

University of Wisconsin System: PK-16 and Waisman Center State Improvement Mini Grants

We are pleased to announce that 5 higher education partnerships have been funded to advance quality professional development experiences for early childhood education and care professionals in Wisconsin. In an effort to demonstrate collaboration in early childhood professional development initiatives, the University of Wisconsin System (PK-16 Initiative Grants) and the University of Wisconsin Waisman Center (Department of Public Instruction - State Improvement Grant) joined to offer grant opportunities for 2005.

The successful applicants responded with initiatives that support the following state priorities related to early childhood education and care:

- Insure positive outcomes for all children through high quality early childhood education and care provided by well trained professionals.
- Create articulated, connected, and competency-based systems of professional development guided by the implementation of PI 34, which support ongoing professional development and mentoring.
- Increase the number of people in the state with bachelor degrees in order to meet the growing demand for highly qualified teachers in 4K, Head Start and other quality early childhood education and care programs.
- Improve access to higher education to diversify the workforce and meet the needs of non-traditional learners.

The partners involved in these grants include the University of Wisconsin system, private colleges, the Wisconsin Technical College system, and other community agencies supporting early education and care programs. Two projects will be in an implementation phase and three will be in a planning phase preparing for future implementation funding opportunities. A condition of funding is participation in a state wide advisory group that will promote effective collaboration across systems. A summary of each project as well as a list of partners follows.

Congratulations to the successful applicants and thank you to all the communities that entered collaborative conversations to propose projects. We are looking forward to showcasing the outcomes resulting from these partnerships in order to extend the learning and future funding opportunities to other higher education partnerships.

2006-2007 Funded Projects

Title: Increasing Educational Opportunities for Early Childhood Teachers in the Greater St. Croix Valley

Fiscal Institution: UW River Falls

Partners: Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College

Title: Early Childhood Special Education Collaborative Online Mater's Program

Fiscal Institution:

Partner Institutions: UW-Stevens Point & UW-Milwaukee

Contact: Patty Caro and Ann Hains

Early Childhood Baccalaureate Completion

Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee Area Technical College and Next Door Foundation

Contact: Joanne Caldwell

Developing Partnerships in Early Childhood Education and Care

*UW-Whitewater, Waukesha County Technical College & Blackhawk Technical College

Contact: Simone Devore & Guiliana Miolo

Developing Partnerships in Early Childhood Education and Care supports a collaborative partnership among the Departments of Special Education and Communicative Disorders at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater (UWW) and the Departments of Early Childhood Education at the Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC) and the Blackhawk Technical College (BTC) campuses in Janesville and Monroe. This initiative will benefit the students in early childhood education, special education, and communicative disorders attending these institutions; professionals in early childhood education and care in surrounding areas; and ultimately, those children and families whom they serve. The first part of the initiative consists of redesigning articulations between early childhood programs in the Technical Colleges and the UWW-College of Education licensure programs in Early Childhood/Middle Childhood (EC/MC) and Early Childhood Regular Education/Early Childhood Special Education (ECRE/ECSE) within the framework of PI 34. The second part of the initiative includes the coordination of field work opportunities in inclusive community-based preschool settings for students in 2-year Associate Degree programs and UWW educator licensure programs in Special Education and Communicative Disorders.

Increasing Educational Opportunities for Early Childhood Teachers in the Greater St. Croix Valley

UW-River Falls & Indianhead Technical College

Contact: Gay Ward and Mary Williams-Greene

Implementation of an Accelerated Licensing Program for Early Childhood Professionals (ALPECPP)

UW-Oshkosh and Fox Valley Technical College

Contact: Susan Finkel, Amy Werba and Kim Horjes

Early Childhood Professional Development Options

UW-LaCrosse, Viterbo College, Western WI Technical College, Family Resources, CESA 4, and School District of LaCrosse

Contact: Lynn Weiland, Barb Gander, Gaye Tylka

Project Summary: The outcomes will entail the design and implementation of an articulation agreement between the Wisconsin Technical College System, represented by Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC), and the University of Wisconsin – River Falls, which will enable students to use credits earned for their Early Childhood Associate’s Degrees to pursue a pathway of further study to obtain a Bachelor’s Degree in Early Childhood or Elementary Education. They will have the opportunity to earn certifications for licensure in Early Childhood Birth through Eight, and the option of Birth through Eight Special Education through the UWRF/UWEC collaborative program. Federal directives will require that Head Start teachers have a bachelor’s degree as of 2010 necessitating professional development and educational opportunities for teachers employed in regional Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

The focus of this grant will be to expand opportunities for those associate degree graduates interested in pursuing further education by developing a comprehensive early childhood major that will be offered in a hybrid online format. The first step towards implementing this new program will be finalizing an articulation agreement between UWRF and WTCS (WITC). We anticipate that traditional and non-traditional students as well as working professionals and students in rural areas will benefit from this opportunity.

The project co-directors will disseminate the outcomes within their respective institutions as well as regionally and nationally to early childhood higher education providers.

Title: Accelerated Licensing Program for Early Childhood Professionals

Fiscal Institution: UW Oshkosh

Partners: Fox Valley Technical College

Project Summary: The Accelerated Licensing Program for Early Childhood Professionals project will plan, with leadership from UW Oshkosh and Fox Val Tech Coll for the development of an Accelerated Licensing Program for early childhood professionals. This proposal will create a non-traditional, seamless system of transfer, whereby early childhood professionals completing an Associate’s degree within the Wisconsin Technical College System transition into a Bachelor of Science in Education and teacher licensure program at the UW Oshkosh. The project will coordinate the competency based portfolio assessment systems to develop consistency between institutions.

Title: Promoting Seamless Transfer from the Technical College to the University

Fiscal Institution: UW Milwaukee

Partners: Gateway Technical College
Milwaukee Area Technical College
4C’s Community Coordinated Child Care

Project Summary: This planning proposal is to prepare for a system of transfer for students who initially attend an Associate’s degree program at a southeastern Wisconsin Technical College. Appropriate avenues to ease the transfer process and to assure acceptance to the Bachelor’s degree program at UW Milwaukee will be addressed by a faculty team across institutions. The Milwaukee 4C’s will also conduct focus groups to identify student needs, barriers, and potential solutions.

Implementation Grants

Title: NWTC/Edgewood Early Childhood Education

Fiscal Institution: Northeast Wisconsin Technical College

Partners: Edgewood College

Project Summary: NWTC and Edgewood will partner to provide a seamless transition of Early Childhood Education Associate Degree graduates to a junior standing in the Early Childhood Education Bachelor's Degree program. In order to ensure a seamless transition and allow access for the greatest number of students, curriculum will be articulated and the Bachelor Degree curriculum will be converted to an online format.

Title: Early Childhood Special Education Collaborative Online Master's Program

Fiscal Institution: UW Milwaukee

Partners: Wisconsin Technical College System

Edgewood College

UW Eau Claire

UW Oshkosh

UW Stevens Point

UW Green Bay

UW River Falls

UW Whitewater

Project Summary: This project titled Early Childhood Special Education Collaborative Online Master's Program will improve access and availability to advanced course work in early childhood special education and other fields. Twelve faculty from Edgewood College, UW Eau Claire, UW Oshkosh, UW Stevens Point, UW Green Bay, UW River Falls, UW Whitewater will develop an online master's program by using existing and new courses. Partnership with the Wisconsin Technical College System will provide articulation for students and professional development for WTCS faculty.