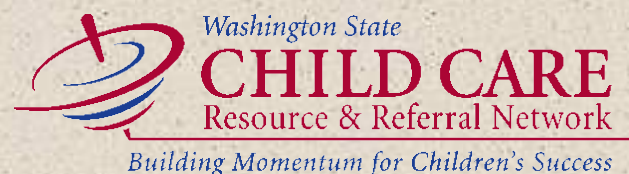


Washington Scholarships for Child Care Professionals



Annual Report July 2005-June 2006

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Letter from the Executive Director



Greetings! First let me extend our deepest appreciation to all our partners - funders, scholars, centers, local resource & referral agencies, four-year colleges and universities, community and technical colleges, our

Professional Development Committee, and the Network's Board of Trustees - for guiding our program.

At the end of the last program year (June 2005), our Board of Trustees and partners made the decision not to renew our T.E.A.C.H.[®] license. Instead, we opted to redesign our scholarship program to better meet the needs of our state's scholars and early learning goals. We changed our name to **Washington Scholarships for Child Care Professionals** and opened a new chapter of our program.

As I reflect back on this year, our transition could not have come at a more crucial time. Last year, Governor Gregoire launched her Washington Learns initiative and proposed a cabinet-level Department of Early Learning. In addition, a new public/private partnership, Thrive By Five Washington, was officially launched.

Now, the state is considering implementation of a Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), which is a tool to help parents make informed decisions about child care and help providers improve the quality of care they offer. The QRIS framework demands that more attention be given to the qualifications and competency of the workforce, and that compensation reflect this increased demand to attract and retain high quality caregivers.

The stage is set under Governor Gregoire's leadership to decide how to best educate our children. Washington Scholarships for Child Care Professionals has consistently shown positive outcomes for the child care field, and we are prepared to meet growing demand through our investment in higher education and a high-quality workforce which will contribute to the success in school and in life for our next generation.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth B. Thompson

Elizabeth Bonbright Thompson
Executive Director

Program Overview

Washington Scholarships for Child Care Professionals ("Washington Scholarships") is a public/private partnership of 11 funders that offers a comprehensive scholarship to family child care providers and teachers working full-time in licensed centers. The program is managed by the Washington State Child Care Resource & Referral Network.

This report highlights the goals and achievements of our **431** scholarship recipients statewide from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006.

GOAL 1: Investing in the Child Care Workforce

Washington Scholarships helps the workforce overcome two major barriers to further education: financial resources and limited time. We provide funds for release time, travel stipends, tuition, fees, and books. The program also addresses the chronic problem of high turnover rates of staff by offering a modest bonus to counteract depressed wages for the field.



Graciela Silva, recent graduate

Washington Scholarships invests in the workforce in three ways:

- 1) increases the education levels
- 2) heightens the earning power
- 3) improves retention rates of scholars

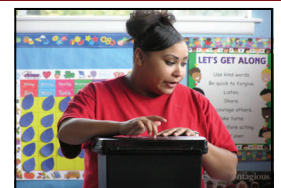
Overall, Washington Scholarships elevates the status of the child care and early learning workforce and translates into greater job satisfaction.

Program Impacts:

- **35** scholars received a degree, certificate or credential
- **13** graduated from a community college or technical college with associates degrees
- **6** completed early childhood education certificates
- **16** received Child Development Associates (CDA) credentials
- Scholars earned **\$44,250** in bonuses for completing contracts
- A **6.01% increase** in wages for scholars participating for more than one year

GOAL 2: Investing in Our Children

The primary beneficiaries are the more than 6,000 children who receive child care from our scholars. These children benefit from having consistent teachers and family child care providers who are committed to the field and who better understand child growth and development. **Nationally, the retention rate of child care staff is 69%**, based on the most recent National Child Care Staffing Study.



Renate Payne, Scholar, Pierce County

Program Impact:

- **94%** of Washington Scholars remained with their programs and family child care businesses to offer the consistency that children in care need to be successful in school and life.

GOAL 3: Investing in Higher Education



Olga Rios, Scholar at La Escuelita, Graduating from Shoreline Community College

Washington Scholarships contributes to enrollment in early childhood education degree programs. This, in turn, helps to build the capacity of higher education institutions in local communities. Scholars attended 30 of the state's 32 community and technical colleges offering early childhood education programs. In addition, Washington Scholars were enrolled in 3 four-year colleges and universities.

A majority (63%) of Washington Scholars pursued associate's degrees, 35% sought early childhood education certificates and Child Development

Associate (CDA) credentials, with the remaining 2% pursuing four-year degrees.

Program Impacts:

- Invested **\$200,000** in direct tuition and fees at two- and four-year higher education institutions; and
- **Supported 431** scholars who took **3,151** credits toward their degrees, with a **3.63** grade point average

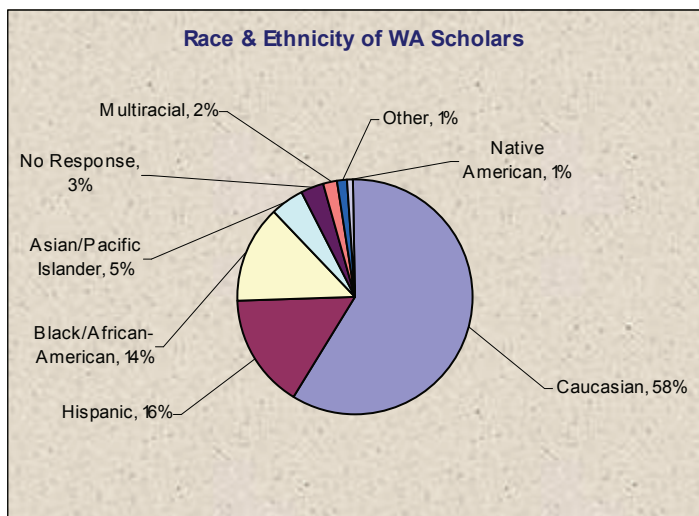
"When I called to explain (my son's) difficulties, [the provider] explained that she was taking classes specializing in handling special needs children. I was still reserved about her being able to take (our son) on, but...I have seen a huge improvement in (him) since he started attending (your scholar's) program." -Parent, Benton County

Demographics of Washington Scholars

A typical Washington Scholar has not attended college prior to participating in the scholarship program.

Our scholars have the following characteristics:

- 94% are women;
- 71% work in licensed centers;
- 29% represent family child care businesses;
- the average age is 37 years old;
- 39% are persons of color; and
- Represent 32 of the state's 39 counties



A Closer Look at our Scholars and Programs



Rosalba Escalera teaching a lesson on the letter "b"

Rosalba Escalera has been a family child care provider in Rock Island, WA in Chelan County since 2000. Rosalba was one of the initial scholarship participants in a first-time Spanish Child Development Associates (CDA) Program at **Wenatchee Valley College**. Upon completion of her coursework, Rosalba received her CDA credential and decided to continue classes in English towards her associates degree in Early Childhood Education. Congratulations to Rosalba for receiving her CDA credential and for choosing to continue her education!

La Escuelita is a bilingual Spanish preschool program in Seattle that has been in operation for over 25 years. In 2001, La Escuelita was one of our first sponsoring centers. This year, we are happy to report that three of the four initial scholars from La Escuelita completed their two-year degrees at **Shoreline Community College**, and the fourth scholar will graduate this coming year. We thank Carmen Masso, the Executive Director, for her dedication and support for her staff to reach this incredible milestone. Congratulations to scholars Graciela, Sylvia and Olga!



Roberta Wright reading with children in care

Roberta Wright, a scholar from Pierce County, has been a family child care provider for over 25 years. In April, she represented the State of Washington at the awards ceremony in Philadelphia as a recipient of the **Terri Lynne Lokoff Child Care Foundation National Child Care Teacher Award**. The Foundation selected teachers from those who submitted a quality enhancement project. Roberta tied her project to what she learned in her literature for young children course at **Pierce College**. Roberta received a \$1000 grant for personal use and to set up a book display encouraging literacy and language skills for the children in her care. Congratulations to Roberta for her creative energy and receiving this prestigious award!



Program Staff

Pictured Clockwise from bottom left: Jade Anthony, Susan Yang Affolter, Elizabeth Bonbright Thompson, and Colette Adams

Advisory Committee

- Wilanne Ollila-Perry, Chair, The Opportunity Council
- Tina Bloomer, WA State Community & Technical Colleges Board
- Brenda Boyd, Washington State University
- Gary Burris, DSHS, Division of Child Care & Early Learning
- Peggy Burrows, Children's Life Day Care Center
- Sangree Froelicher, Head Start State Collaboration Office
- Eugene Gousie, Administration for Children & Families
- Diana Holtz, Green River Community College
- Jean Kelly, University of Washington
- Garrison Kurtz, Foundation for Early Learning
- Cheri Raff, Centralia College
- Debra Sullivan, The Praxis Institute for Early Childhood Education
- Susan Sandall, University of Washington
- Caterina Tassara-Vaubel, WAEYC
- Robin Thompson, WA State Community & Technical Colleges Board
- Mary Ann Warren, Catholic Family & Child Service

Participating Colleges & Universities:

- Antioch University
- Bates Technical College
- Bellevue Community College
- Bellingham Technical College
- Big Bend Community College
- Centralia College
- Clark College
- Clover Park Technical College
- Columbia Basin College
- Edmonds Community College
- Everett Community College
- Green River Community College
- Grays Harbor College
- Highline Community College
- Lake Washington Technical College
- Lower Columbia College
- North Seattle Community College
- Northwest Indian College
- Olympic College
- Peninsula College
- Pierce College
- The Praxis Institute for Early Childhood Education
- Renton Technical College
- Seattle Central Community College
- Seattle University
- Shoreline Community College
- Skagit Valley College
- South Puget Sound Community College
- South Seattle Community College
- Spokane Falls Community College
- Tacoma Community College
- Walla Walla Community College
- Wenatchee Valley College
- Whatcom Community College
- Yakima Valley Community College

Funding Partners:

- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- The Boeing Company
- Child Care Resources of King County
- The City of Seattle, Human Services Department
- Community Foundation of North Central Washington
- Foundation for Early Learning
- Foundation Northwest
- The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation
- The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation
- Pullman Community Foundation
- WA State Dept. of Social & Health Services, Division of Child Care and Early Learning

A Public/Private Funding Partnership

Although sustainable funding continues to be a challenge, we have been fortunate to have an incredibly committed group of public and private funders.

This year, we **added five new partners:** The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Child Care Resources, The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, Community Foundation of North Central Washington, and the Pullman Community Foundation. We received renewed and continuing commitments from Foundation Northwest, The Foundation for Early Learning, Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, Washington State Department of Social & Health Services/Division of Child Care and Early Learning and the City of Seattle. We received increased funding from The Boeing Company.

These funding commitments will allow us to expand Associate's degree scholarship support to staff at local resource and referral agencies to prepare for the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) and to pilot a Bachelor's degree scholarship model for licensed caregivers in King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties.

WA Scholarships Program Budget (Year Ending June 30, 2006)	
Program Revenue	
Government Grants	\$ 600,250
Private Grants	\$ 169,270
Total Revenue	\$ 769,520
Program Expenses	
Personnel	\$ 208,000
Program Services	\$ 76,485
Direct Scholarship	\$ 389,100
One-Time Technology Upgrade	\$ 52,100
Total Expenses	\$ 725,685
Net Program Income	\$ 43,835

Leveraging New Funding Through Collaboration



Infant at Seed of Life, LLC, a participating Early Learning Network Site

During 2005-2006, the City of Seattle, with funding from a Families and Education Levy, established a more comprehensive approach to professional development and selected six programs to participate in an Early Learning Network (ELN) pre-kindergarten initiative.

With the infrastructure in place, Washington Scholarships worked in concert with Child Care Resources and the City of Seattle to leverage \$50,000 in new program funding that supported 68 ELN participants and built upon our statewide efforts. This initiative has allowed our program to offer 8 Bachelor's degree scholarships and establish new relationships with four-year institutions of higher education.

For more program information, please contact us:

Washington Scholarships for Child Care Professionals

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