching.” These words from Ms. Mills reveals the significant knowledge, skills, abilities and competencies gained during the TECPAC process. She feels fulfilling the duties of an administrator is a calling. Her advice for administrators: “There will be rough days – don’t let the little things get to you. And, get a routine and schedule for you and your staff – know what to expect.”

Ms. Mills’ noticeably reaped the benefits from the time she dedicated to TECPAC. She acquired skills and resources that had a positive effect on her professional life, as well as the staff, children, and families she has touched and continues to touch. Most importantly, she became part of a network of administrators with two things in common; they are lifelong learners, and are dedicated to the provision of quality services to the children and families of their programs. Her recommendation of the TECPAC process for others also articulates it as a beneficial experience that administrators should undertake!

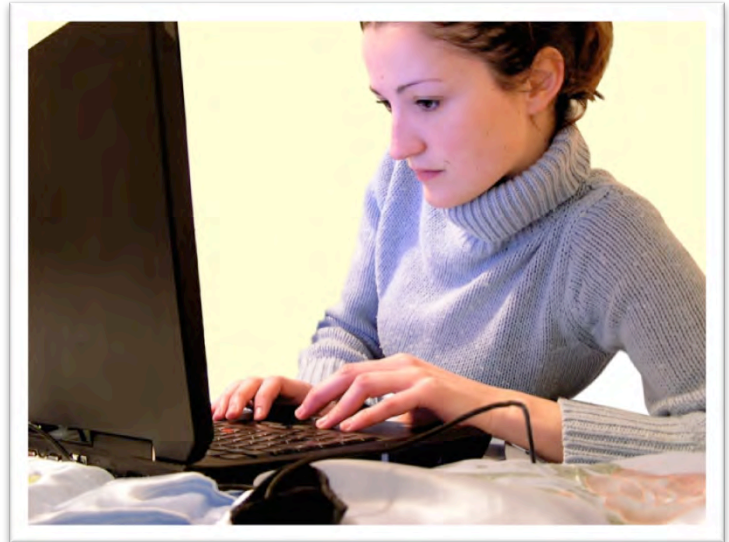
More Educational Opportunities with Technology

By Helena Zavislak, Specialist, TECTA at Chattanooga State Community College

As technology advances so do the opportunities we have to teach and take classes. Geography and work schedules no longer tie individuals to certain schools or programs. With online classes, prospective students of any age have the capability to enroll in or teach classes for colleges and universities around the globe. Given computer and Internet access, the possibilities are almost limitless.

While taking an online class might not require physical attendance in a classroom, the time spent on class materials is still demanding for both student and instructor. Self-discipline is as crucial to success as computer and Internet access! Much like a traditional classroom learning experience, reading, written assignments and discussion topics are set with specific deadlines. Relationships are developed between the instructor and the learner as well as among the learners themselves. The distinguishing factor is most of the communication becomes written rather than verbal. This can be a challenge as people interpret things differently. It can also present a challenge for individuals who may prefer face-to-face interaction and must come to terms with expressing themselves in written form.

Empathy is one of the most important attributes for those in the field of education to develop. I have true empathy for my students currently enrolled in online classes as I, too, am currently enrolled in pursuit of a Master's degree. I absolutely love the flexibility; I can work full time,



“With online classes, prospective students of any age have the capability to enroll in or teach classes for colleges and universities around the globe.”

take care of my family AND continue my education. It does make for some very long nights, but the reward in the end will be worth it. Without technology advancing to create online classes I would not be able to pursue my educational goals without relocating. There are no higher education institutions in our area that even offer the degree I currently seek. It is truly a blessing to have the opportunity to work toward my goals literally from the comfort of my own home.

When we choose education as our field of study, we are choosing to be lifelong learners who help and encourage each other, whether in real time or virtually. When we further our education it benefits more than ourselves, it also benefits those around us, especially children.

CONFERENCE CALL

Mark your calendars for these upcoming conferences and events.

2017 Children's Advocacy Days

War Memorial Auditorium

Nashville, Tennessee

March 14-15, 2017

www.tn.gov/tccy/

Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance (TECTA)

Annual Higher Education Institute

Tennessee State University

March 23-24, 2017

www.tecta.info

Tennessee Family Child Care Alliance (TFCCA)

25th Annual State Conference & TOPSTARS 2nd

Annual Mentor Forum

Montgomery Bell State Park

Burns, Tennessee

March 24-25, 2017

www.tfcca.homestead.com

Nashville Area Association for the Education of Young Children (NAAEYC)

Annual ECE Conference

"Power to the Profession"

Hope Park Church

Nashville, Tennessee

April 21-22, 2017

www.naaeyc.org

14th Annual Young Child Expo & Conference

The Wyndham New Yorker Hotel

New York, New York

May 2-5, 2017

www.youngchildexpo.com/

National Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

2017 Professional Learning Institute

San Francisco, California

June 11-14, 2017

www.naeyc.org/institute/

Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance (TECTA)

Ninth Annual Summer Research Institute

Tennessee State University

June 17, 2017

www.tecta.info

National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)

27th Annual Conference

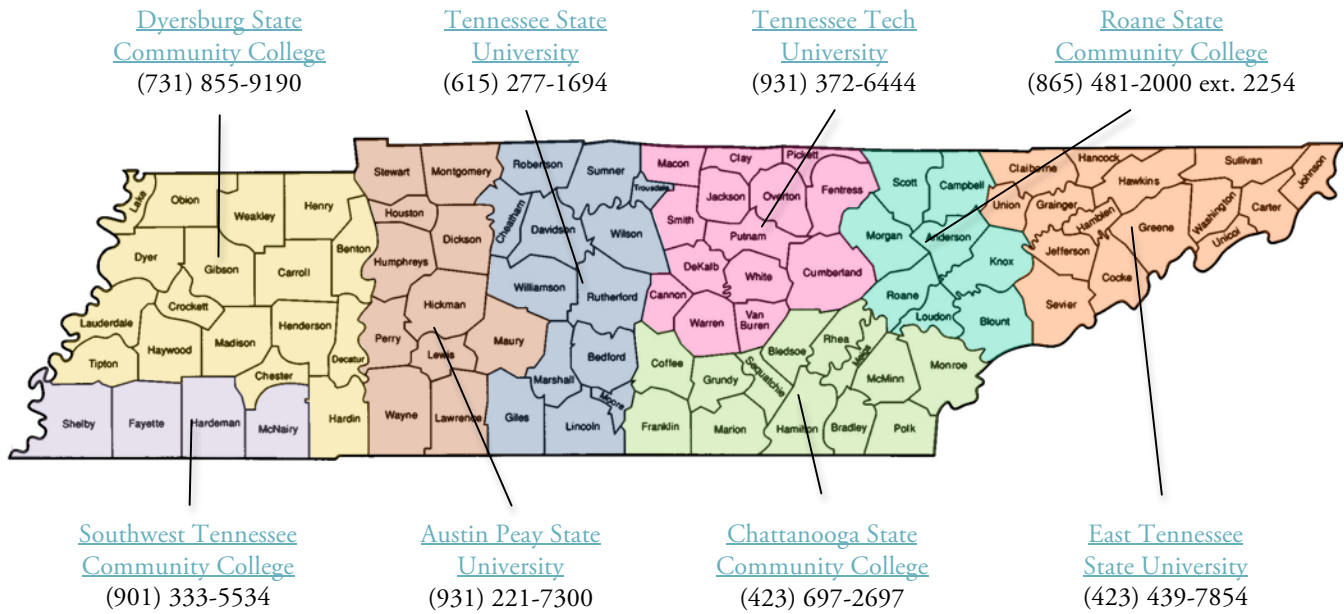
"Creating Connections"

Mobile, Alabama

July 19-22, 2017

www.nafcc.org

CONTACT THE TECTA SITE IN YOUR REGION FOR MORE INFORMATION

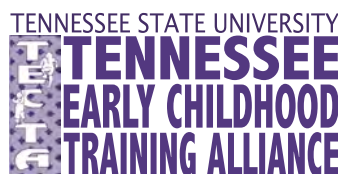


The TECTA Service Areas

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					

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.



TSU-17-0096(A)-16b-61085 - Tennessee State University is an AA/EEO employer.