



PATHWAY PROGRAM

FUNDED BY WKKF GRANT

The goal of the Pathway program is to shift the number and diversity of quality educators and leaders in the early childhood pipeline, leading to greater access and quality of early childhood education opportunities for children and families in Battle Creek.

Fall 2021

Wow, what a summer!

It was a greatly successful summer here in the Pathway program. During this time, we worked with 48 different participants. 8 participants have earned their CDA and 13 Individuals are working on earning an associate degree in Early Childhood Education. Three people were assisted with a CDA Renewal. Eight other CDA applications have been completed and those individuals have their visit or test coming soon.

Please help me cheer on those individuals that completed CDA between July and October. **They are... Jessica Bayha (Take A Break), Rita Lian (Take A Break), Emily Nei Sui (Catching the Dream), Julianna Cuatt (Stars and Stripes), Sara Lewis (Stars and Stripes), Taylor Young (Garden of Dreams), Sierra Moore (Garden of Dreams) and Brandi Ramsey (Community Action).**

Meet Sara Lewis

Sara works at Stars and Stripes in the GSRP classroom. She has worked in Early Childhood for 4 years. She enjoys seeing kids learn and grow! Next up Sara would like to earn her Associate in ECE and then her Bachelors. She learned it is possible to achieve your CDA in a short amount of time with right drive and dedication. (3 mos.) "You have got to want it! I set my eyes on a goal and worked super hard to achieve it and I could not be more proud of myself!"

Meet Emily Nei Sui

Emily is Lead Teacher at Catching the Dream Learning Center. She has worked four years in the field of Early Childhood. She believes teaching is a talent she received from God. She likes spending time with kids talking, playing and singing together. She plans to serve her center to increase children's development physically, emotionally and spiritually. Emily is joining staff at the first Burmese owned and operated early childhood center in the United States.

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Director _____

Teacher _____

Assistant _____

Para-pro _____

Substitute _____

Volunteer _____





New Center in Town

Congratulations to these Child Care Professionals at **Catching the Dream Learning Center** for opening the first Burmese owned and operated early childhood center in the United States. CDLC is a multi-lingual and bi-cultural center. Six of the staff are current Pathway participants working on their credentials. The center opened September 13th. They are located at 765 Upton Ave., Battle Creek.

To find Early Childhood job opportunities in the Battle Creek area...

Check out



careerszero2five.org

[Early Childhood Education Collective](https://careerszero2five.org)

Our Facilitators/ Instructors

One of the key factors in the success of this program are the professionals serving as facilitators/instructors to our Pathway participants. Currently we have three facilitators assisting the 40 current participants.

Deb Cole has 36 years in the field. In addition to being a parent, grandparent and great-grandparent, she has worked as an Early Childhood Teacher (infant/toddler), Classroom Aide, Assistant Teacher, Lead Teacher (preschool), Site Coordinator, Education Coordinator, Curriculum and Training Specialist, Assistant Director of Early Childhood Services, and KCC Adjunct Instructor.

Verda Sherrod has worked in field of Early Childhood for 47 years. Over the years, she has served as a Head Start Volunteer, Bus Aide, Assistant Teacher, Teacher, Home Care Provider, Director, Trainer, PD Specialist for CDA, ECE trainer for State of Michigan, and Facilitator for NAEYC. She is a wealth of information!

Carrie Johnson has worked in ECE for 20 years. She has worked with toddlers to preschool and GSRP. She has worked as a director of a child care center, a home child care coach, quality improvement specialist for the star rating system, an adjunct professor at KCC, and a PD Specialist for CDA. Currently she is employed as Early Childhood Specialist for Calhoun ISD.

Thanks to these ladies for being a great source of knowledge!

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