

To: ALL Members of the Oklahoma Child Care Community (Directors and Staff)

From: Bobbie Rogers – Department of Career and Technology Education
Jill Soto – Center for Early Childhood Professional Development
Kathy Quinn – Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

Re: Important Information Regarding Changes in CDA Curriculum and Scholarship Requirements Beginning January 2007

We are sure you will agree that as with most professions, education is the key to professional development. Beginning January 1, 2007, the Department of Career and Technology Education, in partnership with the Center for Early Childhood Professional Development and the Scholars for Excellence in Child Care program will offer a comprehensive CDA preparation curriculum entitled “Early Education: Pathway to Professional Growth (“Pathway”). Regional meetings (Tier I Training) are being held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at technology centers around the state to provide information on the Pathway curriculum (see schedule on back).

What does the new Pathway curriculum offer?

- 130 hours of formal training, which in most cases can be completed in one year
- A hands-on component consisting of an additional 70 hours throughout the curriculum that can be completed in the providers home or center
- 17 units directly related to the eight content areas in the CDA Competency Standards
- An appointment with a CDA advisor to ensure a smooth process for obtaining a CDA credential
- Statewide availability through local technology centers
- Alternative locations coordinated through a technology center (six student minimum)
- On-line access using a dial-up or high speed internet connection
- Scholarship opportunities through the Scholar for Excellence in Child Care Program

Scholarship opportunities include the following:

- o 80% of fees and 100% of materials covered by scholarship
- o Beginning January 1, payment of \$265 toward the CDA assessment fee for those providers that have completed the Pathway curriculum through a local technology center (NOTE: Providers who are currently taking community based courses or courses currently offered at technology centers will still be eligible for the CDA assessment scholarship under the current guidelines - contact Gina McPherson at 1-866-343-3881 for more details)
- o \$200 stipend for CDA national credential (must have also received the competency certificate after completion of the Pathway curriculum)
- o After obtaining the CDA national credential (must have also received the competency certificate after completion of the Pathway curriculum), 6 hours of college credit may be awarded upon completion of 12 hours of college credit at a local community college

Please keep in mind that sometimes it takes a change of practice to build a new and improved system. Due to the implementation of the new Pathway curriculum, eight of the Child Care Career courses will be phased out at the end of December. However, six courses will still be available and, upon successful completion of an assessment process, will count toward the Pathway curriculum.

This is an exciting time for Oklahoma’s child care profession. All child care providers will now have the opportunity to begin or continue on the road of professional development through access to formal education. Elevating the educational levels of providers helps to ensure that the field of child care is recognized as an essential and highly valued profession. Please plan to attend one of the regional information meetings (**see schedule on back**) to learn more about this exciting new opportunity for professional growth.