

Winter 2017

PERSPECTIVES

on Learning Sciences



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TENNESSEE
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Center of Excellence
for Learning Sciences

PERSPECTIVES

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for Learning Sciences

*Building Capacities
to Strengthen
Communities
Through Education*



Valerie Williams, B.E, M.B.A.
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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 State University – Early Head Start-Child Care
Partnership
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

COELS Meets with State Lawmakers at TSU Day at the Capitol



TECTA Interim Program Director Lin Venable chats with a visitor to the COELS exhibit.



Big Blue was represented throughout the Tennessee Capitol.



TSU President Glenda Baskin Glover cut a ribbon to signify the official TSU Day at the Capitol.



L to R: COELS Interim Director Valerie Williams, TSU Student Kourtney Daniels, and COELS Research Director Katari Coleman

By Dr. Celeste M. Brown

The Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences joined with representatives from other Tennessee State University academic programs and departments to meet with state lawmakers at the 2017 TSU Day at the Capitol. The Center convened a display of information about each program along the main

greeting hall, then joined in with other attendees as state lawmakers, university administrators, alumni, and students convened in the Senate Chamber for a special ribbon-cutting ceremony proclaiming February 1, 2017 as the official “TSU Day on the Hill.”

The annual Day at the Capitol provides an opportunity for

Tennessee Representatives and Senators to speak directly with TSU faculty, staff, students and administrators and learn about the work of the University from those who are on the front lines. Similarly, TSU has the opportunity to visit the Capitol and see the chambers where laws are passed and visit the offices of their elected officials.

COELS Director among Inaugural Class of University Leadership Trainees

By Dr. Celeste M. Brown

COELS Interim Director Ms. Valerie Williams was among the first class of graduates of TSU's new Management Training Program. This program is for staff members that hold management positions and seeks to enhance leadership, increase employee retention and engagement, increase accountability, and provides a refresher course on TSU's policies and procedures.

This training program consists of 10 weekly training sessions that are led by TSU staff and guest speakers. The goal of this program is to maximize employee potential, for those in management positions and for those staff members that they supervise.



COELS Interim Director Ms. Valerie Williams receives a Certificate of Completion during the program's graduation in January.



The Inaugural Leadership Training Program participants are joined by TSU President Dr. Glenda Baskin Glover (center) during a graduation luncheon.

TECTA Celebrates 25 years of Promoting Professionalism in Tennessee



By. Celeste M. Brown

2017 marks the 25th year of the TECTA program providing professional development and training to child care providers in Tennessee. Traditionally, a 25-year anniversary is celebrated as the Silver Jubilee.

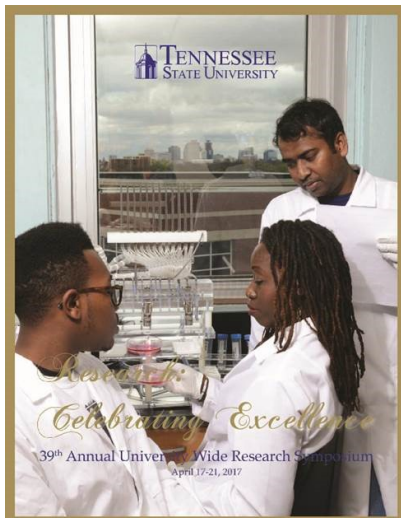
Throughout the years, the TECTA program has strived

to reshape child care from a simple vocation into a professional career through higher education attainment and expert training. TECTA has also served as an advocate for quality across the nation and has shared its methods and best practices with other states.

Over the years, TECTA training methods have evolved as well and TECTA now offers

a full-suite of online training options that are up to date with the latest program rules and regulations.

Join us as we celebrate the Silver Jubilee at TECTA sites and at statewide events. We hope you are as excited as we are about this major milestone in the pursuit of quality child care for all children.



Save the Date for the 39th Annual University-Wide Research Symposium April 17 - 21, 2017

The University-Wide Research Symposium provides a forum for students and faculty to share research with the TSU academic community, peers, and the greater community through poster displays and oral presentations. The Symposium is open to undergraduate and graduate student participants. It aims to promote research and provides monetary awards for the top poster and oral presentations.

Updates on the Tennessee State University Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership Program

By Dr. Celeste M. Brown

The Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership Program is a unique program that blends the best practices of Early Head Start within the expanse of child care programs throughout low-income communities. The staff within the centers receive training and the administrators are provided with management support from the Center of Excellence. One such training was held on February 20, 2017. Staff from the Partnership centers joined TN CAREs staff in a child care

curriculum training led by Education Coordinator Felita Haynes.

Mini Rock Stars on Kings Lane in Nashville, Tennessee has officially joined the Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership Program. Mini Rock Stars provides care for children from six weeks to 12 years old and joins the 15th Avenue Baptist Child Learning Center and the 18th Avenue Family Enrichment Center in the Partnership.



Family Service Workers Toy Bell-Greer and Sherry Jo Anderson attend a community health event hosted by the Department of Health.



Education Coordinator Felita Haynes leads an all-day training session on Teaching Strategies for Partnership and TN CAREs staff.



Mini Rock Stars in Nashville has officially joined the Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership Program.



The 15th Avenue Baptist Child Learning Center



The 18th Avenue Family Enrichment Center

COELS Staff Participate in the University's MLK Day of Service

By Dr. Celeste M. Brown

The MLK Day of Service at TSU is organized by the Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement and seeks to mobilize volunteers to honor Dr. King's memory through various service projects across the city. This year's Day of Service took place on January 21, 2017 and included over 300 TSU students, staff, and community volunteers.

Miranda Wilson was one such volunteer and joined a group of TSU students at the Safe Haven Family Shelter in Nashville. Safe Haven is unique in that it is the only shelter-to-housing program in Middle Tennessee that accepts entire families, including children, and provides comprehensive services for families to achieve self-sufficiency.

Miranda is a TECTA Coordinator with extensive expertise in early childhood curriculum, training, and learning environments. Miranda provided the Program Director with tips on room arrangement. The students helped to organize materials, as well as played games with the children during Indoor and Outdoor Play Time.

For more information on the MLK Day of Service, contact the TSU Center for Service Learning and Civic Engagement.



Miranda Wilson (top left, back row), a Coordinator in the TECTA program, supervised a group of TSU students at the Safe Haven Family Shelter.



Miranda provided the Safe Haven Program Director with tips on room arrangement.



The student volunteers helped organize materials in the classroom.

Mark Your Calendar for These Upcoming Events

**Tennessee Commission on
Children and Youth (TCCY)
Children’s Advocacy Days 2017**

“Launching the Next Generation”

March 14-15, 2017

Nashville, Tennessee

www.tn.gov/tccy/

**Tennessee Early Childhood
Training Alliance (TECTA)
Annual Higher Education Institute**

Tennessee State University

March 24, 2017

www.tecta.info

**National Head Start Association (NHSA)
44th Annual National Head Start
Conference and Expo**

“The Next Generation of Opportunity”

April 7-10, 2017

Hyatt Regency Chicago

Chicago, Illinois

www.nhsa.org

**Tennessee State University - College of
Agriculture, Human, and Natural Sciences**

“Celebrating Our Youngest Learners”

Tennessee State University

April 12, 2017

<http://www.tnstate.edu/agriculture/>

**Division of Research and Institutional
Advancement
39th Annual University-Wide Research
Symposium**

Tennessee State University

April 17-21, 2017

www.tnstate.edu/researchsymposium

**Tennessee Early Childhood
Training Alliance (TECTA)
Ninth Annual Summer Research
Institute**

Tennessee State University

June 17, 2017

www.tecta.info

COELS Participates in Warm Hands, Warm Hearts Winter Clothing Drive

By Dr. Celeste M. Brown

Center staff collected over 50 hats, gloves, and other winter apparel items for Tennessee State University’s Warm Hands, Warm Hearts Winter Clothing Drive. This winter clothing drive was organized by the TSU Staff Senate.

The Center has conducted its own holiday service projects in the past including collecting Christmas gifts and clothes for two deserving families in 2010 and books and pajamas for infants and toddlers residing at the Renewal House in 2012.



COELS Staff Clockwise from Top: Katari Coleman, Lisa Walsh, Brenda Siebe, Zora Bates, Valerie Williams, and Lin Venable



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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.

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