



For Immediate Release: September 22, 2016

Contact:

Mary Harrill

202-350-8834

mharrill@naeyc.org

Three Programs Earn NAEYC Early Childhood Associate Degree Accreditation; Ten Programs Receive Renewed Accreditation

WASHINGTON — The National Association for the Education of Young Children’s (NAEYC) Commission on the Accreditation of Early Childhood Higher Education Programs is pleased to announce that it has granted first-time accreditation to early childhood associate degree programs at three institutions of higher education. In addition, the Commission voted to renew accreditation for ten programs at seven institutions. This brings the total number of institutions with accredited programs to 177, with nearly 75 additional degree programs currently engaged in the self-study process.

"NAEYC congratulates its most recently accredited and reaccredited programs!" said Mary Harrill, Senior Director of Higher Education Accreditation and Program Support at NAEYC. "This achievement serves as a marker to these programs’ students, the early learning programs in their communities, and to the public that the programs are preparing individuals who are ready to meet the early childhood workforce needs. They join the 168 other institutions with accredited programs as exemplars in the early childhood professional preparation field."

The NAEYC Higher Education Accreditation system raises the quality of teacher education by establishing professional preparation standards, which in turn raises the quality of early learning programs serving young children. To earn and retain accreditation, professional preparation programs must demonstrate that they:

- Align to NAEYC’s Professional Preparation Standards
- Respond to the unique needs of their degree candidates and communities
- Provide intentional learning experiences for their degree candidates to obtain the knowledge and skills needed to be effective early childhood educators
- Continuously assess and reflect on their degree candidates’ performance

The newly accredited degree programs are:

Durham Technical College, North Carolina
A.A.S. Early Childhood Education

Gwinnett Technical College, Georgia
A.A.S. Early Childhood Care and Education

Truckee Meadows Community College, Nevada
A.A.S. Early Childhood Education, Administration of Early Care and Education Programs
Emphasis

The degree programs whose accreditation has been renewed are:

Greenfield Community College, Massachusetts
A.S. Early Childhood Education

Ivy Tech Community College—Bloomington, Indiana
A.A.S. Early Childhood Education

Ivy Tech Community College—Kokomo, Indiana
A.S. Early Childhood Education, Kokomo and Logansport Campuses
A.A.S. Early Childhood Education, Kokomo and Logansport Campuses

Oklahoma State University—Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
A.A.S. Early Care Education

Technical College of the Lowcountry, South Carolina
A.A.S. Early Care and Education

Truckee Meadows Community College, Nevada
A.A. Early Childhood Education
A.A.S. Early Childhood Education, Preschool Emphasis
A.A.S. Early Childhood Education, Infant/Toddler Emphasis

William Rainey Harper College, Illinois
A.A.S. Early Childhood Education Specialized Area: Teacher

Across the country, 33 states now have institutions with accredited associate degree programs. This growth demonstrates the value programs and their stakeholders place on the accreditation credential and early childhood education programs' commitment to continuous improvement for the benefit of preparing high quality early childhood professionals. As NAEYC celebrates the tenth anniversary of its higher accreditation system, it is expanding the system to accredit early childhood degree programs at the baccalaureate and master's degree levels in addition to associate degree programs. This expansion furthers NAEYC's efforts to provide quality improvement and assurance systems for all professional preparation programs.

For more information, visit the NAEYC Early Childhood Associate Degree Accreditation system [website](#).

Founded in 1926, the National Association for the Education of Young Children is the largest and most influential advocate for high-quality early care and education in the United States.

###