

Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood

REACH

A newsletter for early childhood education
professionals

Dear early childhood professionals,

This month is a special edition of REACH, dedicated to provider appreciation. Provider Appreciation Day is May 12th, and we will be focusing the whole month on you!

We're very excited to announce the finalists for DIEEC's Early Childhood Educator of the Year. Voting is open now through Sunday May, 7th. DIEEC will also be hosting a variety of events and giveaways this month, so make sure to check out all the details below.

Finally, we will be wrapping up our first season of the DIEEC podcast, "X, Why, Z: Reflections from Early Childhood Professionals," with our finale featuring some familiar Delaware voices - Patti Lynch from the Wilmington Early Care & Education Council (WECEC) and Corsica Jones from A Leap of Faith Child Development Center. Make sure to tune in when the episode drops on Friday, May 26th.

Happy Provider Appreciation Month!

Kristy Sheffler
DIEEC Deputy Director



DIEEC EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to the 2023 Finalists!

DIEEC kicked off celebrations for Provider Appreciation 2023 with our Early Childhood Educator of the Year initiative. Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations – we are thrilled to announce this year’s finalists!

2023 Family Child Care Educator of the Year Finalists:

- Rose Currington
- Marlette Lofland
- Sarita Medero
- Kirsten Swift
- Mary Waters

2023 Classroom Educator of the Year Finalists:

- Kristen Chandler – University of Delaware Lab Preschool
- Tanisha Greene – Children & Families First Head Start White Oak
- Lindsey Mulvena – St. David’s Episcopal Day School
- Lourdes Phillips – Precious Knowledge Early Learning Center
- Nicki Sunde – The Little School at Kids Cottage

Voting is now open! Please visit the website now to vote. Voting will be open through Sunday, May 7th, and the 2023 Family Child Care Educator of the Year and the 2023 Classroom Educator of the Year will be announced Friday, May 12th.

The 2023 Family Child Care Educator of the Year and the 2023 Classroom Educator of the Year will both receive:

- a framed certificate
- an Educator of the Year banner
- an Educator of the Year yard sign
- an invitation to be a guest on our podcast: X, WHY, Z: Reflections from ECE Professionals
- a one-year deaeyc membership (sponsored by deaeyc)
- \$100 Amazon gift card

Visit the DIEEC Early Childhood Educator of the Year webpage for more details and to place your vote.
bit.ly/DIEEC-EOY23

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Upcoming Events

DIEEC has a variety of events coming up that you won't want to miss.

Provider Appreciation Ice Cream Socials

Here's the Scoop - We are grateful for all you do!

To celebrate you, DIEEC is hosting an ice cream social on Tuesday, May 9th, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Stop by one of the following locations for ice cream from UDairy Creamery and King's Homemade Ice Cream (while supplies last).

New Castle County:

Glasgow Park

picnic area

2275 Pulaski Hwy, Newark

Kent County:

Brecknock Park

picnic area

80 Old Camden Rd, Camden

Sussex County:

Milton Memorial Park

picnic table area

113 Union St, Milton

DIEEC Jeopardy: Spanish Edition (Jeopardy en Espanol)

We are excited to share that our next round of DIEEC Jeopardy will be a Spanish edition. Please join us and other Spanish-speaking early childhood educators for an opportunity to have fun, test your knowledge in a variety of categories, and win fun prizes.

Educators are welcome to play as individuals or to grab some colleagues and play as a team. Sign-up today and join us on Thursday, June 1st at 7:00 p.m.

You can sign up by visiting this link: bit.ly/443WYA8 or by scanning the QR code with your smartphone.



Spanish translation:

¡Estamos muy emocionados de contarles que nuestra próxima ronda de "DIEEC Jeopardy" será una edición en español! Te invitamos a ti y a otros educadores de la primera infancia que hablan español para que te unas a nosotros y tengas la oportunidad de divertirte, poner a prueba tus conocimientos en una variedad de categorías y ganar premios divertidos.

¡Puedes jugar como individuo o invitar a algunos colegas para jugar como equipo! ¡Regístrate hoy y únete a nosotros el jueves 1 de junio a las 7:00 p.m.!

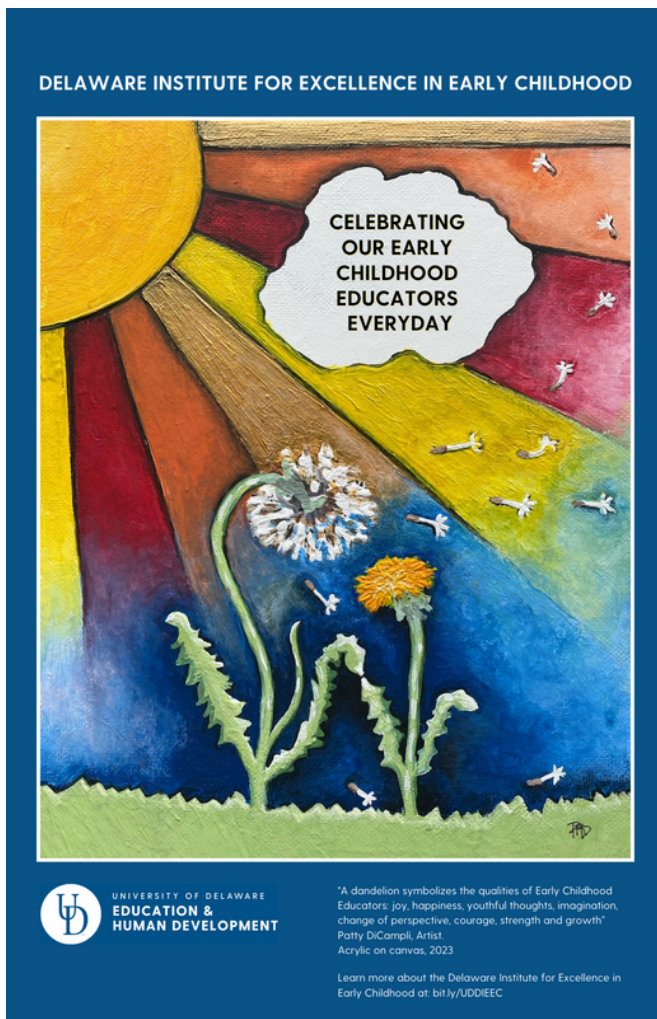
Para registrarte, puedes escanear el código QR o hacer clic en este enlace: bit.ly/443WYA8. ¡Te esperamos!

ECE INSPIRATION

A is for "art" and "Appreciation"

Patty DiCamppli, local artist as well as DIEEC technical assistant (TA) on the home-based team, created the artwork below in celebration of Delaware's early childhood educators.

She explained, "A dandelion symbolizes the qualities of early childhood educators: joy, happiness, youthful thoughts, imagination, change of perspective, courage, strength, and growth."



Stop by the Provider Appreciation Ice Cream Social to receive your own poster copy.

DIEEC PODCAST

That's a Wrap!

The season finale of DIEEC's podcast, "X, Why, Z: Reflections from ECE Professionals," features two Delaware educators. Patti Lynch, the Professional Development Resource Center Coordinator with WECEC, and Corsica Jones, the Redding Program Coach and early childhood educator at A Leap of Faith Child Development Center, will join us to talk about "Building Relationships."

In their interview with podcast hosts Irene Ashe and Meg Keating, Patti and Corsica share the story of their own respective journeys in the field, how they met, and their special bond through professional development. They also discuss the importance of community resources in the early childhood community and why it's important to show up for one another.

Be sure to tune in to hear the full conversation. This episode will be released on Friday, May 26th. We'll then be back in the fall with some exciting season two episodes! Visit our podcast page here: bit.ly/3Y0LCZn