

# Elevating the Early Childhood Workforce at CDHE

Presentation for the Early Childhood & School Readiness Legislative Commission

July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022



# Early Educator Investment Collaborative (EEIC) Grant



## **Principal Investigators Leading the Grant:**

Dr. Kristie Kauerz  
Associate Clinical Professor  
Director, National P-3 Center

Dr. Diana Schaack  
Assistant Professor



# Dean Kantor's Vision: Stronger Together

Continuing Dr. Rebecca Kantor's legacy of collaboration, inclusion, and positivity that seeks to build broad support for young children by connecting ECE, higher education, and state policy so that, together, we build programs for the workforce that are:

- Nimble and meet students where they are
- Have efficient pathways that lead to degrees
- Culturally and linguistically responsive and contribute to a more just world
- Grounded in the rights of children

# Engagement of Higher Education

---

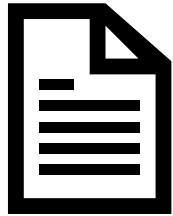
Innovative, responsive, and geographically diverse approaches to support the early childhood workforce, including:

- Work-based learning
- Stackable, credit-bearing experiences
- Degree pathways

## COLORADO UNIVERSAL PRESCHOOL RECOMMENDATIONS



# Looking Ahead



IHE Landscape Analysis

Increase statewide  
opportunities for credit  
for prior learning

Align and connect  
across initiatives,  
(Credential As You Go; SB22-192  
Opportunities for Credential  
Attainment; Collegiate  
Apprenticeships)

# ECE Educator Funding Opportunities

## 2021-2022 Updates:

### ECE 101/103 Stipends

- Over 3,000 students were awarded ECE101/103 stipends
  - 1,378 took ECE 101 Intro to ECE
  - 1,191 took ECE 103 Guidance Strategies
  - 652 took both courses
- Over \$2.2mil was spent to cover tuition + class fees

### ECE Scholarships

- \$1.8mil was distributed between 22 public IHEs
- IHEs were directed to use 90% of funds allocated go directly to students pursuing ECE certificates or degrees up to Masters.
- 10% was allowed to be used to develop ECE programing at the IHE.

### Loan Forgiveness

- \$750K was made available in loan forgiveness in the first round for ECE Educators and ECMH Consultants
- 3,000 financial wellness support spots are available to applicants

# Gratitude from Students

“Thanks to this scholarship, I can start my first year of being a lead teacher not worrying about finances. I can now focus all my energy on setting up the best environment possible for my kids!”

“This year in the program has been challenging on many different levels.... this scholarship has been a true gift in my life in more ways than just financially. Thank you doesn't begin to cover it - I'm so grateful for the opportunity to receive this scholarship!”

“You have lightened my financial burden, which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school: learning. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.”

# Thank You!

Mitch Karstens  
Chief Financial Office  
[mitchell.karstens@dhe.state.co.us](mailto:mitchell.karstens@dhe.state.co.us)

Sondra Ranum  
Director, ECE Workforce Policy  
[Sondra.ranum@dhe.state.co.us](mailto:Sondra.ranum@dhe.state.co.us)

Presentation for the Early Childhood & School Readiness Legislative  
Commission

July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022



**COLORADO**  
Department of  
Higher Education