



neaeyc

2018-2019

Annual Report

Nebraska AEYC
650 J Street, Suite 23
Lincoln, NE 68508
www.NebraskaAEYC.org

Nebraska Association
for the Education
of Young Children

WELCOME!

On behalf of the **Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children, Inc. (Nebraska AEYC)** staff and Board of Directors, we would like to welcome you to the 2018-2019 Nebraska AEYC Annual Report.

Nebraska AEYC is committed to supporting high quality early childhood education for young children in the state of Nebraska. In order to best carry out our mission, we focus on three important aspects that are essential to the field of early childhood education: Education, Leadership, and Advocacy.

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA continues to be a strong, vibrant, and highly successful project. Early childhood educators across the state are able to access this program, which provides an opportunity for them to receive a debt-free college education.

The **Leadership Academy** continues to provide leadership skill building and development in three communities across the state. This nine month project guides early childhood professionals, in both center based and home based settings, to work on their leadership and professional development.

Our collaboration with the **Rooted in Relationships Initiative** continues to improve the quality of teacher/child interactions and support social emotional growth for many of Lincoln's earliest learners. We have continued our efforts to support parent education by offering **Circle of Security-Parenting** classes, **PIWI classes** and **PCIT therapy** supports. You can read more about these efforts in this report!

Additionally, **Nebraska AEYC Chapters** offered a wide variety of educational and advocacy experiences for early childhood educators across the state.

We recognize that our mission driven work could not be accomplished, or as successful, without the commitment of our many partners, members and passionate advocates. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working with all of you for years to come!

Carol Houser, Board President

Brandee Lengel, Co-Executive Director

Tracy Gordon, Co-Executive Director

Nebraska AEYC is committed to supporting and strengthening the field of early childhood education.

Join Us!

Please join us in membership and work toward a better tomorrow for all children. More information about Nebraska AEYC and how to become a member can be found at www.NebraskaAEYC.org.



2018-2019 funding for Nebraska AEYC programs supported by:

Community Action Partnership of Lancaster & Saunders Counties
Nebraska Children & Families Foundation
Nebraska Department of Education— Office of Early Childhood
Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services
Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative
United Way of Lincoln/Lancaster County
Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund



An Affiliate of naeyc

Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children

Infant Toddler Quality Initiative (ITQI)

The Infant Toddler Quality Initiative (ITQI) works in collaboration with the Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. This project offers an opportunity for child care providers, serving infants and toddlers, to increase the quality of care and early education offered to these youngest learners.

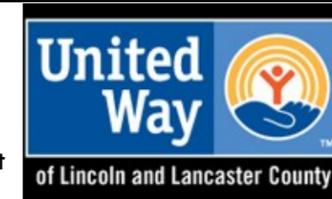
Providers, located in centers and family child care homes, are supported throughout their participation by receiving personalized coaching, on-going communication, and financial supports as they increase their knowledge of quality care for infants and toddlers.

Through the ITQI, Nebraska AEYC was able to reach:

- ◆ **Ten** programs (**nine** centers and **one** family child care home) which received pre and post Environment Rating Scale (ERS) observations, monthly coaching sessions, and funds to enhance materials for children as well as increase their own professional resources. Additionally, providers received on-going communication from their coach and professional development opportunities.
- ◆ **Five** additional programs received a baseline ERS as well as limited coaching and on-going communication to strengthen their knowledge in providing care to infants and toddlers.

United Way Quality Enhancement Project (QEP)

In partnership with United Way of Lincoln & Lancaster County, Nebraska AEYC provided the Quality Enhancement Project to one early childhood program in Lincoln. This quality enhancement project provides an Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale observation, regular coaching, professional development, and funds for purchasing materials and supplies. Working together with the classroom teachers and the program administration, the Nebraska AEYC coach guides the creation of a program improvement plan, offers suggestions for purchasing materials that enhance the environment and learning opportunities and provides resources or supports that enhance the quality of the program. Additionally, the Nebraska AEYC coach works with the program to enroll in Nebraska's Step Up to Quality system.



Nebraska AEYC Leadership Academy

The Nebraska AEYC Leadership Academy's focus is to increase the leadership knowledge, skills, and abilities of early childhood education program directors and family child care providers. With these new skills in place, we expect that these program directors and providers will become more confident and competent leaders in their programs, the larger early childhood profession, and the broader community.

Over the course of nine monthly meetings, participants spend time focusing on their leadership styles, their successes and challenges relating to leadership, strengthening the leadership within their programs, and building leadership opportunities in their communities.

In 2018-2019, the Leadership Academy was supported by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. These funds allowed us to serve 10 center based directors and 5 family child care homes in the communities of Fremont, Beatrice and Grand Island.

2018-2019 Cohorts



For more information about our programs and services, visit our website at:

www.NebraskaAEYC.org

Pyramid Implementation/Rooted in Relationships

The Rooted in Relationships/Pyramid Implementation Project for Lancaster County entered its third year of implementation and, with additional funding from Rooted in Relationships, was able to expand into more classrooms/programs to include **eleven** center based classroom teachers, **five** center directors and **two** family child care homes, and directly impacted **133** children in Lincoln.

The Pyramid Implementation Project offers the following activities to support the implementation of the Pyramid Model:

- On-going professional development,
- Individualized coaching for providers and center directors,
- Individual child assessments,
- Opportunities for community collaboration activities, and
- Access to grants for additional materials.



Circle of Security—Parenting (COS-P)

COS-P is an 8-week parenting program, designed to help parents learn how to respond to their children's needs in a way that enhances the parent/child connection, which often leads to changes in the child's behavior. Nebraska AEYC has multiple grants to facilitate COS-P classes across the state including:

Community Healthy Endowment: 6 classes

NDHHS Referred Families had 103 referred parents complete a class

Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund: 12 classes

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation: 2 classes



Parents Interacting With Infants (PIWI)

PIWI is an evidenced based set of practices based on beliefs (a "philosophy") about families, children, and helping relationships. The objectives of PIWI are to increase confidence, competence and positive relationships for parents and children ages 0-2. It does so by keeping the parent-child relationship at the center and by supporting responsive, respectful parent-child interactions. Nebraska AEYC received a grant from the Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund to support training of two new PIWI facilitators and to provide two PIWI classes in Lincoln. The newly selected PIWI facilitators attended training and will begin their first class in the spring of 2020.



Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)

PCIT is a treatment model for children ages 2 to 7 that places emphasis on improving the quality of the parent-child relationship and changing parent-child interaction patterns. In PCIT, parents are taught specific skills to establish a nurturing and secure relationship with their child while increasing their child's pro-social behavior and decreasing negative behavior.



Nebraska AEYC received a grant from the Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund to support training one new PCIT therapist. The newly selected therapist will attend training in the spring of 2020.

NAEYC

Nebraska AEYC is an affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The NAEYC Affiliate Network is a vibrant community of nonprofit organizations dedicated to providing local member engagement opportunities, resources, conferences, professional development, and advocacy efforts for our shared members.



Lincoln Early Childhood Network

Nebraska AEYC has been actively engaged in the work of the Lincoln Early Childhood Network (LECN) for the past few years. The LECN is part of a community-wide initiative called Prosper Lincoln, born of thousands of community ideas about how to make Lincoln thrive and prosper. Consisting of three working groups; Access to Quality Care and Education, Comprehensive Health and Parent Support, the LECN provides much needed infrastructure as we build a strong community driven system of early childhood care and education in Lincoln. Additionally, these working groups serve as the community coalition stakeholders for many of our projects and initiatives.



Donations

Thank you to following individuals that donated to the organization during this fiscal year:

Brandee Lengel
Carol Houser
Charles A. Francis
Courtney Densler
Holly K. Southwick
Hua Guo
James Johnson

James King
James L. Van Etten
Janeen Ward
Jill Snyder
Julie Warford
Kathleen Gallagher
Marjorie and Dave Kostelnik

Pat Enevoldsen
Randall Gordon
Sandra K. Wallick
Sarah Lowe
Sherri A. Ernst
Susan G. Volker
Tracy Gordon

Nebraska AEYC is a proud member of Community Services Fund of Nebraska.



Nebraska AEYC Board of Directors

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Amy Schmidtke | Colleen Schmidt |
| Jairo Gamboa | Chantel Tonkinson |
| Carol Houser | Betsy Tonniges |
| Robin Kolumban | E. Andreea Shnayder |
| Crystal Kozak | Patricia Pagel |
| Jennifer Miller | Janeen Ward |
| Dawn Mollenkopf | Vickie Young |

Nebraska AEYC Staff

Brandee Lengel, Co-Executive Director
Tracy Gordon, Co-Executive Director
Jennifer Durow, Accountant
Sarah Lowe, Administrative Assistant
Bernard Tate, Administrative Assistant
Jill Snyder, Project Coordinator
Julie Warford, T.E.A.C.H. Counselor

2018-2019 NEBRASKA AEYC CHAPTERS

Omaha Chapter of Nebraska AEYC
Cass, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders, Washington

Lincoln Chapter of Nebraska AEYC
Lancaster, Otoe, Saline, Seward

Kearney Chapter of Nebraska AEYC
Adams, Buffalo, Custer, Dawson, Hall, Howard, Kearney, Phelps, Sherman

Northeast Chapter of Nebraska AEYC
Antelope, Boone, Burt, Cedar, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Dodge, Holt, Knox, Madison, Nance, Pierce, Stanton, Thurston, Wayne



T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA is a statewide scholarship program designed to help early childhood teachers, family child care providers, and directors meet their professional development goals through formal higher education, while continuing their current employment in their early childhood settings. T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® is a nationally licensed program from the T.E.A.C.H. National Center in North Carolina. T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA began in 2001.

154
Scholarship Recipients
Completed 1,585 Credits

2018-2019 Outcomes

Education

| | | |
|---------------------------|------|------|
| Total recipients* | 104 | 51 |
| Graduates | 10 | 2 |
| Ave. GPA | 3.44 | 3.55 |
| Ave. credits per contract | 15.7 | 17.8 |

Retention

| | | |
|----------------------|-----|------|
| Completed commitment | 93% | 100% |
|----------------------|-----|------|

Compensation

| | | |
|-------------------------|----|-----|
| Ave. increase in salary | 9% | 10% |
|-------------------------|----|-----|

*One recipient was on both AA & BA scholarships this year.

Associate Degree Students
Bachelor Degree Students

2018-2019 funding for T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA provided by:

Nebraska Department of Education
Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services
Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative

"Our child center was advertising for a new Assistant Director. Our favorite candidate was also interviewing with the public school. The school offered her more money and some insurance benefits. Our center offered her the T.E.A.C.H. scholarship and she is our new Assistant Director! The education benefit won out!!"

Center Director Dawson County

EarlyEdU

Nebraska AEYC, Nebraska Department of Education— Office of Early Childhood, University of NE at Kearney and Buffet Early Childhood Institute are partnering to deliver a set of three EarlyEdU courses to early childhood educators in Nebraska at a very low cost. During the Fall 2019 semester, a cohort of early childhood educators began competency-based online coursework. T.E.A.C.H. has developed new scholarship models to support students in this coursework.

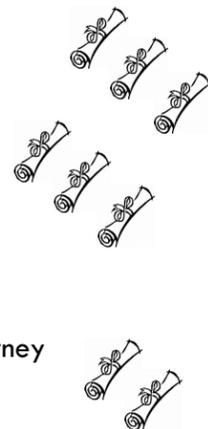


6 Community Colleges

Metropolitan
Southeast
Western Nebraska
Central
Northeast
Mid-Plains

2 Universities

University of Nebraska - Kearney
Chadron State College



Student/Program Demographics

- ◆ Average recipients is 33 years old
- ◆ 61% of recipients began their scholarship with a high school diploma (or less)
- ◆ 44% of recipients have no other college graduates in their family
- ◆ 28% are people of color
- ◆ Positions:
 - ◇ 7 directors
 - ◇ 123 teachers
 - ◇ 24 family child care providers
- ◆ 99 different sponsoring programs
- ◆ 13,351 Nebraska children benefited from an educator increasing their knowledge and skills through formal higher education



T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA Advisory Committee

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Lori Altmaier | Cheryl Roche |
| Lisa Brestel | Heather Schmidt |
| Tammy Classen | Cathy Stockwell |
| Adam Feser | Paula Thompson |
| Jane Franklin | Shelley Wallace |
| Diane Lewis | Nicole Vint |
| Brandy Price | |

"T.E.A.C.H. has allowed me to pursue my dreams. Without this scholarship there is no way that I would be able to get my teaching certificate which is something I have always wanted. It feels good to have a support system of staff and advisors who want me to be successful."

Teacher Douglas County

Child Care WAGES® NEBRASKA

Child Care WAGES® NEBRASKA Family Child Care Pilot

Child Care WAGES® NEBRASKA is a program that provides education-based salary supplements (sometimes called stipends) to low-paid early care and education providers working with children ages birth-five in licensed family child care settings in Nebraska.

WAGES impacts early childhood education programs and educators by...

- ① Recognizing and rewarding dedicated professionals
- ② Stabilizing the early childhood workforce
- ③ Encouraging continued education

During our pilot year, we will serve family child care providers. In the next year, we plan to expand our WAGES program to include other early childhood professionals.

For more information about Child Care WAGES® NEBRASKA:
wages@NebraskaAEYC.org • 402-858-5143 (Lincoln) • www.NebraskaAEYC.org

Looking Forward

We continue to add new T.E.A.C.H. scholarship recipients and have additional funding available. If you, or an early childhood professional you know, is interested in attending college debt free, please contact T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA to see if you qualify.

teach@NebraskaAEYC.org • 402-858-5143 (Lincoln) • www.NebraskaAEYC.org

100%

...of scholarship recipients and sponsoring programs would recommend T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA to others in the early childhood field.

All credits converted to semester credit hours. Data taken from 2018-2019 Annual Report to the T.E.A.C.H. National Center. T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA is a licensed program of Child Care Services Association. Child Care WAGES® NEBRASKA is a licensed program of Child Care Services Association.