

Winter 2015

# PERSPECTIVES

on Learning Sciences

## The Center of Excellence Awarded Funding to Expand Early Head Start Program

### ❖ | News

3 | TN CAREs EHS Expansion

5 | TECTA's Change in Leadership

6 | TECPCAC Completes First Phase of New Academy Format

### ❖ | Outreach

4 | TECTA Hosts TN Home Visitor Institute

### ❖ | Awards

5 | TECTA Invited to Pilot NAEYC Project

### ❖ | Calendar

7 | Upcoming Events For 2015



**TENNESSEE**  
**STATE UNIVERSITY**

Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences

[www.tnstate.edu/learningsciences](http://www.tnstate.edu/learningsciences)

**PERSPECTIVES**

Winter 2015  
Volume 3, Issue 1

*PERSPECTIVES* is published twice a year by the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences at Tennessee State University for faculty, staff, students, alumni, and the Nashville community. Comments, suggestions, and questions should be addressed to the Center at:

learningsciences@tnstate.edu  
Tennessee State University  
3500 John A Merritt Blvd.  
Box 9500  
Nashville, TN 37209  
Phone: 615.277.1651  
Fax: 615.277.1654

**Administration**

**VALERIE WILLIAMS**  
Director, Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences

**DR. LESIA CRUMPTON-YOUNG**  
Chief Research Officer and Associate Vice President, Research and Sponsored Programs

**Editor/Writer**  
**DR. CELESTE BROWN**  
Coordinator of Media and Marketing  
Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences

**TSU-15-0102(A)-16b-61085**  
Tennessee State University is an AA/EEO employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its program and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:  
Ms. Tiffany Baker-Cox,  
Director of Equity, Diversity and Compliance, 3500 John A. Merritt Boulevard, Nashville, TN 37209, (615) 963-7435.



***Building Capacities to Strengthen Communities Through Education***



**Valerie Williams**  
Interim Director

**Leadership in Academics, Research and Service**

**PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS**

- Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential (TECPAC)
- Tennessee State University – TN CAREs Early Head Start
- Tennessee Childcare Online Training System (TCCOTS)
- Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance (TECTA)
- Social Services Competency Based Training (SSCBT)

**RESEARCH INITIATIVES**

- STEM Education
- Teaching and Learning
- Early Intervention Models
- Student Learning Measurement
- Early Childhood Educator Professional Development
- P-12 Instructor and Administrator Professional Development
- Birth to Three Curriculum, Program and Professional Development

## The Center of Excellence Awarded Funding to Expand Early Head Start Program

By Dr. Celeste Brown

In December of 2014, US Department of Health and Human Services announced the first wave of selected grantees to receive part of \$500 million in new funding for new or existing Early Head Start programs to partner with local child care centers and family child care providers serving infants and toddlers from low-income families. The Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences submitted a proposal for this new program and received a preliminary award of \$1.5 million to expand our current Early Head Start program, Tennessee CAREs.

The Center is currently in negotiations with the US Department of Health and Human Services regarding the final award amount. Once funded, the expansion will serve four child care programs that the Center has selected in priority zip codes of 37208 and 37209, as identified by the US Department of Health and Human Services.

Tennessee CAREs currently serves an enrollment of 140 children in six centers and in home-based care in Gibson,



**The Early Head Start Center in Trenton, Tennessee**

Henry and Weakley counties in northwest Tennessee. This award will expand that coverage to add an additional 112 children in 14 classrooms across the four child care programs in Nashville. The central office is located in Paris, Tennessee and houses the Program Director, Administrative Assistant, Education and Disabilities Coordinator, Family and Community Partnership Coordinator, and the Health and Nutrition Coordinator. The expansion will also include seven additional administrative staff to service the Nashville area.

The Office of Head Start, under the direction of the

Administration for Children and Families in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, funds the Tennessee CAREs Early Head Start program. The program is supported by the expertise and commitment of the entire University. All teachers meet the Early Head Start requirements regarding Staff Qualifications and Development with credentials ranging from Infant/Toddler Child Development Associate credentials to Masters degrees.

## TECTA Hosts Tennessee Home Visitor Institute



**TECTA staff hosted the 2014 Home Visiting Training Institute and assisted with registration.**

By Dr. Celeste Brown

The 2014 Home Visiting Training Institute was held on August 3-6, 2014 in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The event featured special guest speaker Naomi Judd who shared her life experiences as a mother and a former nurse to the crowd of close to 400 attendees.

Staff from the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences and the Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance helped to organize the training, hosted the event, and also worked to register the attendees. This conference served as a training opportunity for Home Visitors in area Head Start programs and those

working within the Tennessee Department of Health.

TECTA has been a partner with the Tennessee Department of Health since they received federal funding to support professional development for their Help Us Grow Successfully (HUGS) and other home visiting programs within the Maternal and Child Health unit. TECTA worked with the Department of Health to design a Home Visitor Orientation that provided training on the competencies needed to understand home visiting in the framework of early childhood. Once the Orientation is completed, the home visitor with a degree

outside of Early Childhood can move on to the process of acquiring a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential with a home visitor focus, also known as a Home Visitor CDA.

## TECTA Invited to Pilot NAEYC Professional Development Project

By Dr. Celeste Brown

TECTA has been invited to represent Tennessee in a pilot project for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The project is a part of NAEYC's Early Childhood Workforce Systems Initiative that assists states in developing, enhancing, and implementing policies for an integrated early childhood professional development system for all early childhood education professionals working with and on behalf of young children. NAEYC is funding this project through a grant from the Alliance for Early Success. The purpose of this project is to develop a set of

quality indicators that measure states' progress for effective, integrated state professional development systems.

Since 1992, TECTA has been a leader in state systems of early childhood professional development. Our system of professional development focuses on the career lattice that combines tuition support for higher education and training opportunities. Tennessee partners include Phil Accord, President and CEO of the Children's Home/Chambliss Shelter in Chattanooga and Rhonda Laird, Manager of the



National Association for the Education of Young Children

Edgehill Center, Child and Family Center in Nashville as reps from community based programs. The team also includes Policy Co-Chairs and representatives from the Tennessee Association for the Education of Young Children (TAEYC).

---

## TECTA Program Sees a Change in Leadership

Dr. Celeste Brown

Lin Venable now serves as Statewide Interim Program Director of the Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance, or TECTA, program. The previous director, Dr. Katari Coleman, has taken a position as Director of Child Care Services within the Tennessee Department of Human Services. Dr. Coleman served as the Statewide Program Director for TECTA since 2008. During Dr. Coleman's time as Director,

the TECTA program celebrated its 20-year anniversary and expanded and added several initiatives that focused on online learning, training and education pathways for administrators and high school students, and more.

Mrs. Venable has more than 15 years of experience with the TECTA program and most recently served as its Assistant Director. The Center looks

**Lin Venable,  
Statewide Interim Program Director**



forward to the TECTA program continuing its mission of providing professional development and training opportunities for Tennessee's child care workforce.

# The TECPAC Program Completes First Phase of New Academy Format

By Dr. Celeste Brown

Administrator Academy participants who attended the Fall 2014 Academy will receive their Administrator Credentials this February. This class marks the first group to complete since the program was restructured to offer the Academy twice a year.

Since 2008, the TECPAC program has awarded over 180 Credentials to child care program administrators. During this time the Academy lasted 10

months from August through May of the next year. Beginning in August 2014, the Academy switched to a two-semester format with Academy I occurring August through December and Academy II occurring January through May. The accelerated program covers the same content with administrators meeting twice a week instead of once a week.

Enrollment for the Spring 2015 Academy is complete



and training will take place from January 20 - May 20, 2015. The attendees meet online each week, undergo pre and post assessments of their programs, and complete a portfolio at the end of the Academy.

## TECPAC Administrator Academy II Spring 2015 January 20 - May 20

### **Module 1**

#### **Session 1: Orientation**

January 20, 2015

#### **Session 2: Introduction to the Academy**

February 3, 2015

### **Module 2**

#### **Session 3: Leadership**

February 17, 2015

#### **Session 4: PAS/BAS Goal Setting**

March 4, 2015

### **Module 3**

#### **Session 5: Early Childhood Management I**

March 18, 2015

#### **Session 6: Early Childhood Management II**

April 1, 2015

### **Module 4**

#### **Session 7: Building Family and Community Relationships**

April 15, 2015

#### **Session 8: Curriculum**

April 29, 2015

### **Module 5**

#### **Session 9: Observing, Documenting and Assessing**

May 6, 2015

#### **Session 10: Goals/Portfolio Achievement**

May 20, 2015

## Mark Your Calendar for These Upcoming Events

### **TECTA Higher Education Institute**

March 27, 2015  
Tennessee State University  
Avon Williams Campus  
Downtown Nashville

### **Tennessee Family Child Care Alliance (TFCCA)**

23<sup>rd</sup> Annual State Conference  
March 27 – 28, 2015  
Airport Marriott Hotel  
Nashville, Tennessee

### **Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare (TCSW)**

102<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Leadership & Networking  
Conference  
March 30 – April 1, 2015  
*Catalyst For A Better Tennessee*  
Franklin Marriott Cool Springs  
Franklin, Tennessee

### **Seventh Annual TECTA Summer Research Institute**

May 30, 2015  
Tennessee State University  
Avon Williams Campus  
Downtown Nashville





TENNESSEE  
STATE UNIVERSITY

Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences

Tennessee State University

3500 John A Merritt Blvd.

Box 9500

Nashville, TN 37209

The mission of the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences is to design and conduct multidisciplinary research and demonstrations concerning practices, policies, and programs that promote the educational, social, physical, and psychological well-being of children and families; and to disseminate research and information to improve public policy and the programmatic decisions of agencies, schools, institutions, and communities in Tennessee, the nation, and the global community.

# PERSPECTIVES

on Learning Sciences