

From: Elizabeth Toland
To: Amanda Petersen
CC: Roni Wertz, tthompson@butlercc.edu, Joan Robison, Janet Davidson, Lorna Ford, Courtney Corris-Gardent City, Erin Shaw, Jennifer Forker, Diana Hurst - JCCC, Reginad@labette.edu
Subject: Kansas Community Colleges Statement to the Recommendations Panel
Date: Monday, October 26, 2020 9:42:47 AM

Dear Ms. Petersen,

Kansas is fortunate to have eleven community colleges offering early childhood education programs. The Early Childhood Quality Instruction Partners (EQIP) is the collaborative group bringing together the program leads and related early childhood state agencies. As the coordinator for the group this year, I am sending this email regarding our collective support of the state's adoption and implementation of a workforce registry for childcare and preschool teachers in KDHE licensed programs. As the community college program leads, we work closely with individuals both wanting to join and currently work in the ECE workforce. We know that high quality early childhood education is the best economic development investment we can make in Kansas, and we believe the best way to improve the quality of early experiences is to invest in the education and training of early childhood providers!

A workforce registry can integrate national professional development standards supporting all providers to establish a professional development plan and intentionally choose a career pathway. We can support teachers across the state to increase the quality of early experiences for all Kansas children. A workforce registry should centralize access to not only community-based trainings, but help providers connect to higher education opportunities that best meet their career goals and the goals for increased quality in care and education.

Additionally, a workforce registry could highlight the qualifications of trainers and educators which will further support high quality training and education for the entire workforce. Based on research and data from the National Association for the Education of Young Children, we know that high quality experiences are dependent on a workforce that has access to high quality professional development, general and early childhood higher education coursework, and technical assistance. A workforce registry would have the potential to provide equal access to information, opportunities, and career development in each of these areas improving on our current practices as a state.

It is time for Kansas to join the other 41 states who have already adopted early childhood workforce registries and create a tool that drives the increased quality of early experiences for all young children and families in Kansas by better supporting the early childhood workforce!

Respectfully,

Beth Toland, Allen Community College
Roni Wertz, Barton Community College

Teresa Thompson, Butler Community College
Joan Robison, Cloud Community College
Janet Davison, Cowley Community College
Lorna Ford, Dodge City Community College
Courtney Morris, Garden City Community College
Erin Shaw, Highland Community College
Jennifer Forker, Hutchinson Community College
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