



**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)**

**April 2004**

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## **MAKING THE CONNECTION**

### **Save the Date for the Summer Institute: June 24 – June 27**

The Delaware Valley Worthy Wage Campaign will be hosting a 2004 Summer Institute, "Leaders in Action for Worthy Wages." This Institute, based on the annual summer institute originally sponsored by the Center for the Child Care Workforce (CCW) and last held in 2002, is a 4-day program offering an intensive, hands-on education experience, including training in such areas as the CCW-developed, Leadership Empowerment Action Project (LEAP). In addition, several sessions and workshops will be held on the major issues facing the early care and education field such as compensation strategies, the role of the labor movement in advancing improvements in the field, expansion of universal pre-K initiatives and living wage ordinances.

The Institute will be held June 24-27 at La Salle University in Philadelphia, PA. For more information, email [summerinstitute@dvaeyc.org](mailto:summerinstitute@dvaeyc.org). Applications for scholarships are due by May 1, 2004.

## **FEDERAL NEWS**

### **Big Win for Early Care and Education Advocates**

Early care and education advocates across the country have much to be proud of after working together to gain an increase in funding for child care assistance passed by the U.S. Senate. The amendment was introduced as part of the Senate's budget resolution debate by Senators Olympia Snowe (R-ME) and long-time supporter of early care and education, Christopher Dodd (D-CT). It will add an additional \$6 billion in guaranteed funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) over five years. Advocates are applauding this increase as an important step to assist states that are struggling to improve the quality of child care.

To find out how your Senators voted, visit:

[http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?congress=108&session=2&vote=00064](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=108&session=2&vote=00064)

### **Senate Can't Agree on Welfare Bill**

Despite the victory in passing the Snowe Amendment, Senators have faced a stumbling block in passing a bill to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Act. The struggle came over a debate to increase the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.00 an hour – an increase that would greatly benefit the early care and education workforce, any of whom earn wages that fall within that barely livable range. A continuing resolution was passed that will keep CCDBG and TANF money and requirements intact until June 30, 2004.



## **STATE NEWS**

### **Arizona Governor Tries to Move School Readiness Plan Forward**

Governor Janet Napolitano of Arizona has developed a ten-part plan to improve the quality of early care and education services in her state, including new educational opportunities for the ECE workforce. With a \$1.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the Governor's office, in partnership with Arizona State University, is developing a statewide scholarship program that will provide funding and academic support for 300 teachers to obtain their associate's degree. Participants will be required to enroll in the state registry system, SUCCEEDS which is linked to a career lattice that awards early care and education professionals with financial incentives once they reach a higher career level.

For more information, visit:

[http://www.governor.state.az.us/cyf/school\\_readiness/index\\_school\\_readiness.html](http://www.governor.state.az.us/cyf/school_readiness/index_school_readiness.html)

### **Program in Kansas City Reduces Teacher Turnover**

A recent evaluation of Kansas City's Smart Start found that the program has been effective in reducing teacher turnover. Smart Start, a pilot project, modeled after Smart Start North Carolina, was launched in 2001 as an attempt to better prepare children to enter school healthy and ready to learn, focusing on reducing employee turnover of employees in childcare centers. The program has supplemented wages for centers in 17 counties working to improve quality through national accreditation.

The Tri-County Smart Start Kansas Coalition, which represents Wyandotte, Lavenworth and Johnson Counties, used their allocation to increase teacher wages and to offer medical insurance and dental coverage. As a result, teachers' wages increased from an average of \$7.73/hr. to \$9.50/hr. and teacher turnover has dropped 51 percent at the participating centers in the last three years.

For more information, visit the United Way at Wyandotte County, which led the effort at <http://www.kumc.edu/uwwy/smartstart.html>.

## **RESOURCES**

### **AdvoCasey: The Annie E. Casey Foundation's Policy Magazine**

The Spring 2004 issue of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's AdvoCasey magazine explores the workforce crisis plaguing children and family services. The magazine highlights the need for renewed focus on frontline workers serving needy kids and families, and takes a close-up look at this challenge in Greenville, South Carolina. There are several articles that focus on personnel reforms.



The magazine is available in PDF format at [http://www.aecf.org/publications/data/advocasey\\_spring04.pdf](http://www.aecf.org/publications/data/advocasey_spring04.pdf). For more information about the Casey Foundation, visit [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org).

### **Seminars on Early Childhood at Wheelock College**

The Wheelock College Advanced Seminars for Early Childhood Leaders, Policy-Makers and Administrators, now in its 29th year, continues the tradition of offering professional development opportunities for early care and education professionals this summer. The weeklong seminars offer participants an opportunity to learn effective strategies for enhancing the many facets of an early childhood educational setting through the exploration of topics such as curriculum for infants and toddlers, financial and legal issues, current policy trends and center management. For additional information go to [www.wheelock.edu/pdi](http://www.wheelock.edu/pdi) or email [professionaldevelopment@wheelock.edu](mailto:professionaldevelopment@wheelock.edu).

### **Online Survey to Measure Wages**

Child Care Exchange has developed an online survey focusing on the wages of directors, teachers and teacher aides in the United States. If you would like to participate in the survey, visit <http://mail.ccie.com/go/eed/0153>. After you have entered the average wages in your community, you can go to the home page and compare your community with other states.

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**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 Educational Foundation (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.**