

RIGHTS, RAISES, RESPECT

News and Issues for the Early Care and Education Workforce

A monthly electronic newsletter

From the Center for the Child Care Workforce,

A Project of the AFT Educational Foundation (CCW/AFTEF)

October 2003

Please feel free to send this to anyone you think would be interested in supporting our efforts. Visit our web site at www.ccw.org for the latest information on the early care and education workforce, CCW/AFTEF activities and our online order form for our publications.

(E-Newsletters you receive from CCW/AFTEF will be sent by ccw@v2.listbox.com.)

"Rights, Raises, Respect" is made possible with generous support from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

THIS MONTH:

Making the Connection

- "Tools for Communities that Work": November 9-12, 2003

Federal News

- New GAO Report Reviews Head Start Teacher Qualifications

State News

- Espresso Tax is Defeated in Seattle
- Chicago Union Organizes Job Shadowing Activity

Resources

- NAEYC Annual Conference & Expo: November 5-8, 2003
- New Report Highlights that BA Degrees are Best for Pre-K Teachers

People & Places

- Recent Activities of CCW/AFTEF staff & colleagues.

COMING SOON.... www.CCW.org

Keep an eye out for the new website of the Center for the Child Care Workforce, A project of the American Federation of Teachers Educational Foundation (CCW/AFTEF).

The website has been updated with new information and resources and has been redesigned to help you better find current news, research, and other useful information. Visit the website and find more free publications and state specific initiatives on the early care and education workforce.

MAKING THE CONNECTION

"Tools for Communities that Work": November 9-12, 2003

On November 9-12 in Milwaukee, WI, the AFL-CIO's Working for America Institute is hosting a conference entitled, "Tools for Communities that Work." Because the organization recognizes the crisis of the early care and education workforce, they have dedicated an entire track to this issue. Most of the workshops in this track are focused on strengthening the workforce through increased training, compensation and organizing.

The AFL-CIO Working for America Institute (WAI) is a union-sponsored, nonprofit organization dedicated to creating good jobs and building strong communities.

For more information on the conference or WAI, visit www.workingforamerica.org.

FEDERAL NEWS

New GAO Report Reviews Head Start Teacher Qualifications

On October 1, 2003, the GAO released a report, *Head Start: Increased Percentage of Teachers Nationwide Have Required Degrees, but Better Information on Classroom Teachers' Qualifications Needed*. In this report the GAO examines the (1) the extent to which Head Start has met legislative mandates concerning teacher qualifications; (2) whether Head Start teacher salaries have increased and enabled grantees to attract and retain teachers with degrees; and (3) the extent to which degrees and other programs in early care and education are available for Head Start teachers and if grantees have taken steps to enhance access to them. Special attention is paid to the limited amount of access for rural states.

The 1998 Head Start reauthorization mandated that 50 percent of HS teachers have at least an associate's degree by September 30, 2003. Amongst the programs researched for this report, in 2002, close to 52% of HS teachers had at least an associate's degree. In addition, the report also found a direct correlation between higher qualifications and higher salaries. While some progress has been made, this report describes that it is still difficult to identify credentialed teachers in the Head Start classroom. In order to truly invest in young children, a major public investment in the early care and education workforce must be made, particularly for this only federally-funded early childhood program.

To download the report visit <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-5>

STATE NEWS

Espresso Tax is Defeated in Seattle

Last month, Seattle voters weighed in on a proposal, Initiative 77, that would have taxed each cup of espresso an additional 10 cents to fund high quality early learning programs in the City of Seattle. Estimates of what the tax would have raised range from \$1.8 million to \$6.5 million to fund programs including subsidies for low income families, high quality preschool and a career and wage ladder for child care teachers. The proposal was on the ballot because over 35,000 registered voters signed the initiative. The measure was rejected by sixty-eight (68%) percent of the voters.

While supporters of the tax were disappointed, the campaign successfully raised the bar on the awareness and commitment from business and civic leaders to the important issue of funding early care and education. Now supporters are regrouping and working with the city council and the mayor's office to explore alternatives for additional resources into these critical programs. "The idea was to find a new funding source to improve the quality of care all children receive. We do not want to take away funding from other human services to improve these early learning programs," said Mike Kasprzak, director at Interlake Child Care and Learning Center and one of the initiative's citizen sponsors. "Now we will work with everyone who said how important this is to make sure we expand that funding pool to ensure these programs can support the families and children who need them."

Advocates in the community are also responding by joining the Child Care Workforce Alliance of Washington known as the Alliance, an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers and the Washington Federation of Teachers. The Alliance is a broad-based organization committed to improve the quality of jobs for the early care and education workforce in Washington State and ensuring all families have access to high-quality early learning and care. The Alliance, which began just four months ago, already has over 200 members.

For more information contact: Dorothy Gibson, CCWA of Washington AFT at (206) 242-4777 Ext.13 or by email at dgibson@wftaft.com

Chicago Union Organizes Job Shadowing Activity

SEIU Local 880 in Chicago Illinois organized an event this month which brought State Senator Don Harmon (D-39th) to a home day care facility where he became a child care provider for the day. Senator Harmon reacted to his experience by saying, "After working with the kids, I more fully appreciate how difficult their [child care providers] job can be."

This event represents a continuation of efforts originally spearheaded by CCW and local activists in conjunction with the annual Worthy Wage Day and year-round efforts to bring public awareness to early care and education workforce issues. Job shadowing provides elected officials such as Sen. Harmon an opportunity to get an up-close and firsthand perspective of the work of early care and education professionals. We commend these efforts and encourage others to organize job shadowing, rallies and other public events to bring the issues of the early care and education workforce to the forefront.

For more information contact Marnie Goodfried, (312) 939-7490.

RESOURCES

NAEYC Annual Conference & Expo

On November 5-8, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) will be hosting their annual conference. This year, many presenters, including CCW/AFTEF and the AFT, are offering workshops that focus on issues related to recruiting and retaining a highly-qualified, well-compensated early care and education workforce. To learn more about the conference visit <http://www.naeyc.org/conferences>.

CCW/AFTEF will host a continental breakfast on Thursday, November 6, 2003 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency Chicago during NAEYC's 2003 Annual Conference in Chicago, IL. Please join us, our fellow early care and education workforce advocates and colleagues from all over the country for this informal gathering. We invite you to share this time by networking, making and renewing personal and professional connections, and helping us recognize the one year anniversary of CCW's merger with the American Federation of Teachers Educational Foundation (AFTEF). For more information contact CCW/AFTEF at ccw@aft.org or (202) 662-8005.

New Report Highlights that BA Degrees are Best for Pre-K Teachers

Marcy Whitebook, the Founding Executive Director of the Center for the Child Care Workforce and now Director of the Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, UC Berkeley's Institute of Industrial Relations, recently released a new paper, *Early Education Quality: Higher Teacher Qualification for Better Learning Environments – A Review of the Literature*. This paper reviews the scientific research literature about the relationship between teacher preparation and child outcome in early care and education.

To download the paper visit <http://www.iir.berkeley.edu/cscce/pdf/teacher.pdf>

PEOPLE & PLACES

Children's Defense Fund's 30th Anniversary Celebration

Dori Mornan and Teresa Valcarce, both of CCW/AFTEF, attended the Children's Defense Fund's 30th Anniversary celebration. During the gala, 3 students from their Beat the Odds program were acknowledged for their accomplishments despite the difficulties they faced.

* * * * *

The Center for the Child Care Workforce (CCW) was founded in 1978 as the Child Care Employee Project and in 2002 merged with the American Federation of Teachers (AFTEF). CCW/AFTEF is a nonprofit research, education and advocacy organization committed to improving early care and education quality by upgrading the compensation, working conditions and training of early childhood professionals.