

JUNE 2022



Dear Early Childhood Educator:

Welcome to summer! We understand that summer presents a new set of circumstances with more time outside, field trips, and in many cases, a change of routine for your families. To this end, check out our social media content and Coach's Corner, our monthly blog, for helpful summer safety tips.

In our "Voices from the Field" series, we feature an early childhood educator who took advantage of the nice weather to host a picnic for families as the first step in her community engagement strategy. She was intentional about this outreach after attending our professional learning experience, "Authentic Community Engagement PLUS."

We're also hosting a webinar on Thursday, June 16, to discuss the critically acclaimed film "Reflecting on Anti-Bias Education in Action: The Early Years." There's still time to register, and you can receive quality assured hours by participating in the follow-up group reflection experience.

As a part of our Provider Appreciation Day celebration, we launched the DIEEC "Early Childhood Educator of the Year" campaign. We received many submissions from you and after the voting on our social media platforms, we are announcing our first winners.

For all family child care educators, there is still time to join a family child care network. Don't miss out on this opportunity to join your colleagues to work together to access resources.

Finally, we have gotten great feedback on our DIEEC Jeopardy events so we have another one planned for June 23. Sign up now to join the fun and win a great prize.

Enjoy the summer!

Rena Hallam
DIEEC Director

Voices from the Field

M&M Daycare

Pauline Kugmeh has worked in the early childhood field for more than 15 years. Currently, she owns and operates M&M Daycare, a family child care program in New Castle, Del. Like many early childhood educators, she is motivated because of her passion for caring for and educating young children.



Recently, Pauline wanted to learn more about community engagement, so she attended DIEEC's professional learning experience, "Authentic Community Engagement PLUS."

The professional learning experience includes a group reflective experience (GRE) where participants share what they learned during the workshop session. Pauline learned that community engagement is about building mutually respectful, strengths-based relationships between program educators, families, community members, and agencies

Next, participants select a goal and identify steps to implement after the workshop. Then during the GRE, they share their experience with colleagues about implementing their plan. A professional development coordinator guides these reports back through a framework of reflection.

Pauline set a goal to meet her families' needs more intentionally through connections to resources in the community. As a first step, she is engaging with families to build relationships and better understand their needs

"One of the keys to successful partnerships is parents' engagement," said Pauline. "I want my families to know each other better and build a bridge of confidence via provider/families' interactions." To accomplish this goal, Pauline created a "WhatsApp" chat group for her families to connect on their phones easily. Through these conversations, Pauline and her parents decided to have a picnic which she hosted on April 30 at Battery Park.

The professional learning experience provided Pauline with what she needed to set other goals to build productive and meaningful relationships and for her to develop the best practice of reflection.

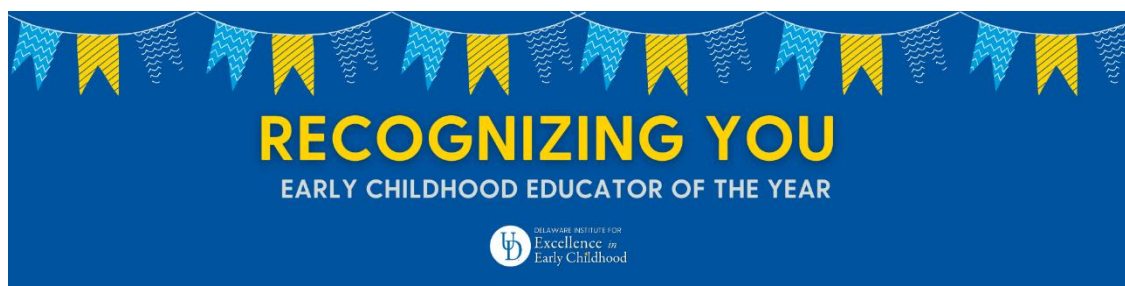
"I learned a lot from this training," said Pauline. "I was able to take away how partnerships with families can build bridges of confidence and trust. Additionally, these relationships allow me to problem solve with parents by identifying the root cause of the problem."

FCC Networks Update

Over the course of the past three months, DIEEC has held four opportunities to learn more about the Delaware Family Child Care Networks Initiative. A goal of these networks is to assist FCC educators who are interested in participating in publicly sponsored programs such as ECAP and Early Head Start. Recordings of these sessions are available on the [DIEEC website](https://bit.ly/3Q4Uiex). <https://bit.ly/3Q4Uiex>

During the April 28 session, an interest form was shared to allow any family child care educator the opportunity to participate in a network. To date, we have received 19 responses and have the first meeting of the FCC Networks Pilot on Thursday, June 9th with a group of Sussex County FCC educators.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity or have questions, please reach out to DelawareFCCNetworks@udel.edu. If you are interested in participating in a network, please complete this [interest form](https://bit.ly/3MyLOVi) <https://bit.ly/3MyLOVi>.



Center Educator and Family Child Care Educator of the Year Winners Announced

As a part of "Provider Appreciation" month in May, we asked you to nominate who you think consistently goes over and above in their work to deliver quality care and education to young children. After an overwhelming number of amazing submissions, our top five finalists in each category (center-based educator and family child care educator) were announced on May 26.

Based on the votes submitted, we're thrilled to officially announce our 2022 winners:

Center Educator of the Year:
Colleen Millman
DTCC Early Childhood Program



Family Child Care Educator of the Year:
Rhondalin Cannon-Tingle
Rhonda's Little Angels



The winners will receive a \$100 gift card. Thanks to all who nominated, voted, and to the nominees for your dedication.

Next Opportunity for DIEEC Jeopardy

Join Us on Thursday, June 23

We're excited to announce another opportunity to participate in DIEEC Jeopardy. Come test your trivia knowledge and share some laughs with your early childhood education peers.

Details are:

Thursday, June 23

7:00 p.m. (via Zoom)

Once you have submitted the sign up form below, you will receive follow-up information via email with the Zoom link for game night, which you will be able to share with staff members.

See you there! Sign up on next page.

[Sign up here to play](#)

<https://bit.ly/3x9rx7P>

Upcoming Equity Opportunity

Sign Up for Webinar

DIEEC is hosting a webinar this month to reflect on your mindset while learning from others in the field about their anti-bias strategies. Join us for the upcoming DIEEC learning experience.

Equity in the Early Years Panel Discussion: "Reflecting on Anti-Bias Education in Action: The Early Years"

Thursday, June 16

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

This webinar will include early childhood advocates addressing your questions about this critically acclaimed film and anti-bias strategies. You will have the opportunity to view this 48-minute film before the webinar. Quality Assured hours are available. This professional learning experience includes a second session that is a group reflective experience (GRE) on June 23, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

[Register here for this webinar](#)

<https://bit.ly/3O0P9IE>



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