

Tennessee State University Center Of Excellence For Learning Sciences Receives New Funding To Train Child Care Workers

The Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences has received funding for a new online training program for early educators. The project, entitled ClearPath ECE, focuses on the child care provider as a professional. To fulfill this vision, the Center will utilize funding from the Tennessee Board of Regents Student Engagement, Retention, and Success Grant (SERS) program to create an online learning community for child care providers engaged in academic study towards certificates, CDA credentials, and/or degrees in early childhood education. The providers will be invited to participate in an online professional development and learning community designed to help them develop college and career success competencies to both increase their degree completion rates and make them eligible for wage increases through the Child Care WAGES Tennessee program.

The proposal was prepared by Paige Holmes, Assistant Program Director for the TECTA program and Dr. Celeste Brown, Associate Research Director for the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences. The innovative new online training course will be built using cloud-based online course design software and will provide 50-200 participants with a variety of self-paced learning experiences that will help them hone and develop their college and career success competencies.

“We are creating an online learning community specifically to empower early childhood education students to build essential skills to be successful at school and work,” said Paige Holmes, Co-Project Director and Assistant Program Director for the TECTA program. “This community will be designed to provide learning resources that are easy for students to access and use.”



“The Center strives to promote innovation, enhance collaboration, and provide professional development to educators and human service agencies, which is why we embrace this project with great enthusiasm and dedication,” shared Dr. Kimberly Smith, Director of the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences, “The Student Engagement, Retentions and Success grant aligns with the current Early Head Start and TECTA programs within our Center as well as our vision to provide learning opportunities to child care providers across state. We are excited to enhance the field of child development by supporting and empowering the professionals who work day in and day out with our youngest children in Tennessee.”

The program will launch this fall. Information on how to enroll will be available at tnstate.edu/learningsciences.



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