

Early Learning in the Community and Technical College System

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It's all about the teacher!

- Quality of care and early learning determines school readiness
- The education level of the care provider or teacher determines the quality
- Focus on children's first teachers – parents
- Focus on Work Force Development

The need

- Parents are raising children without traditional networks of support and few opportunities to develop skills
- 1 in 9 children are in Washington's licensed care – teachers required to take one 2 credit class, assistant teachers have no educational requirement
- 17,500 licensed child care providers with high turnover rate, ex. 40% of our assistant teachers are new hires within the past 2 years

Higher Education's Response

- Early Childhood Education programs in Community and Technical Colleges educate most of the child care workforce
- 27 programs throughout the state
- Online offerings statewide – 1,700 full time equivalent students in online and hybrid
- 15 Common Courses organized in Stackable Certificates leading to Associate degrees
- Alignment with secondary as well as university ECE programs of study
- Articulation of the Washington State Career Lattice

Gaps

- Creative new options for offering Parenting Education
- Recognize the merits of the ECE Endorsement as a tool for P-3 alignment
- Reform the educational requirements for licensed child care providers, offer fair compensation
- Provide on-site mentoring for online professional development in ECE at the CTC and university level

Time to work with our valued partners

- Department of Early Learning
- Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction
- Department of Social and Health Services
- Public-Private Early Learning Foundations



Higher Education can help narrow the Opportunity Gap

- Our faculty have the power to educate the workforce and parents
- Need to increase demand for Early Childhood Education
- Provide wide access at all levels in all communities
- Questions?

