



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.

Winter 2022

Current Stats

Currently the program is assisting 57 individuals with either a CDA (Child Development Associate credential) or an associate degree in Early Childhood Education. To date, 31 participants have earned their CDA and twelve have been assisted with a CDA renewal. Since the start of the school year, there has been a big demand for credentialing. This month, we will enroll a cohort of over 30 participants that are on our wait list.

With that being said, early childhood centers are struggling to get qualified applicants in the door. A survey sent out to BC center directors in the past few weeks, finds that every center in Battle Creek is looking for individuals to hire. The beauty of the field is that once hired, training is available to improve quality of child care in Battle Creek!

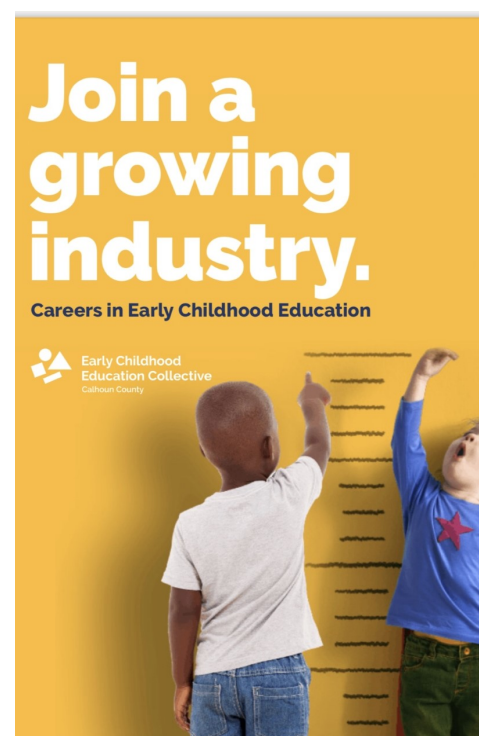
If you or someone you know are interested in working in the field of Early Childhood Education, check out the "Careers" page in careerszero2five.org

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Center Spotlights

Arbor Post CDC

Arbor Post Child Development Center is located at the former Post School, 340 Cliff St. The center opened September 2019. They care for children infant to preschool. Currently the Pathway program works with three of the employees. Malory (in picture below) successfully earned her CDA through the program. The center has ten employees but are looking to hire two more. Ana Black, program director, has been so flexible in providing her employees with resources to get credentials



Lakeview CDC

Lakeview Child Development Center is located at 55 Arbor St. This center provides care to children infant to preschool. Currently there are seven of the employees using the Pathway program to get their CDA. All of these ladies are starting with different years of experience and amount of coursework but the great thing is the way they work together. Five of the participants will be taking advantage of the KCC class, ECE 209. (Better known as the portfolio class.) This is a great way to do it as a group in a center. With Amy Rowe's great leadership, this group is very fun to work with!



Staff at Arbor Post CDC: On far right is Malory Donathan. She was awarded her CDA in October. Malory had a good portion of the CDA work done in high school but just needed to update her portfolio, complete verification visit and take exam. Great job Malory!

Meet our New Facilitator

Nicole (Nikki) Rinckey has just come on board as a facilitator/coach. Nikki comes with 21 years of "official" experience in Early Childhood, but said she always loved working with kids! She worked at child care centers and was a nanny in college. She taught 2nd grade, kindergarten and most recently has served as a GSRP Instructional Coach/Early Childhood Specialist for past 8 years. We're so happy to have her helping us!

Our CDA Stars

Since mid-October, seven CDAs were earned. CDA recipients were Jill Allen (Community Unlimited), Rose Arredondo (Community Action), Maude Perry (Sugar and Spice), Larry Harris and Marcus Austin (both of New Level Sports-ELNC), Denise Rucker (Home Child Care Coach-ELNC) and Malory Donathan (Arbor Post CDC).



Larry Harris earns the distinction of being the first male in the program to earn his CDA. He works for New Level Church Ministries as an afterschool teacher/mentor. He has worked in the field for three years. Larry said "There is nothing more rewarding than EMPOWERING a child to explore, see, and learn for themselves!" Larry would like to someday a trainer for other early childhood educators. Outside of being a great role model to young children, he plays piano! Larry quoted bible on CDA process, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26)

Sierra Moore works at Garden of Dreams as a Teacher Assistant. She has worked in the field of Early Childhood for 2 1/2 years. She loves working with kids and seeing their progress and little milestones they achieve. Next up, Sierra plans to finish her ECE associates at KCC with goal of giving back to her community. Sierra was able to earn her CDA in less than two months!! This is what Sierra says about the CDA "It is very beneficial to both yourself as well as the children/families involved in the classroom. It is an adequate skill to obtain to increase your education within the early childhood education field. Everyone working with young children should check into the CDA process! Community Action makes it a very smooth process!"





Mrs. Maude Bristol-Perry

Mrs. Perry is the CEO, owner and program director of Sugar and Spice Child Care Center. She has been in the early childhood business since 1971 (yes, 50 years). She has been a mainstay in Battle Creek even being the first female mayor appointed in 1984. Mrs. Perry enjoys helping children follow their natural curiosity, knowing I am contributing something in their future. She enjoys mentoring and encouraging young women. It is her goal to gracefully retire leaving a legacy of the importance of a high quality child care program that is a much needed service in our community. Also, to ensure that a place is provided, giving every child an opportunity for an early childhood learning experience. Mrs. Perry's thoughts on the Pathway program, "The support people that was involved, giving you the confidence of meeting the challenges to help you succeed in the CDA program."

For more info on the program, contact...

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