Professional Development Systems, Standards, Support

Sponsor: Oregon Dept. of Education
Award Amount: $3,391,438
Start Date: 7/1/2014
End Date: 6/30/2015

Principal Investigator/Project Director: Pamela S. Deardorff
Phone: 503-725-8527  Email: deardops@pdx.edu

Project Coordinators: Ingrid Anderson, Oregon Registry; Dee Wetzel, Trainer Program; Andrew Bremner, Data Systems

Purpose: This contract provides the primary funding for The Oregon Center for Career Development in Childhood Care and Education (OCCD) which promotes quality childhood care and education for Oregon’s children and youth by providing a statewide career development system for practitioners. The core work of OCCD is: to provide leadership in the development and operation of integrated and statewide professional development standards and systems; to promote professional development to achieve high quality care and education for children and youth, and to create and support training and education.

Methods: The specific programs that OCCD administers includes:

- The Oregon Registry: Pathways to Professional Recognition in Childhood Care and Education which is a statewide program to document and recognize the professional achievements of people who work in the childhood care and education profession.
- The Education Award Program provides a financial incentive rewarding providers for educational achievements and encouraging continued education. The award is provided to individuals and supervisors who are working at least 20 hours a week with children under the age of 13. The award amount is based on the professional development Milestone achieved. These Milestones are identified by a group of steps on the Oregon Registry.
- The Oregon Registry Credential Program is a state approved credentialing program that recognizes a professional’s specialized knowledge, skills, and achievements in order to improve the quality of services and thereby increase positive outcomes for children and families. Candidates must meet specific educational and experiential criteria and document this in a portfolio format.
- The Oregon Registry Trainer Program offers voluntary certification for trainers and adult educators in the childhood care and education profession. The Oregon Registry Trainer Program also offers support for trainers and adult educators as they enhance their adult education knowledge and skills and develop community-based training sessions.

Impact on Community: This project impacts all early childhood and afterschool providers in the state of Oregon, particularly those who work in the Office of Child Care licensed programs. Currently there are approximately 20,000 providers working in licensed programs who are required to meet specific professional development requirements.