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Programs at Six Institutions Earn NAEYC Early Childhood Higher Education Accreditation; Programs at Eleven Institutions Renew 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 programs at six institutions of higher education and renewed accreditation for programs at eleven institutions during its spring meetings. This brings the total number of institutions with currently accredited programs to 188 in 40 states across the country.

Early childhood professional preparation programs serve a wide range of students and prepare early childhood educators for a variety of early learning settings. Accreditation serves as a mechanism for ensuring a consistent and high level of program quality and alignment to the NAEYC Initial Standards for Early Childhood Professional Preparation Programs while respecting the unique mission and context of each degree program, its host institution, and its community.

"NAEYC Accreditation of Early Childhood Higher Education Programs is a hallmark of quality assurance for the early childhood preparation profession," said Mary Harrill, Senior Director of Higher Education at NAEYC. "We congratulate all of the programs that have recently achieved and renewed accreditation. Their dedication to program improvement, to the students they serve, and to the early learning settings in which their graduates will work is to be commended."

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; and,
- Continuously assess and reflect on their degree candidates' performance.

The following programs have earned first-time accreditation:

- **California State Polytechnic University Pomona (CA)** B.A. Early Childhood Studies
- **Community College of Philadelphia (PA)** A.A.S. Early Childhood Education
- **Danville Community College (VA)** A.A.S. Early Childhood Education
- **San Jose City College (CA)** A.S. Early Childhood Education & A.S.T. Early Childhood Education
- **Thomas Nelson Community College (VA)** A.A.S. Early Childhood Development
- **Wallace State Community College (TN)** A.A.S. Child Development

The following programs have renewed accreditation:

- **Baker College (MI)** A.A.S. Early Childhood Education
- **Blue Ridge Community College (NC)** – A.A.S. Early Childhood Education & A.A.S. School-Age Education (Arts and Science Tracks)
- **Guilford Technical Community College (NC)** A.A.S. Early Childhood Education
- **Kellogg Community College (MI)** A.A.S. Early Childhood Education
- **Middlesex Community College (CT)** A.S. Early Childhood Education
- **Mitchell Community College (NC)** A.A.S. Early Childhood Education
- **Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College (SC)** A.A.S. Early Care and Education
- **Robeson Community College (NC)** A.A.S. Early Childhood Associate
- **San Jacinto College Central Campus (TX)** A.A.S. Child Development/Early Childhood Education
- **Southeast Community College (NE)** A.A.S. Early Childhood Education
- **Walters State Community College (TN)** A.A.S. Early Childhood Education

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