

APRIL 2022



Dear Early Childhood Professional:

April kicks off an important couple of months for the early childhood community. This week, DIEEC is celebrating the "Week of the Young Child", naeyc's initiative that designates a week to celebrate early learning, young children, their teachers, families, and communities.

DIEEC is joining the celebration with many activities. First, be sure to check out our social media platforms. Each day we will be building on naeyc's themes with features from our programs. On Wednesday we will host our signature event, "The Heart of Early Childhood Education: Teaching Social and Emotional Resilience in Young Children." This panel discussion will feature early childhood advocates reflecting and answering questions on the importance of teaching social and emotional resilience. There is still time to sign up [here](https://udel.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0sUnb2DTaSFCgclyHtrgg), https://udel.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0sUnb2DTaSFCgclyHtrgg

Additionally, we are donating 50 activity bags to Nemours Children's Hospital for those children in long-term care.

Finally, we are offering several ways to get to know DIEEC and the supports available to you. Each month, we will spotlight one of our teams in REACH. This month we focus on our Career Pathways team. We are also hosting a series of webinars to engage the early childhood community about how we support early childhood professionals and their continuous quality improvement efforts. Be sure to sign up for one of our April sessions.

And the celebration continues with a special event to recognize Tom Copeland's retirement on April 14. Tom has made many contributions to child care during his 41 year career, specifically his work with family child care programs.

Rena Hallam
DIEEC Director



**University of Delaware Celebrates
"The Week of the Young Child"**

**The Heart of Early Childhood Education: Teaching Social and Emotional Resilience
in Young Children**

A Panel Discussion (Virtual)

Wednesday, April 6

3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

DIEEC, in partnership with the University of Delaware Lab School, is hosting a panel discussion with early childhood advocates to discuss and reflect on the critical need for young children to develop the skills to be resilient. Through a question-and-answer format, they will address how promoting resilience in young children is an investment in our future - resilient children become productive and healthy citizens.

Participants are invited to view four ten-minute videos featuring staff from our Lab School and other leaders in the field. They share strategies for increasing young children's skills in self-regulation, managing emotions, and interacting with peers.

Quality Assured Hours are available for early childhood professionals who participate.

[REGISTER HERE https://udel.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0sUnb2DTaSFCgcyHtrgg](https://udel.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0sUnb2DTaSFCgcyHtrgg)

Voices from the Field

Meet the Week of the Young Child Discussion Panelists



Nefertiti B. Poyner, Ed.D. is an accomplished educator, author, public speaker, and professional learning specialist. She currently serves as a national teacher and early childhood specialist with the Devereux Center for Resilience where she helps those in the field “build their bounce.” Prior to joining Devereux, Nefertiti got her start with local roots as a preschool and kindergarten teacher in the city of Philadelphia.

Jamie Schneider is the owner/administrator of the Educational Enrichment Center (EEC) in Wilmington. In addition to the EEC, she also serves as the board president for the Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children (deaeyc). During the COVID-19 pandemic, Jamie led the Delaware Childcare Reopening Task Force to help bring awareness and essential support to those in the field.





Melanie Thomas-Price, Ed.D is an experienced educator, author, therapist, administrator, and early childhood advocate. Throughout her career, Melanie has served as a special education teacher and family crisis therapist in the Delaware public school system. Currently, she serves as the CEO/director of Leap of Faith Child Development Center (CDC) in Wilmington.

Clark Scott is a current second grade teacher at Anna P. Mote Elementary School. Prior to beginning his current role, he served as an intern with the Red Clay School District. Clark is a graduate of the University of Delaware. Originally from Washington, D.C, Clark is passionate about serving as a role model for students, as he was inspired by his own educators growing up.



Laura Morris is a master teacher for the University of Delaware Lab School and also the designer/leader of the annual “I Can Be Mindful” summer camp for the last six years. Prior to coming to the Lab School, Laura has led a three-decade career in education where she’s worked to design early childhood education programs that support and include children/families from all walks of life.

DIEEC Spotlight

The Career Pathways Team

What supports do you need to build your skill levels and improve the quality of your program? This question is what DIEEC addressed as we realigned our work to better help the early childhood professional navigate the early childhood landscape.

The next several REACH issues will include spotlights on our teams committed to providing strategies for quality outcomes.

For the first spotlight, meet the Career Pathways Team, including Veronica Commodore, Melissa Schulte, and Angie Riley. This team is focused on providing early childhood teachers with the professional learning support needed to be successful in their careers.

Their first undertaking is managing and facilitating CDA cohorts - groups of professionals working together on obtaining the CDA credential facilitated by one of our professional development coordinators. By way of background, the CDA® national credentialing program is a professional development opportunity for early childhood professionals working in various settings to demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and abilities in the early childhood education field.

We are halfway through supporting our Child Development Associate® (CDA) credential cohorts that began in January and are getting great feedback. As an update, we are working with more than 90 early childhood professionals in five different cohorts, including one focused on family child care and one for Spanish-speaking educators.

And registration is open for the next round of cohorts beginning this summer. Click [here](#) for more details and application. Flyer is attached to this publication.

"Working with DIEEC"

Join DIEEC in the Conversation

DIEEC has made some changes to our organization to align the services we offer to support the needs of Delaware's early childhood professionals. Additionally, our work supports the state's direction for the overarching early childhood system.

We are hosting a series of webinars to communicate these changes and engage with the early childhood community. We hosted the first webinar on March 9 where we shared and discussed our available supports. For more information on this webinar click [here](#).

<https://bit.ly/3KaxExL>

Mark Your Calendar for April Webinars

Our second webinar will provide early childhood professionals with more practical details of how DIEEC Technical Assistants and Professional Development Coordinators can work together with early childhood professionals to support a program's quality improvement journey. We are offering separate sessions for family child care professionals and center-based program administrators and classroom professionals. Each session will share the same type of information but have a specific focus on the audience that the team serves.

Center-Based Programs: Tuesday, 4/12

1:30-2:30pm ([register here](#))

OR 6:30-7:30pm ([register here](#))

Family Child Care Programs: Wednesday, 4/13

1:30-2:30pm ([register here](#))

OR 6:30-7:30pm ([register here](#))

Please note: DIEEC Technical Assistants are available to meet in person.

Celebrating Tom Copeland

Tom Copeland Announces Retirement You're Invited to Celebrate this Milestone

Tom Copeland is a nationally recognized expert on the business of family child care. Through his books, videos and webinars, Tom has worked tirelessly to help family child care professionals successfully run their businesses.

After 41-years in the early child care field, Tom is retiring. Three national early childhood organizations are honoring his commitment and achievements with a live Facebook streaming celebration and lifetime achievement award ceremony on April 14, 2022, at 8:00 p.m. EST.

And you're invited! To register, go to the [Early Childhood Investigations Webinars Facebook Page](#) <https://bit.ly/3DFVIX3> and click "going" or "interested." If you click "Interested," you'll be sent reminders to join later. You can also click on the "Invite" button and share this invitation with others who might be interested.



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CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE® (CDA) PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

Invest in your professional development and learn effective teaching practices in early childhood education. By completing the following steps, you will get all the support you need to receive your CDA.

STEP 1

You must have:

Diploma/GED completion
prior to application.

480 teaching hours in your CDA area
(within a 3 year period prior to application)

STEP 2:

Join a CDA Professional Portfolio Preparation Cohort.

- During this cohort you will work on the steps to prepare your CDA portfolio in the age group you selected: Infant/toddler, preschool, or family child care.
- Complete 120 hours of formal early childhood education training; participants must have completed, be enrolled in or willing to complete during the cohort.
- Personalized coaching and networking opportunities.
- Professional development for portfolio preparation.
- One to three meetings/month
- Quality assured hours
- Support and preparation for observation visit and exam.
- Offered in both English and Spanish.

Sign up for the cohort here.

Registration closes May 31

[Apply here for the Early Childhood Interim Scholarship.](#)

Questions?

Email **Veronica Commodore:**
vcomm@udel.edu