



Center for the
Child Care Workforce

RIGHTS, RAISES, RESPECT

News and Issues for the Early Care and Education Workforce

**From the Center for the Child Care Workforce,
A Project of the AFT Educational Foundation (CCW/AFTEF)**

October 2004

CCW/AFTEF does not endorse any political candidate. We encourage you to learn about the views of each candidate and make an informed decision. PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 2, 2004! For more information visit:

League of Women Voters - www.lwv.org

Every Child Matters - www.everychildmatters.org

Voices for Working Families - www.voicesforworkingfamilies.org

THIS MONTH:

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MAKING THE CONNECTION- ADVOCACY & OUTREACH

NAEYC Annual Conference & Expo: November 10-13, 2004

The National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) will be hosting its annual conference in Anaheim, CA from November 10-13, 2004. CCW/AFTEF will conduct two sessions at the conference. The first session, Why should early childhood educators care about No Child Left Behind? Implications of the K-12 law on early childhood programs and professionals, will be on Friday, November 12, 2004 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. The second session, Teacher-to-Teacher Dialogue: Connecting and Coordinating Efforts of Preschool and Kindergarten, is scheduled for Saturday, November 13, 2004 from 8:30-9:30 a.m.

In addition, CCW/AFTEF is once again developing a resource that will highlight conference workshops related to issues affecting the early care and education workforce, including recruitment and retention, financing and leadership development. The list will be sent by email the week prior to the conference and will be posted on our website at www.ccw.org.

For more information about CCW/AFTEF and our work, visit us at the annual Festival of Organizations (Table #94) on Thursday from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

To learn more about the conference visit <http://www.annualconference.naeyc.org/>.

POLICY & PRACTICE

Colleges Use Grant Money to Train Teachers in Early Childhood

Colleges in Missouri and Arizona have sought grant money for the purpose of training and recruiting early childhood teachers. St. Louis Community College in Missouri will use its \$149,885 federal grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to prepare Head Start teachers in communities with a growing Latino population to enter the college's associate degree program in early care and education. The grant money will also be used to help students continue into a bachelor's program in the same specialization. Arizona Western College (AWC) will use its \$100,000 state grant to recruit and train teachers through the school's early childhood programs.

Judy Watkinson, director of early childhood programs at AWC, told a local paper that there is a great need for programs like these because, "there's flatly not enough people to care for our children when parents are at work. It's costly for the parents and the other piece of it is that caregivers in early childhood are not paid a very good rate."

These programs represent promising opportunities to connect Head Start teachers to higher education institutions in order to meet the increased educational requirements proposed in the reauthorization of the federal program.

For more information contact Judy Watkinson at Arizona Western College or Michael Holmes with St. Louise Community College.



Teacher Requirements Extended in New Jersey's Abbott School District

Acknowledging that more time is needed to meet the court mandate related to teacher qualifications in the Abbott school district, the New Jersey Supreme Court recently approved a two-year extension for teachers to obtain a bachelor's degree. The extension applies to those teachers already in the process of getting their credential and gives them until September 2006 to complete their course of study.

Preliminary results indicate that 80% of teachers in the Abbott school district have already fulfilled the new requirements. However, advocates remain cautiously optimistic about the data because it is unclear the extent to which other important conditions that support a high-quality preschool program including a diverse workforce and accessible professional development opportunities, are also being met. Advocacy groups such as the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI) are looking at how the Abbott district, as well as places where similar efforts are underway, are succeeding in preparing a well-educated workforce that is diverse and representative of the community itself. A recent brief published by NBCDI considers how teacher preparation programs can be designed so that a diverse cadre of preschool teachers have the appropriate credentials to meet increased educational requirements. For more information or to obtain a copy of the brief contact NBCDI at moreinfo@nbcidi.org.

To find out more about the court decision visit
<http://www.edlawcenter.org/ELCPublic/AbbottvBurke/AboutAbbott.htm>.

LEGISLATION

TANF Extended

Congress approved another temporary extension to the federal welfare bill, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). This extension, which will run through March, 31, 2005, will provide states with funding to operate their TANF programs under the provisions of the existing law. It does not include policy changes or additional funding which will continue to leave many needy families without child care. Members of Congress have not been able to come to a compromise on the measure making this the eighth extension in two years. Debate includes issues of work requirements and child care funding. To view a comparison of the key provisions in TANF visit http://www.clasp.org/Pubs/Pubs_Welfare_Policy.

Pre-K Bills Terminated by Governor Schwarzenegger

The Governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger, vetoed the two measures that passed last month by the state legislatures that would have improved early care and education for the young children in California. Both measures, the Child Care Reform Bill (SB 1897) and the Preschool for All Program (AB 712) sought to develop plans to increase workforce development within the field. Details were highlighted in last month's issue.

California advocates who worked on the measures have vowed to continue their efforts to improve early care and education opportunities for young children in the state.

To view the Governor's veto message visit
http://www.governor.ca.gov/govsite/pdf/vetoes/AB_712_veto.pdf.



US Conference of Mayors Endorse Universal Pre-K Resolution

The US Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution supporting Universal Pre-K during their 2004 annual meeting. The resolution urges federal and state governments to “establish policies and to assist in the funding of quality preschool education.” It also calls for increased funding for salaries paid to Head Start teachers and aides. Further it encourages states to fund programs to help educate, train and retain staff including opportunities to obtain a college degree and better compensation.

The US Conference of Mayors is a nonpartisan organization of the nation's 1183 U.S. mayors in cities with populations of 30,000 or more.

To view the resolution visit

http://www.usmayors.org/uscm/resolutions/72nd_conference/education_02.asp.

RESEARCH

New GAO Report on Universal Pre-K

The US Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report that examined state-funded, universal Pre-Kindergarten programs in Georgia, Oklahoma, New Jersey and New York. The report included information on different designs and methods of funding, as well as implications and outcomes of the programs.

For a copy of the report visit: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d04852high.pdf>

New Report Highlighting Massachusetts' Early Education For All Campaign

This new report details the political process to develop a plan in Massachusetts for universal early childhood education and full-day public school kindergarten for all of the states 3-, 4- and 5-year olds. The report, “Early Education for All: A Strategic Political Campaign For High Quality Early Education In Massachusetts” was written by Melissa Ludtke and funded by the Foundation for Child Development as part of their series on Advocating for PK-3.

For a copy of the report visit: <http://www.ffcd.org/uploadDocs/WP5EarlyEducationforAll.pdf>

Economic Investments in Early Childhood Education

A new report by the Economic Policy Institute, “Exceptional Returns: Economic, Fiscal, and Social Benefits of Investment in Early Childhood Development” highlights the benefits of investment in a high-quality early childhood program for all of America's poorest 3- and 4-year olds. Benefits include savings on government budgets, the economy and reduced crime.

To view the full report visit:

[http://www.epinet.org/books/exceptional/exceptional_returns_\(full\).pdf](http://www.epinet.org/books/exceptional/exceptional_returns_(full).pdf)



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REMEMBER TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 2, 2004!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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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.