

## CTE Collaborative Grant – Progress report

We are one 1/3 of the way though the work on the Community Technical Education Collaborative grant and it is providing new and exciting opportunities for students, faculty and staff. The funding for the Child Development program focuses on staff training and the development of a toddler component for our lab preschool. After a long process, in December, we were able to hire an Assistant Manager for the Child Development Center. We were fortunate to hire Jean-Mari Dagarin, who comes to us with a wealth of experience in both private and city funded programs. She is working in collaboration with Lisa Cavallaro (our CDC Manager) and Barbara Tamialis (CDES faculty) to coordinate the physical environment and staff training required for developing our new toddler program.

### **Progress of toddler program:**

In January, the Child Development Center lowered the age to accept a limited number of children to two years old (24 months) and dropped the "potty trained" requirement. This required some modifications to the classroom as well retraining of teachers to work with this younger age. We have been flooded with student and staff requests for spaces for their children (and we haven't even advertised this option yet - just word of mouth on campus).

This spring and summer, we will be doing more permanent renovations to serve our toddlers. One of our very large preschool classrooms will be retrofitted to become two smaller classrooms for 2 year olds. Two other smaller classrooms will be retrofitted to become classrooms for toddlers 18-24 months old.

### **Staff Development:**

A portion of the grant also funds staff development and training. Some of this training focuses specifically on best practices for infant and toddler care, some focuses on best practices with preschool children, and some focuses on supporting the teachers in coaching and mentoring the many students that observe and practice in our preschool lab classrooms. Some highlights include:

- A monthly workshop series entitled "***Strategies for Interpreting Best Practices: A Professional Development Series***". This series is open to both Saddleback and IVC Child Development center teachers, as well as local ROP teachers and California Early Childhood Mentor teachers. This series is designed to give those in the role of mentoring and supervising adult learners such as practicum students, lab students, parent volunteers, and assistant teachers, tools and strategies for modeling and articulating research based and proven best practices for use in the early learning setting. This series is garnering statewide notice as a model for promoting excellence in mentoring and coaching our students. Copies of

the flyers are attached.

- In mid-February, Lisa Cavallaro and Jean-Mari Dagarin are participating in a national PITC workshop for Directors who supervise infant and toddler programs. PITC is a leading national organization which focuses on best practices in infant and toddler care. They developed our California Foundations for Infant and Toddler Care through the CA department of education. They received a scholarship for the workshop portion of this program.
- In late January, Nick Schmidt (Saddleback CDC) will be attending a week long PITC Training of Trainers. He also received a scholarship for the workshop portion of this program. He will use knowledge gained in this setting to train his peers at the CDC in best practices.
- In March, 8 faculty and staff will attend the CAEYC (California Association for the Education of Young Children) state conference in Sacramento.
- Individual staff members at Saddleback and IVC have also been invited to apply for grant funding for workshops and conferences which will strengthen their programs. We are currently reviewing these requests.

This grant is providing an opportunity to increase our service to students both for childcare and for a quality lab setting for observing and practicum students from Child Development, Psychology, Sociology and Nursing. It is also providing excellent training opportunities for our Child Development Specialists in our lab schools and our community mentors. We are continuing to work hard to maximize all the benefits that Saddleback can receive with these funds.

Submitted:

Barbara Tamialis

Professor, Child Development and Educational Studies

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