



Scholarly Views and News



Graduate Colleen Werner
FCC provider,
Marysville, WA
Everett Community College

Tell Us Your Story!

We would like you to tell us your child care story, showing us how your child care provider is making a difference in your child's life, or how you as a provider are investing in Washington's youngest citizens.

Submit your videos and/or photos to us by following the instructions below

<http://www.childcarenet.org/families/tell-us-your-story-form>

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Fall Newsletter October 2011

Washington Scholarships News and Highlights

The onset of fall brings a new season and what looks to be shaping up as a busy year in child care! The WA State CCR&R Network is working collaboratively with partner organizations to ensure we as a system are working towards creating supports for children, providers and families that focus on quality child care. We hope all of you will join in our efforts to inform and educate your communities about the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) and the Race to the Top grant. The excitement is building about the potential in WA State to continue the great work we are all doing in early learning.

We are also proud to showcase the recipients of our BA Scholarships and share the story of two very impressive WA Scholars and teachers in Tacoma. Happy Fall!

Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge

On May 25, 2011, U.S. Secretary of Education and U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services announced that the Administration plans to use approximately \$500 million of fiscal year 2011 Race to the Top funding for a major competition in support of bold and comprehensive state plans for raising the quality of early learning programs. DEL is leading Washington's application for the grant, which could bring up to \$60 million for our state over four years to support early learning for our children.

The Race to the Top (RTTT)—Early Learning Challenge grant competition will focus on improving early learning and development programs for young children by supporting states' efforts to:

- Increase the number and percentage of low-income and disadvantaged children in each age group of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers who are enrolled in high-quality early learning programs;
- Design and implement an integrated system of high-quality early learning programs and services; and
- Ensure that any use of assessments conforms with the recommendations of the National Research Council's reports on early childhood.

Awards in Race to the Top—Early Learning Challenge will go to states that are leading the way with ambitious yet achievable plans for implementing coherent, compelling, and comprehensive early learning education reform.

The Department of Early Learning believes Washington is well-positioned to compete for this funding opportunity. We have a strong 10-year Early Learning Plan to guide us. A successful application will require strong partnerships and feedback from early learning experts, communities of color, educators, early learning providers and other voices around our state.

The U.S. Department of Education released the application and materials on August 23, 2011. Applications are due October 19; the federal government will announce the grant award winners in December.

To learn more about RTTT and partner organizations roles, please visit the DEL website:

<http://www.del.wa.gov/government/racetotop/>

Congratulations to our graduates this quarter:



AA Degree
Pablo Madrid
Mirna Cartagena
Shonte Bobbitt
Simone Lara Durant

CDA Credential
Jill Buckner
Misty Carlson
Maria Caudle
Francie Johnson
Tamara Landsiedel
Shelley Low
Shivela Shindhe

If your name is missing from our list of recent graduates, please send us documentation so we can include you in our annual report.

“This scholarship is one of the best things to EVER happen to me. Without this scholarship, I may have never gone to college and it’s really leading me in a positive direction. I advocate for the scholarship program to others all the time! Keep up the good work! You guys are really changing people’s lives!”

**-Lindsay Fraser
Time for Tots
Tacoma, WA**

Featured WA Scholars - Pablo Madrid and Mirna Cartagena

Learning is definitely a passion for the Madrid/ Cartagena family! Pablo, Mirna and her two sisters came to the US from El Salvador seven years ago. Her two sisters are also in child care and WA Scholars, one of which is Pablo’s wife.



WA Scholars Pablo Madrid and Mirna Cartagena, with Bates ECE instructor Lorie O’Neil

As a lawyer and business major in their home country, Pablo and Mirna came to the child care field with a love of children and a strong desire to succeed. Having both graduated with their AA Degrees, they talk of moving on to pursue their BA Degrees in the future. Pablo feels he “has discovered his real passion in child care” and feels they “are responsible to help children grow.” Mirna works every day to make “children feel safe and loved.” We are proud to have worked with Alphabet Preschool and Alice’s Precious Jewels to support these teachers pursue their educational goals and contribute to quality child care!

BA Scholarships awarded!

WA Scholarships announced in July that we would be accepting applications for 3-5 BA scholarships to those who meet the specified requirements, starting fall 2011. We are proud to announce the recipients of our most recent round of BA Scholarships!

We have awarded scholarships to the following recipients:

- Lee Kinney**—Spokane Public Schools Express, Spokane
- Lynn Reid**—Learning Way School & Daycare, Seattle
- Nora Duarte-Ardon**—The Burke Gilman Gardens Children’s Center, Seattle
- Alma Marines**—FCC provider, Toppenish

There were many qualified candidates. We hope for continued funding of this type in order to provide additional BA scholarships in the future.

The Washington Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)

The Washington Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) is our state’s voluntary program for helping licensed child care providers offer high-quality care. For two years, child care providers in five communities around the state participated in the development of Washington’s QRIS. During the two-year field test in five communities (the two Thrive by Five Washington Demonstration Communities—White Center and East Yakima—and Spokane, Clark and Kitsap counties), more than 86 licensed child care facilities tested the QRIS quality standards. The facilities received coaching, professional development and incentives to support their efforts.

Having a well-developed infrastructure with clearly defined roles and responsibilities is the first step to move toward statewide expansion. Based on field test results and national data, DEL will partner with the Early Adopters, the University of Washington and the WA State CCR&R Network to move this structure into the fiscal year 2012.

A strong statewide QRIS is a key strategy in Washington’s 10-year statewide Early Learning Plan. It will also make our state more competitive in the upcoming Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Fund Grant. The federal Office of Child Care recognizes QRIS as an important strategy, not only to increase child care quality, but to align early learning programs, including licensed child care, Head Start and state pre-kindergarten programs.

To learn more about QRIS and partner organizations roles, please visit the DEL website:

<http://www.del.wa.gov/care/qrisc/Default.aspx>

Resources and Information

Early Childhood Education Websites and Resources:

Department of Early Learning

The Department of Early Learning (DEL) works to help children in Washington prepare for success in school and life. The Department of Early Learning develops, implements and coordinates system oversight to early learning policy and programs that create safe, healthy, nurturing learning experiences for all Washington children. Their work focuses on the earliest years in children's homes, child care, school programs and communities.

Please visit the DEL website to learn more about the QRIS program, Race to the Top application and to learn about the various ways in which DEL works to support, advocate and inform on behalf of children, parents and child care providers in Washington state.

<http://www.del.wa.gov>

Please contact us if you have any great Early Childhood Education resources you would like us to share!



Goddard College
Graduation: Former WA
Scholar Hortencia Mercado
with Instructors Sharon
Cronin and Cam Do Wong

WA Scholarships Program Updates and Reminders

Scholarship Program Staffing Changes

Long time staff member **Mandy Aaberg** has recently been promoted to Quality Improvement Manager within the WA State CCR&R Network. While she will still provide outreach and information on WA Scholarships through her work with the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), her main duties will be to assist in oversight of the implementation of the improvement components of QRIS in the field.

We are pleased to announce that we have hired **Meka Riggins** as our new Professional Development Program Manager. Meka Riggins most recently worked for the Tacoma Community College Foundation as their Development and Scholarship Coordinator. Meka brings significant knowledge and experience to our office and is excited to serve scholars in her new role alongside Scholarship Coordinator, **Lora Brewsaugh**.

We are very excited about the changes and growth within our office and hope to have an opportunity for you to meet and interact with our new scholarship staff very soon!

Please make note of changes in contact information for the scholarship program:

Meka Riggins

Professional Development Program Manager

Meka@childcarenet.org

253.383.1735 x21

Lora Brewsaugh

Scholarships Coordinator

Lora@childcarenet.org

253.383.1735 x29

Mandy Aaberg

Quality Improvement Manager

Mandy@childcarenet.org

253.383.1735 x28

All general scholarship inquiries and requests may still be sent to scholarships@childcarenet.org.

If you have any questions regarding the scholarship process or paperwork, please call us at **(866) 308-3224**, or email us at scholarships@childcarenet.org.

**“An
investment in
knowledge
always pays the
best interest.”**

**- Benjamin
Franklin**



Former WA Scholar
Man Wai Chiu with
Goddard Instructor
and Child Care
Resources employee
Theresa Lenear

The Washington Scholarships Program is generously supported by:

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
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The Bamford Family Foundation
Washington State
Department of Early Learning

Washington Scholarships for Child Care Professionals



Feel free to contact us for more information about **Washington Scholarships** by phone, email or through our website:

1-866-308-3224
scholarships@childcarenet.org
www.childcarenet.org

WA Scholarships Staff (left to right):
Susan Yang Affolter, Professional Development Director
Meka Riggins, Professional Development Program Manager
Lora Brewsaugh, Scholarship Coordinator
Nannette Ward, Program Support Assistant

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