

Apprenticeship
For Child
Development
Specialist

ACDS Quarterly Newsletter



Summer 2019

Counties currently
offering classes:

- Berkeley
- Cabell
- Greenbrier
- Harrison
- Kanawha
- Logan
- Mercer
- Monongalia
- Nicholas
- Ohio
- Putnam
- Raleigh
- Upshur
- Wood

2019 Spotlight Winners

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January—**Tonya Neal**
from Putnam County

February—**Lisa Shaffer**
from Kanawha County

March—**Brenda Porter
and Kerri Wade** from
Cabell and Kanawha
Counties

April— **Polly Steele** from
Harrison County

May— **Chinelle Duncan**
from Berkeley County



Our April winner was Polly Steele from Harrison County. Polly has supported the program since completing the instructor academy in 1995. She taught the ACDS curriculum for many years and has also sent many employees to the program in her role as a director. Polly supports her staff as they participate in professional development and encourages them to see the program through to completion.

Chinelle Duncan was our spotlight winner for the month of May. Chinelle is owner/director of two child care programs in

Berkeley County. Chinelle completed the ACDS program and then encouraged her husband to also join the program. He recently graduated in May 2019. Chinelle provides work based experiences for the students in the Early Childhood program at James Rumsey Technical Institute. Chinelle enthusiastically tells others about the ACDS program and how much she has benefited from the knowledge and experience she gained in class.

Thank you both for your dedication and support for the ACDS program!

Want To Be a Mentor?

The ACDS program is looking for new mentors in many areas across the state. Mentors serve the role of supervisor for ACDS students that do not have immediate supervisors, such as family providers and center directors/

owners. Mentors meet monthly with their mentees to find out how they are doing in class and what support they may need to be successful. Mentors are paid a stipend and mileage reimbursement for their service.

To be a mentor one must be an ACDS journey person (received DOL), or have a BA or higher in early childhood or a closely related field. Contact the ACDS office if you are interested in learning more about becoming an ACDS mentor.

For a complete
list of ACDS
events, including
class start dates,
visit the ACDS
website

www.wvacds.org.



ACDS Registration

First semester classes will be starting this fall across the state. The process for registering with ACDS has changed a little.

To register, contact the ACDS or the local council representative in your county. Once registered, new students must complete an online orientation. The orientation is on the WV STARS training calendar, www.wvstars.org. You may contact ACDS for help with

finding that orientation. Only students that complete the training prior to the first night of class will be permitted to attend. If you register, but do not take the online orientation you will not be permitted to start class.

The registration fee is \$25.00 a semester and is nonrefundable. ACDS can only accept checks or money orders payable to RVCDS. The registration

fee may be sent directly to ACDS at the address listed under the contact information in this newsletter. Please do not send cash. Instructors may not accept cash either. All registration fees are due by the first night of class.

Once the fee is collected students will receive the student handouts/materials needed for the semester.



At the end of each semester, all apprentices and instructors will receive a survey monkey regarding their experience during the semester. Please take a moment to complete this brief survey. We appreciate your feedback.



Semester Four Curriculum

ACDS has recently completed the process of writing and implementing a new curriculum. The new curriculum has both similarities and differences to the Starting Points II Curriculum. To help you better understand the new curriculum, we have been highlighting a semester in each newsletter over the past 3 quarters.

In this newsletter we are highlighting the final semester, fourth. Fourth semester focuses on school age and references the WV Afterschool Program Standards. The curriculum teaches development that takes place during ages 5 to 12. The semester will familiarize students with STEM,

physical activity, literacy and life skills as they pertain to school age children. Students will learn and discuss community issues and resources that are available for children and families in their regions.

Fourth semester will also help students prepare for their professional careers as early childhood educators by teaching presentation skills, financial management, resume writing and interviewing techniques.

The final project for fourth semester involves students facilitating a 30 minute presentation of their choice to classmates. This final project reflects knowledge gained in previous semesters and the student's abil-

ity to communicate what he or she has learned to others.

As with the previous semesters, fourth semester will have three quizzes, including a final. Students will have opportunities to create study guides as part of their homework assignments.

As with all semesters of ACDS, students must submit all homework assignments, miss no more than three classes, have a complete portfolio and have a final grade of at least 80% to successfully complete.

For more information about the ACDS curriculum and classes please contact ACDS.

Contact Information

ACDS promotes highly skilled, confident early childhood employees, quality early childhood classrooms, and informed supportive early childhood professionals.

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ACDS Statewide Coordinator

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ACDS Specialist

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This program is being presented with financial assistance as a grant from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and is administered by WV Early Childhood Training Connections and Resources, a program of River Valley Child Development Services.



Testimony

“Coming from a center in a different state, after 10 years, ACDS gave me the knowledge needed to transition into WV laws, regulations, and best practice easier.”

Questions and Answers



- **Why is there a range in the number of required on-the-job (OJT) training hours?**

Between 3200 and 4000 OJT hours are required to complete the apprenticeship program with the Department of Labor. The range allows sponsors/employers some flexibility in when to complete an employee. If a sponsor (i.e. program director) feels that the employee has not quite mastered the skills taught in the curriculum at 3200 hours, he or she has the flexibility to require the employee to continue collecting hours up to 4000. Once 4000 hours have been met the employer must sign off on the employee to apply for completion.

- **I am starting first semester, when and where can I take the ACDS orientation?**

The ACDS orientation is required of every new student, including WVIT I graduates that are bypassing first semester. The orientation familiarizes students with what they need to know to be successful in the ACDS program. Beginning fall 2019, the orientation is only offered online through the WV STARS training calendar. Everyone taking the orientation will need to be either on the WV STARS pathway or registry. By making the orientation online ACDS can ensure the information is consistent for all new students across the state. Anyone that needs help locating the orientation on the WVSTARS website, www.wvstars.org, can contact ACDS for assistance.



Follow ACDS on Facebook! We share information that pertains directly to the program as well as interesting articles that relate to the curriculum content.