

Accelerated Licensing Program for Early Childhood Professionals

Abstract

The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and Fox Valley Technical College respectfully request \$10,000 to support planning to broaden educational opportunities for early childhood students in the Wisconsin Technical College System through the development of an Accelerated Licensing Program for Early Childhood Professionals (ALPECP). The goal of this proposal is to create a non-traditional, seamless system of transfer, whereby early childhood professionals completing an associates degree within the Wisconsin Technical College System transition into a Bachelor of Science in Education and teacher licensure program at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. The project will coordinate the competency based portfolio assessment systems that exist at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh with Fox Valley Technical College to develop consistency between institutions. Consistent portfolio development and assessment will significantly impact the goal of creating a seamless transition for students who graduate from the technical college system and matriculate to the university system. An elective course will be created for students enrolled in FVTC with curriculum that specifically attends to portfolio development. The project will also develop an accelerated, non-traditional licensure program for early childhood educators who have completed their associates degree within Wisconsin Technical College System. This program will be designed to meet the needs of students who have graduated from the Wisconsin Technical College System and wish to complete their baccalaureate degree and earn teacher licensure. The College of Education and Human Services at the University Of Wisconsin-Oshkosh is uniquely positioned to meet the increased need for quality early childhood educators. Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) will serve as the partner in this initiative; however, this program would benefit students completing an associates degree in early childhood at any of the 16 institutions in the Wisconsin Technical College System. This alliance between University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and the Wisconsin Technical College System has already created an articulation agreement that allows these graduates to transfer technical college credits toward a four/five year baccalaureate degree leading to teacher certification.

Summative assessments will occur as the draft proposal for both the course and the program is shared with the Professional Education Program committee for continued feedback and revision. Formative assessments will take place when the final proposal is shared with the five departments with instructional responsibilities for final approval. Information learned from this planning grant will be shared in a variety of formats. Dissemination will include traditional and electronic activities. Results will be published and presented at state and national conferences.