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TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY

Center of Excellence
for Learning Sciences

2019 Annual Report



Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences
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This annual report is published by the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences at Tennessee State University for faculty, staff, students, alumni, and the Nashville community.

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Tennessee State University Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences 2019 Annual Report

About the Center

Through the Academics–Research–Service model, the Center works together with academic institutions, community-based service organizations, and government agencies to promote learning and strengthen communities.

The partnerships between the Center and state organizations have a multidisciplinary mission that focuses primarily on the needs of Tennessee, but is national in scope.

A few of the accomplishments of these partnerships include: (1) creating programs and projects which impact the quality of early childhood programs for Tennessee's children, especially those within communities of highest need; (2) intensive training for those providing family support services; and (3) influence on public policy.

About Tennessee State University

Founded in 1912, Tennessee State University (TSU) fosters scholarly inquiry and research, lifelong learning, and a commitment to service.

Tennessee State University is an 1890 land-grant institution and Nashville's only comprehensive public university, as well as Middle Tennessee's first public Carnegie Doctoral/Research institution. The university has two convenient locations – a 450-acre main campus, with more than 65 buildings, located in a residential setting; and the Avon Williams Campus located in the heart of downtown, near the center of the Nashville business and government district. TSU has demonstrated expertise as a robust educational and entrepreneurial research engine with a continuous positive impact on the economic tapestry of Nashville, the State of Tennessee, region and nation. The university offers unparalleled research, produces workforce-prepared talent, and provides educational and technical assistance services to industries, communities, and businesses worldwide.

Tennessee State University is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution committed to educate a non-racially identifiable student body. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons who need assistance with this material may contact the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences, 615-277-1651.

About this Annual Report

This annual report covers the period from July 2018 to June 2019. The report represents a series of reports on the progress of the programs housed within the Center and includes specific events and program data. It summarizes the specific projects and programs that the Center has engaged in over the past year, but as with any summary, it does not fully capture the range and depth of activities undertaken. To more fully explore the Center, its mission and programs, visit our website at www.tnstate.edu/learningsciences.

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Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences (COELS)

Look what we've been up to in 2018 - 2019

The Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences at Tennessee State University aims to conduct research that addresses the needs and priorities of the educational community through academic and professional development programs, service programs, community partnerships, and training/technical assistance programs.

COELS is one of 26 centers established by action of the Tennessee General Assembly in 1984 to expand research and contribute to the overall economic and community development base of the state.



DR. KIMBERLY SMITH
Director, Center of Excellence
for Learning Sciences



(L to R) Dr. Kimberly Smith, Nashville Mayor David Briley,
and Dr. Clara Young, TSU Department Head for Teaching
and Learning



(L to R) Dr. Celeste Brown, Dr. Erin Lynch, Dr. Lesia
Crumpton-Young, Dr. Kimberly Smith, and Dr. Clara
Young attend the TSU Scholarship Gala during the 2018
TSU Homecoming.



(L to R) Dr. Celeste Brown, Dr. Erin Lynch, and Dr. Kimberly Smith represent the Center at the TSU Day at the Capitol on February 12, 2019.



(L to R) Dr. Kimberly Smith and TSU President Dr. Glenda Glover at the Executive MBA Completion Ceremony. Dr. Smith was one of the 2019 MBA graduates.

Dr. Erin Lynch was one of two TSU administrators who attended the Higher Education Leadership Foundation Institute at Huston-Tillotson University in December 2018.



(L to R) Tamara Barnhill, Director of the Tennessee CAREs Early Head Start and Child Care Partnership Programs, Dr. Kimberly Smith, and Lin Venable (not pictured), Statewide Program Director for the Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance, were among the 2019 inductees of the Million Dollar Research Club.

Administrators Attend National Leadership Institute of HBCU Leaders

By Emmanuel Freeman

NASHVILLE, TN (TSU News Service) — Two Tennessee State University administrators were among a cohort of 24 mid- to senior-level administrators from historically black colleges and universities across the nation who attended a four-day leadership workshop in Austin, Texas.

Tiffany Bellafant Stewart, assistant vice president for Enrollment Management and Student Success, and Dr. Erin Lynch, research director for the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences, participated in the Higher Education Leadership Foundation Institute at Huston-Tillotson University from December 13–16.

Called the “Thera cohort,” participants received an intimate, interactive, professional, and personal development experience that provided each fellow with a unique and valuable opportunity to assess personal vocation and leadership skill. The institute also allowed fellows to re-

firm a continuing commitment to HBCUs and identify and enhance the essential qualities for a successful tenure as a principled and effective leader and senior administrator.

“The Higher Education Leadership Foundation institute was a transformative experience, both personally and professionally,” said Stewart. “The knowledge and wisdom shared by current and past presidents of historically black colleges and universities was enlightening and motivational in moving the needle forward to support students in their pursuit of obtaining college degrees from HBCUs.”

For Lynch, she said to be surrounded by colleagues who also deeply believe in the role and value of HBCUs in higher education reminded her “there is still much work to be done for our students.”

“During the four-day program, we were challenged with learning new ways to approach our collective missions as HBCUs,” she said. “We were reminded that as a collective, we are more impactful on student learning than as individuals.”

Stewart and Lynch said TSU students will directly benefit from relationships developed at the institute by augmenting partnerships for external funding opportunities through research engagement and scholarship funding.

“Those relationships and experience reinvigorated my passion for HBCUs and fortified my commitment to excellence for TSU students,” Stewart added.

For more information on Enrollment Management, and the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences, go to <http://www.tnstate.edu/enrm/> and <http://www.tnstate.edu/learningsciences/>



(left) Tiffany Bellafant Stewart, left, and Dr. Erin Lynch



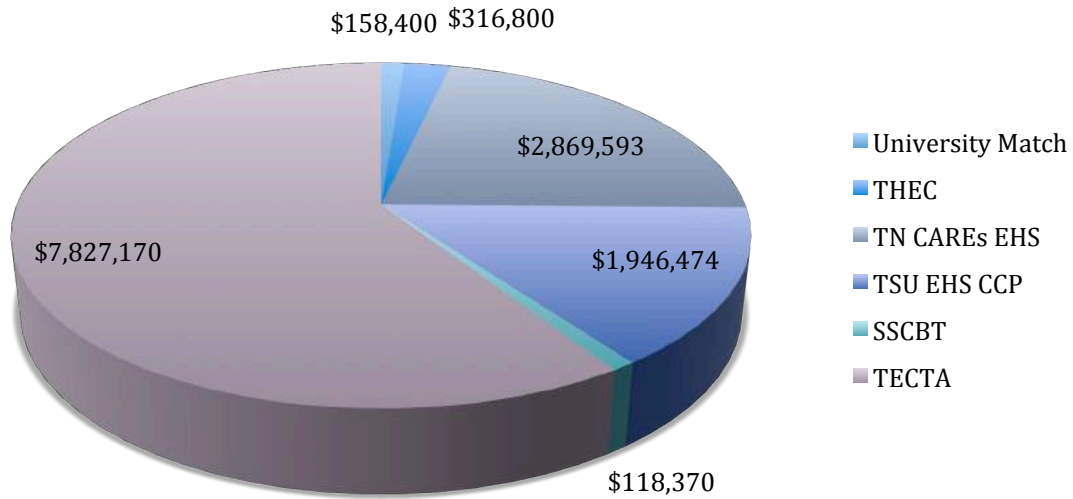
Tiffany Bellafant Stewart, left, and Dr. Erin Lynch were among 24 cohorts who attended the HELF Institute in Austin, Texas. Courtesy Photos



Dr. Smith alongside several TSU students from Human Sciences at the Week of the Young Child community event on April 10, 2019.

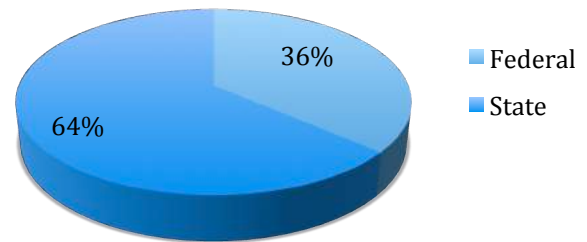
Total Funding by Program

The Center secured a total of **\$13,236,807** for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.



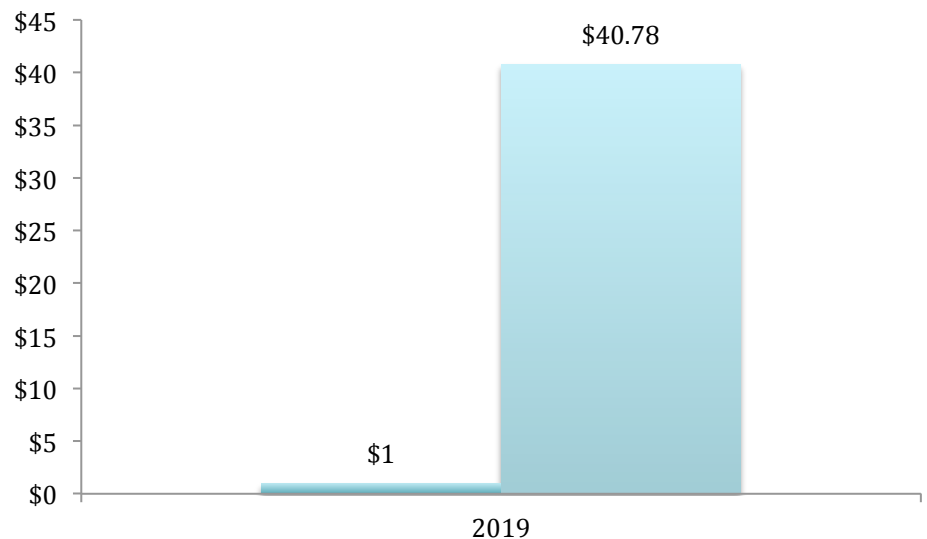
Total Percentage by Funding Source

Over half (64%) of the total funding came from federal agencies. Thirty-four percent (36%) was secured from state departments.



THEC Appropriations and Return on Investment

As one of Tennessee's 26 Centers of Excellence, the Center receives annual funding from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC). For FY 2019, every dollar invested by THEC provided a return of \$40.78.



Academic and Professional Development Programs

Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance (TECTA) Statewide Management Office

Since 1992, TECTA has provided high quality professional learning through free training and academic tuition support to thousands of Tennesseans in the early care and education workforce.

The TECTA program maintains a diverse student/participant body, many of whom are working in minimum wage jobs. TECTA's workforce support includes a basic 30-hour non-credit bearing orientation course and financial support for academic courses that articulate from the Associates to Baccalaureate level and beyond. TECTA is also taking part in national efforts to evaluate and improve the systems and policies that impact the development of the early childhood workforce. Overall, TECTA provides professional development opportunities and supports

public policy and services, which improve the quality of care for Tennessee's children.

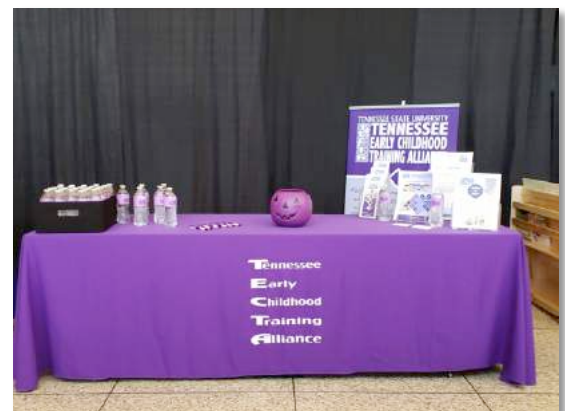
TECTA is funded by the Tennessee Department of Human Services and FY 2019 saw an increase to \$7,827,170 and, with additional funding for a three month extension into a new fiscal year calendar, total funding equals \$9,504,038.



LIN VENABLE
Statewide Program Director, TECTA



Lin Venable (right) leads a group discussion with Belva Weathersby, Director of the Tennessee Head Start State Collaboration Office and Akela Barnett, Director of the TSU Early Learning Center at the Annual Steering Committee Meeting on March 14, 2019.

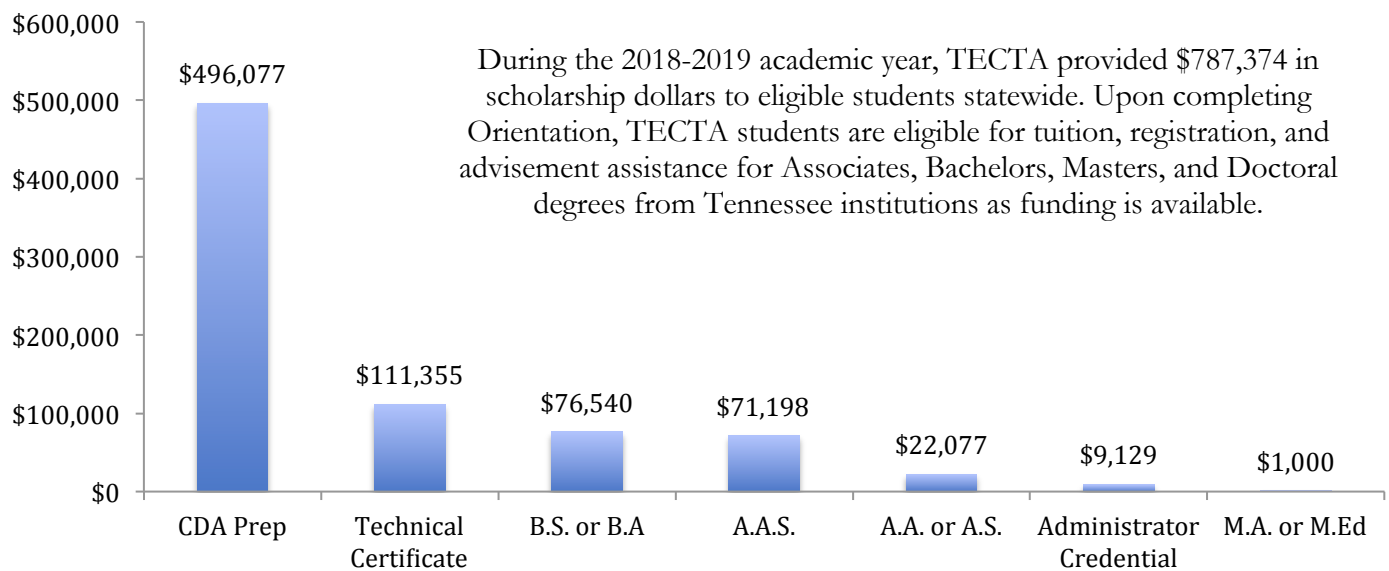


The TECTA exhibit booth at the 2018 Tennessee Association for Children's Early Education (TACEE) Conference

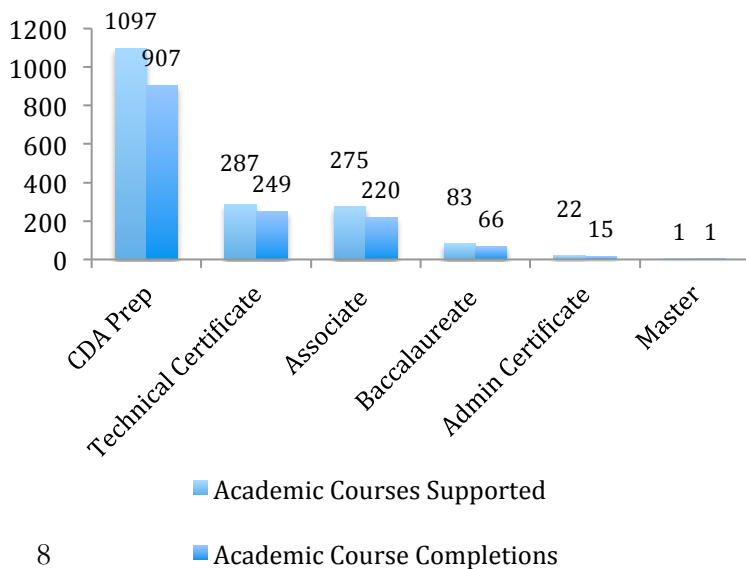
The Eleventh Annual TECTA Summer Research Institute was combined with the annual State Family Child Care Conference and took place on Friday, May 31st and Saturday, June 1st. This year's theme was Better Together: Building Connections to Provide the Best Care for Tennessee's Families. The event included over 100 attendees, 28 speakers, and 13 community and agency vendors.



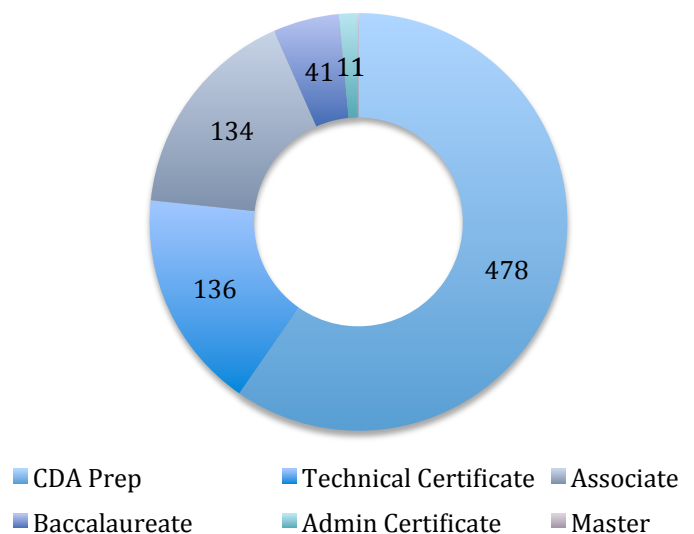
TECTA Tuition Support for Higher Education



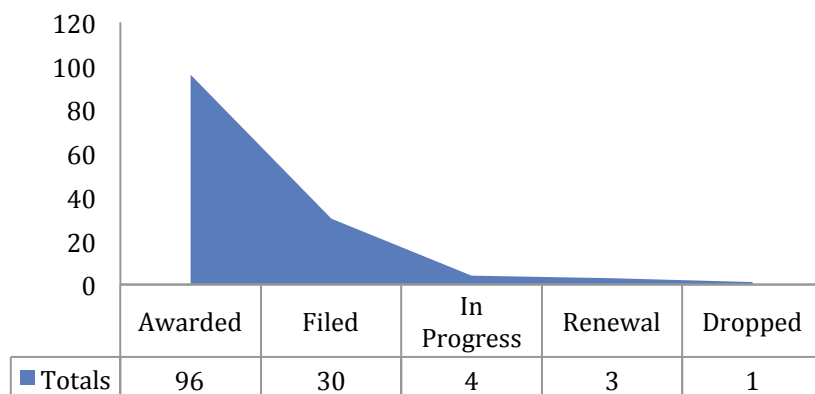
Academic Support by Education Level



Students Supported by Education Level



Child Development Associate™ (CDA) Credential Support



The Council for Professional Recognition awards the Child Development Associate® Credential. A CDA assistance program is coordinated with the TECTA local offices to provide competency-based instruction, supervised field experiences, and advisement to caregivers.

Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance (TECTA) Tennessee State University Site

The Tennessee State University TECTA Site is housed in the Center alongside the TECTA statewide management office. The TSU TECTA Site serves half the middle Tennessee region with Orientation, training, course registration, and credential support, and more.



Fall 2018 Administrator Orientation Class



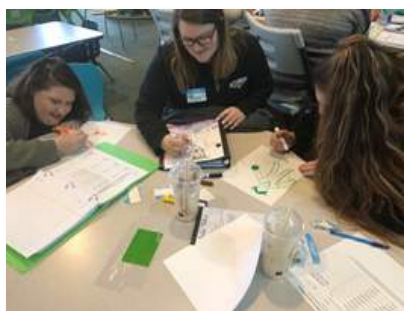
MIRANDA WILSON
Site Coordinator, TSU TECTA



Spring 2019 Center-Based Orientation Classes



Casey Breslin, Orientation Specialist, leads a CDA workgroup.



Spring 2019 Infant/Toddler Orientation Class



Specialists Denise McKell and Ulyondia Gordon at the TSU/APSU TECTA Advisory Meeting



TSU TECTA at the Week of the Young Child community event on April 10, 2019

Research Projects

Over the past 30 years, the Center has conducted several major research projects including the nationally lauded Student-Teacher Achievement Ratio, or STAR Study, which was a four-year study to determine the extent class size affects students' learning in Kindergarten through third grade. The follow-up Lasting Benefits Study examined the sustained benefits of K-3 small classes on students from fourth through twelfth grade including academic achievement, school participation, and graduation rates. The Center has

received two multi-million dollar National Science Foundation awards, both to study science achievement and teacher development in elementary schools.

For FY 2019, the Center's research activities were lead by Dr. Erin Lynch, Research Director and Dr. Celeste Brown, Associate Research Director. As a result, the Center has seen the largest number of proposal submissions in several years.

Research Productivity

Number of Proposal Submissions	20
Total Amount Requested in Proposal Submissions	\$33,259,990
Pre-proposals Developed	\$36,874,570

Research Team

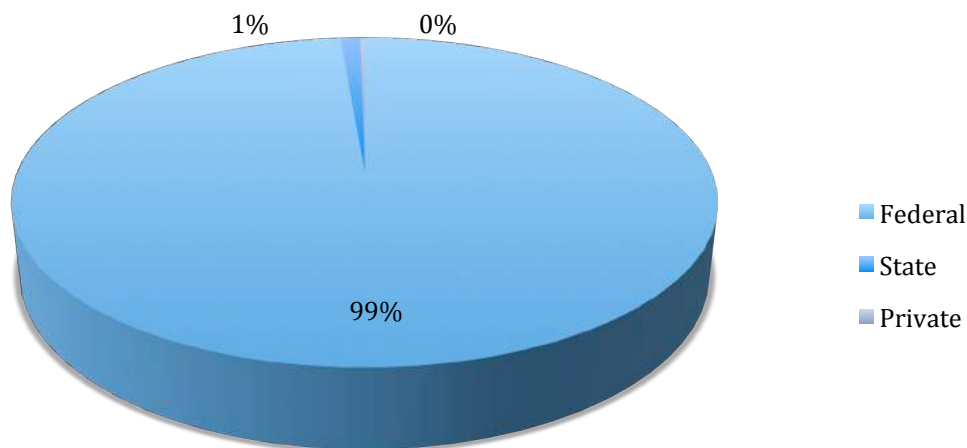


DR. ERIN LYNCH
Research Director,
Center of Excellence for
Learning Sciences



DR. CELESTE BROWN
Associate Research
Director, Center of
Excellence for Learning
Sciences

Total Proposal Submissions by Source



Service Programs and Community Partnerships

Social Services Competency Based Training (SSCBT) Program

SSCBT is a competency-based program designed to improve the knowledge and skills of human service workers in Head Start community action programs and social service agencies across the country. It is specifically designed as an intensive training for those with limited social work experience and is structured to align with the Head Start Relationship-Based Competencies for Staff Working with Families including 25 functional areas and 64 competency-

based lessons. The program serves those providing family support services including case managers, home visitors, teachers, health services staff, and community workers. Undergraduate college credit is available through Tennessee State University and the Center awards the SSCBT Credential upon completion of the program wherein participants are required to renew every two years.



Paula Foster, LCSW and Executive Director of the Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare, taught the training modules for this year's Tennessee group.



(L to R) Dr. Smith, Ana Maria Moss, and Amy Laird after Ana Maria received her SSCBT Credential at the 2019 TCSW Conference.

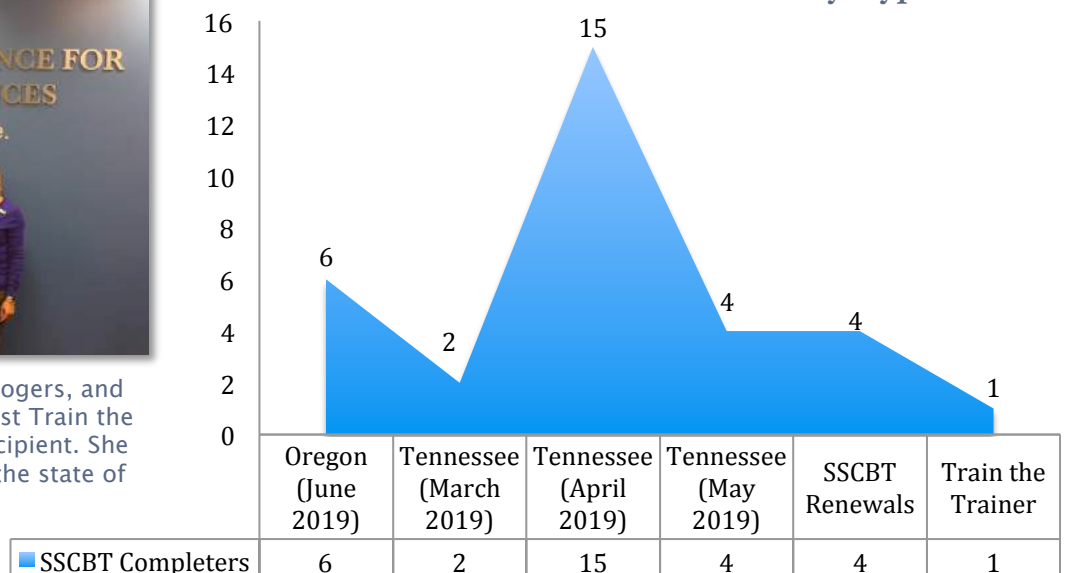


AMY LAIRD
Program Manager, SSCBT



(L to R) Amy Laird, DiAnca Rogers, and Dr. Smith. DiAnca was the first Train the Trainer SSCBT Credential Recipient. She will lead SSCBT training for the state of Florida.

SSCBT Credentials Awarded by Type



Tennessee CAREs Early Head Start Program

Tennessee CAREs Early Head Start is a federally funded community-based program for low-income families with infants and toddlers and pregnant women. The Tennessee CAREs Early Head Start program has provided coordinated comprehensive, intensive, and continuous support services to enable families to attain self-sufficiency since 1995, when the

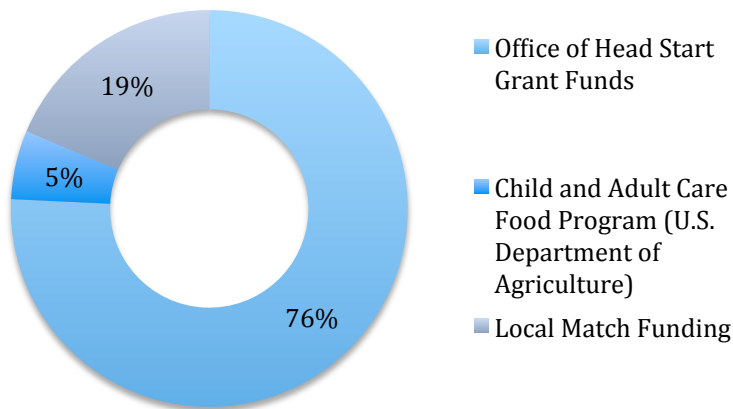
University was one of 11 programs selected nationwide to establish Early Head Start centers. The program currently supports six child care centers across Henry, Gibson, and Weakley counties in west Tennessee while recognizing the integrity and unique needs of these families and children.



TAMARA BARNHILL
Interim Program Director,
Tennessee State University
Early Head Start Programs

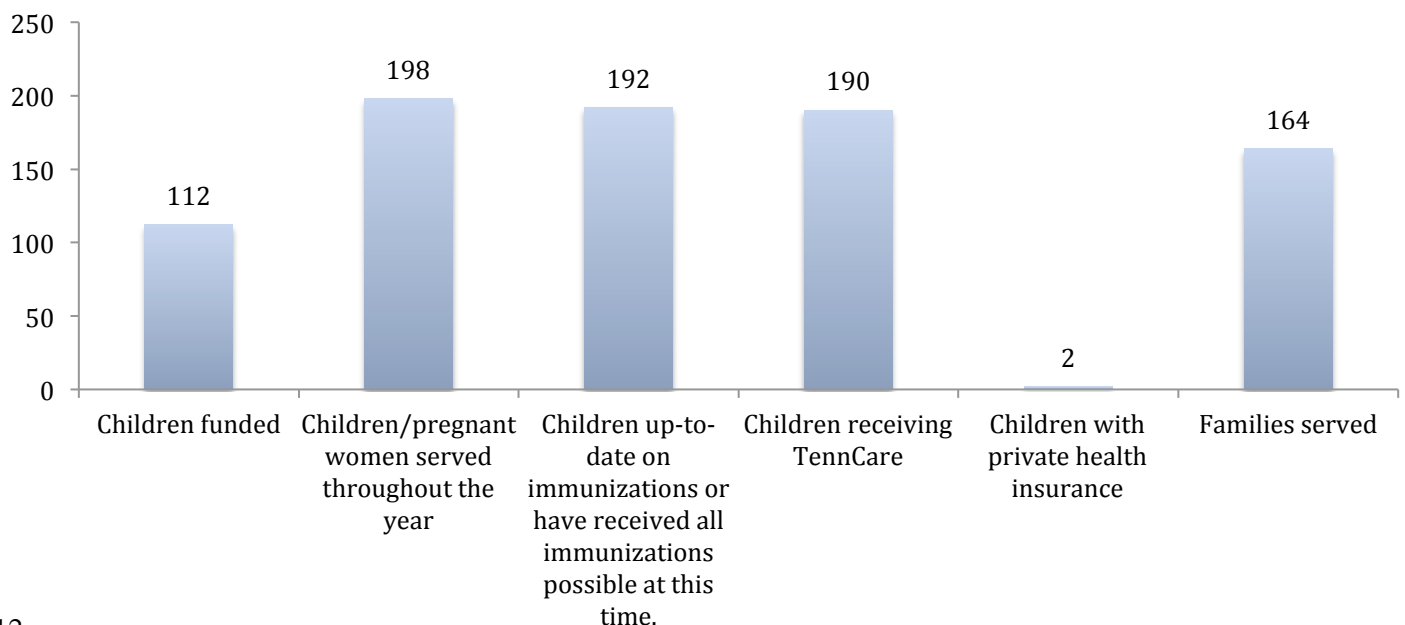
Total Program Funding by Source

Funding for FY 2019 was \$2,869,593.

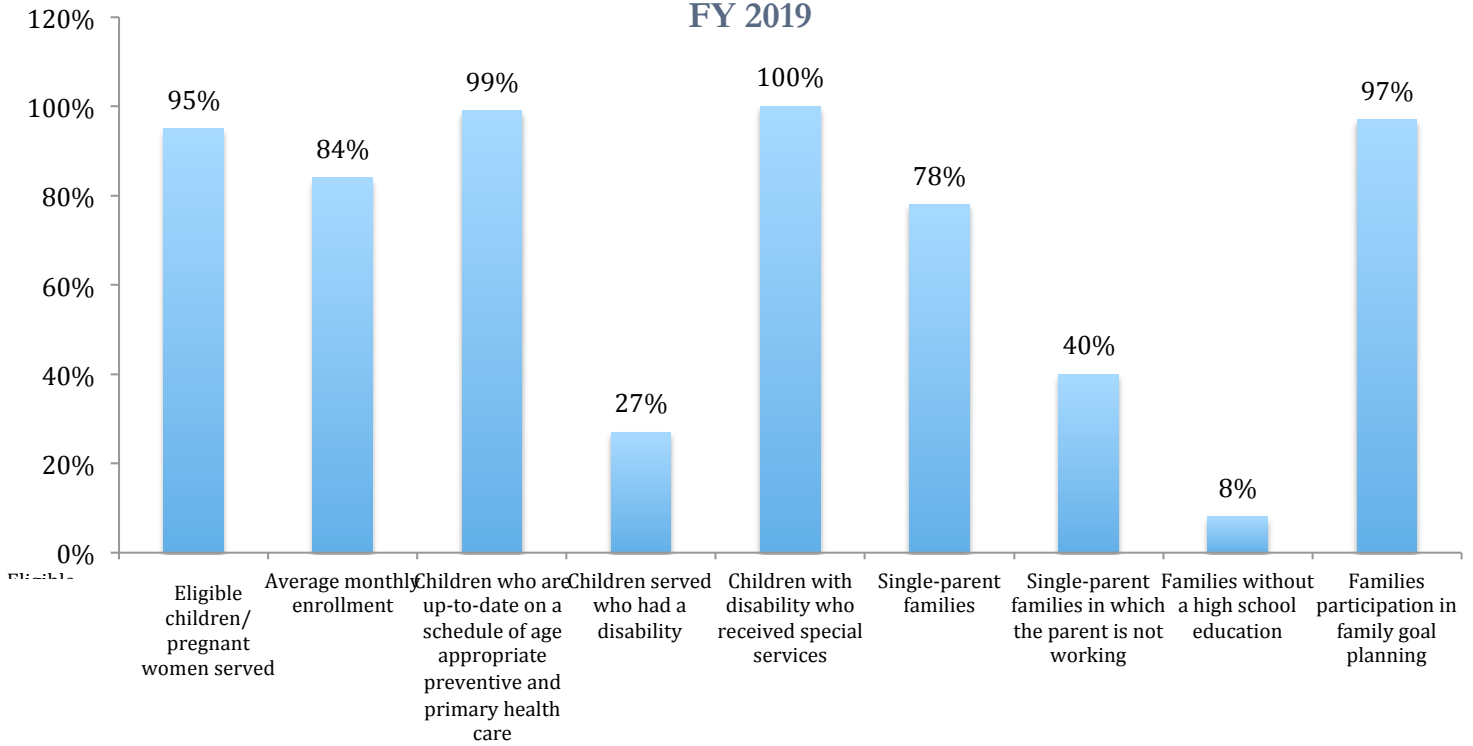


Tennessee State Representative Andy Holt visited the Paris Central Center.

Tennessee CAREs Early Head Start Statistics FY 2019



Tennessee CAREs Early Head Start Statistics, continued FY 2019



Read Across America Celebration at the Trenton Center

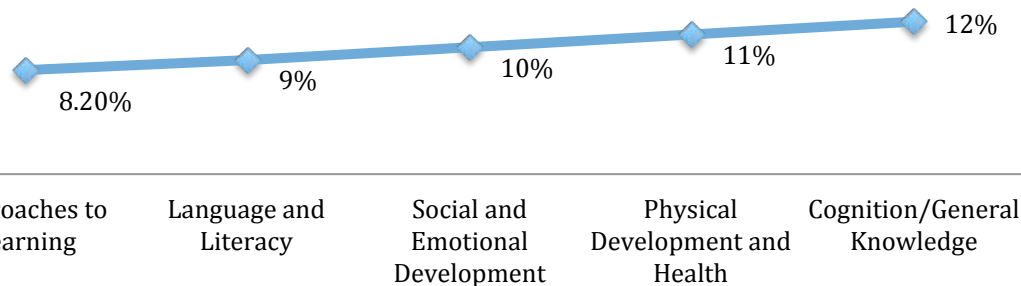


Humboldt Center hosted a community breakfast during the 2019 Week of the Young Child.



Dresden Center celebrates Dr. Seuss's birthday with a local Police Officer reading a book

2018-2019 School Readiness Improvement* Percentage of Growth during the Program Year



The TN Health Department awarded the Paris Housing Center the Certificate of Excellence award for obtaining 100% compliance!

*Percentage of growth demonstrated by children based on data from three documented assessments conducted during the 2018-2019 program year.

Tennessee State University Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership

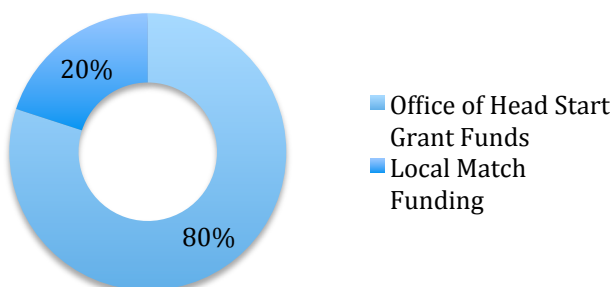
In FY 2014, Congress appropriated \$500 million to allow existing Early Head Start programs to partner with local child care centers and family child care providers serving infants and toddlers from low-income families, beginning with 275 grantees. In 2015, The Center was one of the first of these programs in the nation to be awarded funding to partner Early Head Start programs with child care centers in the north Nashville community. This project is funded by the Office of Head Start under the direction of the

Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The program's goals encompass successful health, economic and educational outcomes and long-term academic success for children.

Program statistics were not yet available at the time of this publication. When available, a full annual report will be posted at <http://www.tnstate.edu/learningsciences/service.aspx>.

Total Program Funding by Source

Funding for FY 2019 was \$1,946,474.



The EHS CCP Team hosted an activity for the children at the Week of the Young Child community event on April 10, 2019.



(L to R) Ana Maria Moss, Family Service Worker, and Tara Hurdle, Mentor Teacher, were invited to attend the MNPS Pre-K Summit on June 20, 2019. Speakers at the event included MNPS Interim Director of Schools Dr. Adrienne Battle and Nashville Mayor David Briley.



Tara Hurdle presented with colleagues from around the country at the NAEYC-PLI (Professional Learning Institute) in Long Beach, California on June 2, 2019.

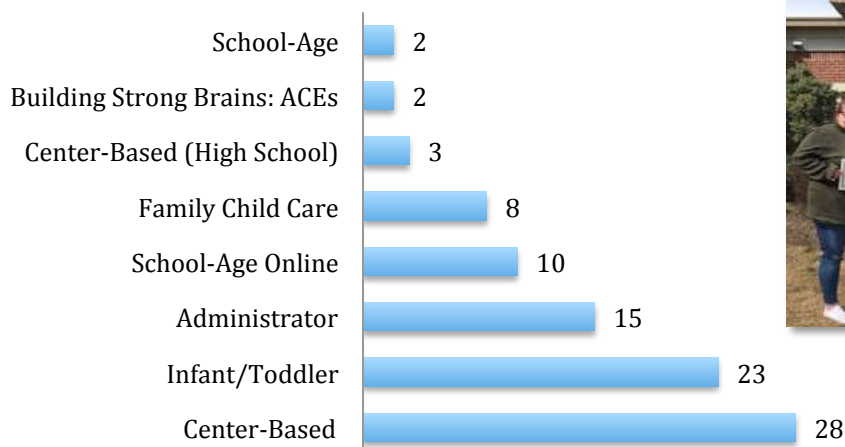
Training and Technical Assistance Programs

TECTA Orientation

TECTA Orientation is a free 30-hour training program with a curriculum centered on five specializations: Center-Based, Infant/Toddler, Family Child Care, School-Age, and Administrator. TECTA Orientation teaches core knowledge and best practices through in-person and online modules that

incorporate professional core competencies based on state and national standards of quality. Completion of the Orientation program provides an academic pathway to Early Childhood Education coursework with tuition support at state colleges and universities.

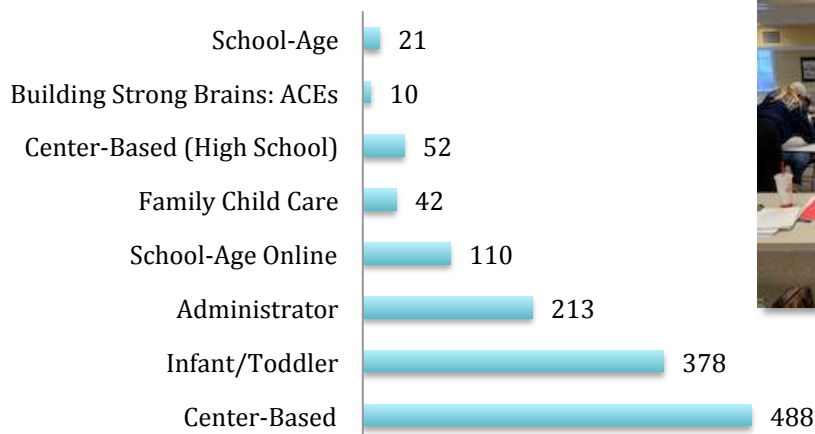
Total TECTA Orientations Held Statewide by Type



Infant/Toddler Orientation, Spring 2019, TSU TECTA Site



Total TECTA Orientation Completions Statewide by Type



Center-Based Orientation, Spring 2019, Sumner County, TSU TECTA Site



TECTA Family Child Care Network

The purpose of the TECTA Family Child Care Network is to build, support, and sustain a statewide network of services specific to Family Child Care and Group home providers. The network was created after the TECTA program acquired the TOPSTAR peer-to-peer mentoring program in December 2018. In addition to TOPSTAR mentoring, the TECTA FCC Network provides training and technical assistance, credential and national accreditation support, and an annual statewide conference plus grand divisional conferences throughout the year.



The Fall 2018 TOPSTAR Mentor Symposium



Providers completed a hands-on literacy activity at the Middle Tennessee Grand Divisional Family Child Care Mini-conference on April 13, 2019.



Robin Wooten delivered the keynote session at the Eleventh Annual TECTA Summer Research Institute/State Family Child Care Conference on Friday, May 31, 2019.



Several TECTA Family Child Care Network staff and providers attended the National Association for Family Child Care conference in Orlando, Florida June 19–22, 2019.

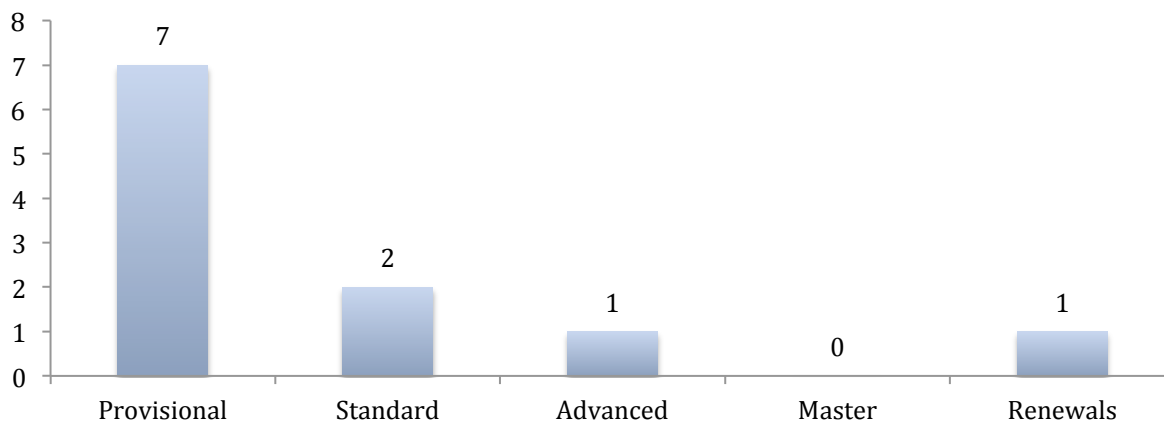
Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential (TECPAC)

Since 2008 the Center has awarded over 220 Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credentials (TECPAC) to child care program directors. These Early Childhood program directors demonstrate specific competencies for effective leadership and management based on academic achievement, effective experience, program assessments, and a portfolio assessment. The Center awards the Administrator Credential upon completion of the Academy and assessments of the child care facilities.



Rhonda Laird, TECPAC Program Manager, updated attendees about the TECPAC program at the 2019 Annual Steering Committee Meeting on March 14, 2019.

Total TECPAC Credentials Awarded Statewide by Type FY 2019



Tennessee Child Care Online Training System (TCCOTS)

The Tennessee Child Care Online Training System, or TCCOTS, is a learning portal designed by Early Childhood professionals that combines high-quality Early Childhood content with the convenience of an online training program. Under the Contractual Agreement with the Tennessee Department of Human Services (TN-DHS) and the Center/TECTA, TCCOTS is a service that provides the TN-DHS licensed child care workforce with online professional development opportunities.

This fiscal year, the TECTA team began transporting all TCCOTS trainings to the ProSolutions training platform. Access to TCCOTS training is now available at <https://www.prosolutionstraining.com/tn>.



TCCOTS Statewide Training Completions

Completion Certificates Issued by Module FY 2019

Administration for Child Care Centers - Intermediate- 2 HR Training	707
Before You Begin: New Caregivers- 4.5 HR Training	8422
Before You Begin: New School-Age Caregivers - 4 HR Training	3090
Brain Development Advanced- 2 HR Training	1011
Brain Development Intermediate- 2 HR Training	1784
Building Strong Brains: Tennessee's ACEs Initiative- 3 HR Training	3782
Building Strong Brains: Tennessee's ACEs Initiative - 3 HR Training	4248
Eat, Play, Rest- 3 HR Training	3667
Family Child Care Contracts and Policies- 2 HR Training	474
Family Child Care Marketing- 2 HR Training	394
Family Child Care Record Keeping- 2 HR Training	421
Gold Sneaker - 2 HR Training	1119
Inclusion- 2 HR Training	1783
Promoting Social and Emotional Development - 3 HR Training	2137
Revised TN-ELDS for Four Year-Olds: 3 HR Training	3187
Revised TN-ELDS for Infants: Birth- 12 Months 3 HR Training	3568
Revised TN-ELDS for Three Year Olds: 37-48 Months 3 HR Training	3013
Revised TN-ELDS for Toddlers: 13- 24 Months 3 HR Training	3039
Revised TN-ELDS for Two Year-Olds: 25- 36 Months 3 HR Training	2610
Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma - 2 HR Training	10566
TN-SADS- School-Age: 3 HR Training	1387
Total	60409

Tennessee State University 2019 Employee Recognition

The 2019 TSU Employee Recognition Luncheon was held April 29, 2019 on the main campus of Tennessee State University. These COELS employees were recognized for their years of service.



Tamara Barnhill
10 Years



Lindsey Brewer
10 Years



April Perry
5 Years



Peggy Petit
Retiree



Lucinda Scott
5 Years



LaToya Shead
15 Years



Rena Turner
15 Years



Tammy Wade
15 Years



Lisa Walsh
15 Years



Crystal Wedley
5 Years



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