

Winter 2016

PERSPECTIVES

on Learning Sciences



The Center of Excellence Celebrates 30 Years of Academics, Research and Service

❖ | News

7 | Early Head Start Programs Attend Professional Development

8 | TECTA Prepares for Annual Higher Education Institute

❖ | Outreach

8 | COELS Supports the 38th Annual University-Wide Research Symposium

10 | COELS Staff Celebrate National Wear Red Day

❖ | Awards

9 | TECTAC Celebrates 200 Credentials Issued

❖ | Calendar

10 | Upcoming Events For 2016

 **TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY**
Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences
www.tnstate.edu/learningsciences

PERSPECTIVES

Winter 2016
Volume 4, 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, B.E, M.B.A.
Interim Director
Center of Excellence for
Learning Sciences

**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 Celebrates 30 Years of Academics, Research, and Service

By Dr. Celeste Brown

The Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences began in 1984 as the Center of Excellence for Research and Policy on Basic Skills. In over 30 years we have fostered an impressive amount of research in elementary class sizes and STEM curriculum, led programs that created opportunities for children and families to succeed within their communities, and founded programs that contributed to the care and education of young children.

Research on Class Size and Student Learning Outcomes

Shortly after it's founding, the Center of Excellence began researching the effects of small class size. This research study grew in size and scope and become the internationally recognized **Student/Teacher Achievement Ratio**, or **STAR**, project. Its findings continue to be heralded as the most effective evidence in the case for small class sizes in early elementary grades. Following up on the STAR project was the **Lasting Benefits Study**, which followed the effects of the class-size intervention on STAR students from 4th



The STAR study gained national and international acclaim for the significant results on the effect of smaller class sizes.

through 12th grades. In later years, the Center fostered relationships with area school systems and partnered with schools on several research projects including the **Homework in the Home** study which focused on the homework habits and attitudes of 1,000 Tennessee middle and high school students and gathered parents' and teachers' perspectives on homework assignments. Overall these projects and collaborations positioned the Center as a recognized leader in education policy reform.

Professional Development for Social Service Agencies

The **Social Services Competency Based Training (SSCBT)** program was developed at

Tennessee State University in 1983 by Dr. Barbara Nye and Betty Rasberry. It was targeted for Head Start programs and community service agencies by providing specialized training aligned with the Head Start/Early Head Start competencies for human service staff working with families. Upon completion of the training, the participants receive the Social Service Practitioner's Credential, a certification that is listed in the qualifications for several job postings throughout the nation.

In 2013, the **Home Visitor Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential Training Program** was added as a TECTA Orientation. It provided an online training for home visitors and their

The Center of Excellence Celebrates 30 Years of Academics, Research, and Service



The playground of the State Employee Child Care Center

supervisors to learn more about child development and early education practices. The project was a partnership with the Tennessee Department of Health. Upon completion of the training, each participant was provided guidance through the national CDA credential program from the Council for Professional Recognition.

Administration and Management of Child Care Centers

In 1988, the Center took over management of the **State Employee Child Care Center** through a contract with the Tennessee

Department of Human Services. During the next 15 years, the Center maintained national accreditation and received accolades from the Governor for the quality care given to the children of state employees.

The Center of Excellence was selected in 1995 as one of 24 national applicants to begin a **Comprehensive Child Development Program (CCDP)** site which was began the research in child and family studies and led to the development of the federal Early Head Start program. Following the CCDP project, the Center received a continuing award to operate several child care

centers which currently comprise the **Tennessee CAREs Early Head Start** program.

In 2015, the Center was one of the first programs in the nation to be awarded additional funding to partner with local child care centers in Nashville serving infants and toddlers from low-income families. The **Tennessee State University Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership** seeks to offer the support services that are offered within Head Start to families and children in child care centers and assists the administration and management of the sites.

K-12 STEM Education and Research

In 1990, the Center of Excellence began to move into K-12 science research and instruction following a partnership with the AIMS Foundation in Fresno, California. The AIMS, **An Integrated Math & Science Institutes** were sessions where teachers received training in hands-on math and science through in-service training. At this time this was an innovative curriculum model for science education. This project led to several in-service training

The Center of Excellence Celebrates 30 Years of Academics, Research, and Service

institutes here in Tennessee funded by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission through the Dwight D Eisenhower Title II Program funds. In the results of the study that accompanied the training, most teachers cited not having materials as the reason for not providing science and math education. This prompted the Center to create the **Teacher Enhancement and Materials Management**, or TEMM Center, which maintained and distributed science kits to classrooms around middle Tennessee. From 1996-2003 the program was funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation known as the **Metro Nashville Public Schools Systemic Initiative To Improve Science Achievement For All Students**. The funding both provided the kits and measured student achievement in classrooms following implementation of the kits. **The Academic Achievement and Teacher Development in Science (AATDS)** project (2001-2008) was also funded by the National Science Foundation. It introduced teachers and students to hands-on science based activities and also measured

student achievement results. This project was implemented in Middle Tennessee, North Carolina, and El Centro California.

Early Childhood Educator Professional Development

The **Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance**, or **TECTA**, was established by the Center of Excellence in 1992 as the first statewide Early Childhood academic preparation and professional development recognition system in the nation to include entry level through advanced degree programs administered by a higher education system. It is funded by the Tennessee Department of Human Services. In 2001 the Center, along with a consortium of partner organizations, developed **Tennessee Child Care Provider Training (TN-CCPT)** to make training Tennessee's Early Childhood educators more accessible, convenient, and consistent. The TN-CCPT consortium included the Davidson County Child Care Resource and Referral agency (IN-TOUCH Davidson) of which the Center served as the grantee agency. Beginning with the **Vision 2003** project, the

Center developed a succession of academic/ tuition support and mentoring programs for Head Start classroom teachers. The Center partnered with state and community agencies to initiate the **Tennessee Improvement Partnership Project (TIPP)**, the **Partnership for Academic Training with Head Start (PATHS)**, and lastly the **TSU Head Start Career Advancement Partnership Program (TSU HS-CAPP)**. TSU-HSCAPP began in the fall of 2008 by providing laptops for Head Start teachers to gain access to online classes. In subsequent years the program provided tuition support and mentoring to Head Start classroom teachers. Also in 2008, the Center established the **Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential**, or **TECPAC** program. TECPAC is a TBR-approved credential administered by TECTA and issued by the Center. The program is designed to improve the quality of child care programs by training and assessing qualified directors.

The Center of Excellence Celebrates 30 Years of Academics, Research, and Service

TN-ELDS and TCCOTS are online training platforms developed by the TECTA program

Tennessee Child Care Online Training System (TCCOTS) was developed.

Online Training Programs for Child Care Providers

In 2009, TECTA partnered with several Early Childhood organizations across the state to develop an online training platform for the **Tennessee Early Learning Developmental Standards (TN-ELDS)**.

This online training was designed to provide an introduction to and exploration of the TN-ELDS in order to meet the Tennessee Department of Human Services required training on developmental learning for pre-school age children. Building upon the success of the TN-ELDS online training, in 2011 the

Tennessee Child Care Online Training System (TCCOTS) was developed.

TCCOTS eLearning modules are 11 rich multimedia experiences designed by professionals with diverse topics that include glossaries and other learning aids. It also accommodates unique learning styles through audio, video, visual graphics, quizzes and printable resources for extra content. These training programs are completed by thousands of child care providers in Tennessee.

In the 30 years, the Center itself also went through several changes. In 2007 the name changed from the Center of Excellence for

Research and Policy on Basic Skills to the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences. Learning Sciences strives to produce research-based programs, data and policy analysis to help generate professional growth and student achievement through reusable resources and ongoing collaboration in order to provide meaningful contexts that support the learner, foster ownership of learning, encourage the learner's metacognitive development, promote transferability of learning, and provide valuable feedback.

The Center also moved from the Avon Williams campus downtown to the main campus with the construction of the Research and Sponsored Programs Building, which was completed in 2007.

The 30th Anniversary Celebration will commemorate the past, present, and future of academics, research, and service provided by the Center. Though one day of celebrating may not include all of the people, partner organizations, and programs that have helped to make this Center a success, it is certainly a milestone worth commemorating.

Early Head Start Programs Advancing through Professional Development Events

By Dr. Celeste Brown

The Tennessee CARES Early Head Start program has been hard at work preparing for its annual self-assessment. This process is outlined by the national Office of the Administration for Children and Families and is intended to ensure that each Center maintains an effective management teams and ensure the services provided by each program are making continuous improvements each year.

TSU Early Head Start/Child Care Partnership Tennessee State University was among the first group of awardees in the nation to receive an Early Head Start-Child Care (EHS-CC) Partnership grant. Since then, the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences has formed partnerships with three local child care centers which provide full-day, full-year care for low-income children as well as the screenings, high standards, professional development, and parent engagement services that are provided by traditional Early Head Start programs. The EHS-CC partnership sites began serving children on January 19th. The goal of the project is to enroll 80 children among the three centers.

Staff from 18th Avenue Family Enrichment Center share a photo with Brocklin Qualls who led a training in November of 2015.



In November, the Center coordinated professional development training for teachers at each partnership site on the Head Start performance standards, cultural sensitivity, curriculum, and health and nutrition. This coincides with one of the major aims of the EHS-CC partnership project which is to increase professional development opportunities for teachers. In December, the partnership staff received training on The Creative Curriculum, a system of curriculum and assessment for Early Childhood Education.

Management staff from the west Tennessee Early Head Start centers and the EHS-CC partnership sites in Nashville attended the National Head Start Association's 32nd Annual Parent and Family Engagement Conference in San Diego, California in December of 2015. This conference focused on how communities, parents, families, and Head Start program staff

can best partner to promote both parent and family engagement and children's learning and development. Both management teams also attended the annual training conference for Region IV in February of 2016.

The National Head Start Association conference will take place here in Nashville in May. Tennessee CARES management staff and staff from the EHS-CC partnership will attend. The Center will also have a booth in the exhibitor's area. With each event, the training, education and networking opportunities increase for our Early Head Start professionals. The Center believes in promoting development and continuous improvement by taking part in the professional development events in Tennessee and across the nation.

RSP Prepares for the 38th Annual University Wide Research Symposium

By Dr. Celeste Brown

The 38th Annual University-Wide Research Symposium will take place April 4 – April 8, 2016. The annual Symposium is an event that showcases and rewards outstanding student research and faculty scholarship and research by students at Tennessee State University.

The Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences is housed within the Division of Research and Sponsored Programs. As such each year our staff serves on the official Symposium Committee, responsible for planning the events of the week. The director of the Center, Ms. Valerie Williams, also served as Co-Chair of the committee for many years.

The Symposium provides a forum for sharing research with the academic community, peers, and the greater community through poster displays as well as oral presentations. The Symposium is open to undergraduate and graduate student participants. It aims to promote research and there are monetary awards for the top poster and oral presentations.

TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
Division of Research and Sponsored Programs
"Think. Work. Serve."

SAVE-THE-WEEK

April 4, 2016 — April 8, 2016

38th ANNUAL UNIVERSITY-WIDE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM, 2016

Research: Celebrating Excellence

The Division of Research and Sponsored Programs (RSP) invites the entire TSU family (administration, faculty, staff, and students) and community to attend this outstanding event that includes poster and oral presentations, and speaker addresses from renowned researchers, scientists, and administrators as we continue to recognize and commemorate excellence in research, scholarship, and the creative process throughout the university.

The Annual University-Wide Research Symposium at Tennessee State University (TSU) is a university forum to recognize and commemorate excellence in student, faculty, and staff research. Further, it is a platform for students to present findings from ongoing and developed research.

For additional information, please visit the RSP website: www.tnstate.edu/researchsymposium
or
contact Research and Sponsored Programs, 615.963.7631

TECTA Prepares for the Annual Higher Education Institute

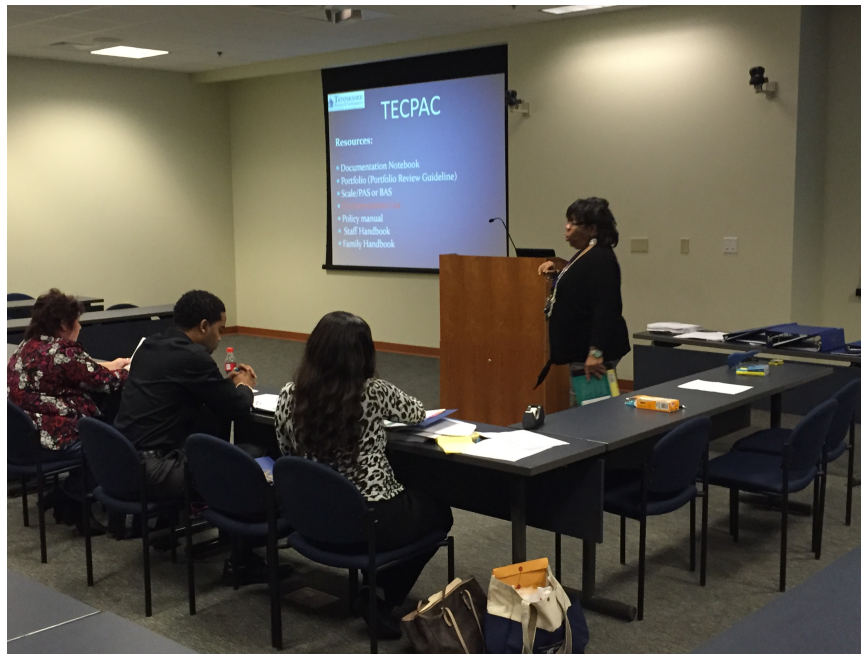


Dr. Kimberly King-Jupiter delivers the keynote presentation at 2014 TECTA Higher Education Institute.

By Dr. Celeste Brown

The core of TECTA's mission is to provide professional development for Early Childhood educators and higher education administrators who share the responsibility for quality undergraduate and graduate student experiences and quality care and education for young children. TECTA achieves this through a variety of conferences and events throughout the year. Each year TECTA hosts its Annual Higher Education Institute, where faculty and staff from across Tennessee come together for a full day to discuss issues such as degree articulation across the consortium of institutions, policy changes that affect state-supported programs, and national breakthroughs about measuring quality care and supporting the child care workforce.

TECPAC Program Celebrates 200 Recipients of the Administrator Credential



TECPAC Program Manager Norma Mason hosts an Information Session for Spring 2016 Academy participants on February 2, 2016.

By Dr. Celeste Brown

At the end of Academy I in the fall of 2015, the TECPAC program issued its 200th 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, 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.

Mark Your Calendar for These Upcoming Events

Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance (TECTA) Annual Steering Committee Meeting
Tennessee State University
March 17, 2016
www.tecta.info

Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance (TECTA) Annual Higher Education Institute
Tennessee State University
March 18, 2016
www.tecta.info

Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences 30th Anniversary Celebration
Tennessee State University
April 4, 2016
www.tnstate.edu/learningsciences

Division of Research and Sponsored Programs 38th Annual University-Wide Research Symposium
Tennessee State University
April 4-8, 2016
www.tnstate.edu/researchsymposium

National Head Start Association (NHSA) 43rd Annual National Head Start Conference and Expo
"The Next Generation of Opportunity"
May 16-20, 2016
Opryland Resort and Convention Center
Nashville, Tennessee
www.nhsa.org

Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance (TECTA) Eight Annual Summer Research Institute
Tennessee State University
May 21, 2016
www.tecta.info

COELS Staff Celebrate National Wear Red Day



L to R: Cathy Allan, Sherry Jo Anderson, Brenda Siebe, Celeste Brown, and Zora Bates.

Tennessee State University invited the campus to participate in National Wear Red Day on Friday, February 5th. The COELS staff participated in the event by wearing red and coming together to celebrate. The national event is organized by the American Heart Association to promote cardiovascular health and to educate and raise awareness about preventable cardiac events through screenings and lifestyle changes. Heart disease and stroke cause one in every three deaths among women each year, more than all forms of cancer combined. Visit www.heart.org for information about research grants, community programs, and educational materials.



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