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## Programs at Five 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 five institutions of higher education and renewed accreditation for programs at eleven institutions during its spring meetings. This brings the total number of accredited programs to 214 in 39 states and territories 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 accreditation. Their dedication, through the accreditation process, 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:

- Meet NAEYC’s Higher Education Accreditation Standards;
- Respond to the unique needs of their degree candidates and communities;
- Provide intentional learning experiences aligned to the *Professional Standards and Competencies for Early Childhood Educators* for their degree candidates to obtain the knowledge and skills needed to be effective; and,
- Continuously assess and reflect on their degree candidates’ performance.

The following programs have earned first-time accreditation:

- **College of the Canyons (CA)** – A.S.T. Early Childhood Education
- **Florida Gateway College** – B.S. Early Childhood Education
- **Muskegon Community College (MI)** – A.S.A. Early Childhood Education and A.A.S. Child Development Associate
- **University of West Alabama (AL)** – B.S. Elementary Education Major K-6 includes certification in Early Childhood P-3
- **Western Kentucky University (KY)** – B.S. Family and Consumer Science in Child Studies



The following programs have renewed accreditation:

- **Central Arizona College (AZ)** – A.A.S. Early Childhood Education
- **City Colleges of Chicago – Harold Washington College (IL)** – A.A.S. Child Development: Preschool Education
- **City Colleges of Chicago – Kennedy King College (IL)** – A.A.S. Child Development: Preschool Education
- **Cleveland State Community College (TN)** – A.A.S. Early Childhood Education
- **Johnston Community College (NC)** – A.A.S. Early Childhood Education
- **Nash Community College (TN)** – A.A.S. Early Childhood Education
- **Nashville State Community College (TN)** – A.A.S. Early Childhood Education
- **Owens Community College (OH)** – A.A.S. Early Childhood Education Technology
- **Pellissippi State Community College (TN)** – A.A.S. Early Childhood Education
- **Spartanburg Community College (SC)** – A.A.S. Early Care and Education
- **Tri-County Technical College (SC)** – A.A.S. Early Care and Education

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