New Jersey Cultural Competency and English Language Learners (ELL) Summer Institute and Mentoring Program

APPLICATION

For EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHERS IN PASSAIC AND ESSEX COUNTIES and ADJACENT COUNTIES-New Jersey
Family Child Care Providers can also apply

Pending Funded by:

The Nicholson Foundation

For more Information Contact:

Ana I. Berdecia, Senior Fellow and Director
Center for the Positive Development of Urban Children
The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of Thomas Edison State College
(609) 777-4351 ext. 4290 * aberdecia@tesc.edu
or
Kamili O. Leath, Project Coordinator (Consultant)
(609) 313-6061 * kamili.ellprogram@gmail.com
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND AGREEMENTS (Please read this page carefully):

Please submit the following seven items: a cover letter, application/classroom profile, personal essay, your resume, your PINJ-NJ Registry Certificate, one professional letter of reference, and one personal letter of reference.

- The professional letter should speak to your teaching experience and desire to learn more about effectively teaching diverse populations and the personal letter should speak to your character.
- The personal essay will speak to the following questions and should not exceed 1 ½ pages in length:
  1. Why do you want to be selected for this Summer Institute/Mentoring Program?
  2. What do you hope to learn that will change your classroom practices and beliefs about culturally and linguistically diverse children and families?
  3. What are the challenges you are experiencing in terms of cultural competency and working with children who are acquiring English as a second language?

Application and attachments should be mailed, emailed or faxed to: Attention: Ana I. Berdecia, M.Ed.
The New Jersey Cultural Competency and English Language Learners Summer Institute
The John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of Thomas Edison State College
101 West State Street Trenton, NJ 08608-1176
Email: aberdecia@tesc.edu  Fax: (609) 777-3207

FOR QUESTIONS: Please Contact Ana Berdecia, Director, at call 609-777-4351 x4290 or e-mail: aberdecia@tesc.edu or Kamili Leath, Project Coordinator (Consultant) at (609) 313-6061 or email kamili.ellprogram@gmail.com

NEW JERSEY CULTURAL COMPETENCY AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS SUMMER INSTITUTE AND MENTORING PROGRAM AGREEMENTS:

A. The Center’s Group Teacher and Assistant Teacher (s) must commit to the program as a team and must remain as a team for the duration of the 10 month program. Individual teachers are not eligible to apply.

B. Teachers will be required to attend/participate in the three-day Summer Institute (8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.), commit to four supportive visits and three assessment visits, and complete assignments/evaluations at various intervals throughout the program. All training materials will be provided.

C. Teachers will be required to sign a data collection, video/photo release form that will allow the program administrator to capture the impact of the program. Articles on the impact of the program will be shared across New Jersey; however, personal data will be kept confidential.

D. Teachers will be required to implement their classroom’s action plan in the next academic year. Three assessment visits will be made during the academic year to assess the strategies that are being implemented in the teacher’s practices and the learning environment.

E. Teachers will be required to participate in three peer learning communities via teleconference to share lessons learned and the application of concepts learned as a result of the Summer Institute Mentoring Program.

F. The Center Director must agree to participate in the two-day Cultural Conversation Directors’ Institute to learn the program’s principles and strategies to continue to coach their staff after the program ends. Directors must also agree to keep the teaching team together for the duration of the program.

NOTE: During the three-day Summer Institute, there may be observers who will visit the sessions to examine the program design and providing feedback to the program administrators.

III. TUITION: The program tuition is funded by a grant from Nicholson Foundation in partnership John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of Thomas Edison State College.
New Jersey Cultural Competency and English Language Learners  
Summer Institute/Mentoring Program for Early Childhood Educators  
Program Application

I. PERSONAL DATA

Center’s Name: ________________________________  
Center’s Address: ________________________________

Name: ____________________________  
Last Name  ____________________________  
First Name: ____________________________  
Middle Initial: ____________________________

School/Center Title: ________________________________  
Current Home Address: ________________________________

City: ____________________________  
State: ____________________________  
Zip Code: ____________________________  
Email: ____________________________

Telephone: ____________________________  
(Work #) ____________________________  
(Home #) ____________________________  
(Cell #) ____________________________

Best Time to Call: ____________________________  
A.M. ____________________________  
Lunch Break ____________________________  
P.M. ____________________________

II. TEACHER’S DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Age: □ 18-24 years old □ 25-30 years old □ 31-40 years old □ 41-50 years old

Gender: □ Male □ Female

Ethnicity: □ Hispanic □ African-American □ Caucasian □ Asian □ Other: __________

Do you require handicap access or special accommodations? □ Yes □ No
If yes, specify accommodations:________________________________________________________________________

Do you have dietary restrictions or allergies? □ Yes □ No
If yes, specify;____________________________________________________________________________________

Language(s) Spoken by the Teachers: 
□ English □ Spanish □ French □ German □ Arabic □ Other: __________
Teacher's Level of Preparation:

- High School
- CDA Credential or Candidate (circle one)
- Some college (how many credits?___)
- Associate Degree
- Bachelor Degree
- P-3 Certification or other certification (s)
- Master's Degree

III. TEACHER'S EMPLOYMENT DATA

Center’s Name

Center’s Address

I prefer to have correspondences sent to: Business Address ☐ or Home Address ☐

Years in Current Position:

- 1 year or less
- 2 to 5 years
- 6 to 10 years
- 11 to 15 years
- 16 to 20 years
- 21+ years

Years in Field of Early Childhood Education:

- 1 year or less
- 2 to 5 years
- 6 to 10 years
- 11 to 15 years
- 16 to 20 years
- 21+ years

IV. CHILDREN’S PROGRAM DATA

Age Group:

- Infants
- Toddlers
- 3 years
- 4 years
- 5 years
- Mixed Ages

Number of Children in your Classroom on the Subsidized Food Program:

- Free Lunches
- Reduced Lunches
- Paid Lunches
- Not Applicable

Type of Curriculum:

- Creative Curriculum
- High Scope
- Curiosity Corner
- Other (Explain) ________________

Type of Program:

- CBC Center
- Board of Ed (Formerly Abbott) Center
- Head Start
- Private Center
- Family Child Care Home
- Other (Explain) __________________
Identify the Children's Home Language – Be as specific as possible:

- English
- Spanish
- Burmese
- Creole
- French
- Arabic
- Hindi
- Other ______________

Define the demographics of the children in your classroom - Be as specific as possible:

- Caucasian
- African-American
- Hispanic
- Asian
- Haitian
- Burmese
- Middle-eastern
- Bi-racial
- Other ______________

Identity the cultural profile of the children in your classroom - Be as specific as possible.
List each culture/ethnicity:

- Caucasian (Italian, Irish, German, Polish, Swedish, Turkish, etc.)

- African-American (North/South of the U.S.: Identify the state of influences New York, Washington, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, etc.)

- Black (An African nation-Nigerian or Kenyan-Egyptian, Haitian, Jamaican, Bermudian, etc.)

- Hispanic (Columbian, Costa Rican, Cuban, Ecuadorian, Salvadorian, Honduran, Mexican, Peruvian, Puerto Rican, etc.)

- Asian (Afghanistan, Burmese, Chinese, Indian, Iranian, Japanese, Korean, Malaysian, etc.)

- Other (Multiracial and biracial describe all cultures that influence the families)
VI. Video, Photo, and Data Release Form

I ______________________ give the New Jersey Cultural Competency and English Language Learners Summer Institute and Mentoring Program staff at the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of Thomas Edison State College permission to use photos and video clips, where I may appear, to promote the benefits of the program. I further understand that throughout the program there will be data collected on the participants’ classroom progress that will be used in articles to demonstrate the program’s impact. I agree to participate in the data collection process for this purpose as long as my personal information is kept confidential unless otherwise specified. My signature below acts as a release form for these purposes.

Video & Photo: Yes or No (Circle One)  Data Collection: Yes or No (Circle One)

Signature:  ____________________________________  Date:  __________________

V: PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

I understand the purpose and expectations of the New Jersey Cultural Competency and English Language Learners Summer Institute/Mentoring Program outlined on page 2 of this application. If accepted, I will devote the time required to complete the program, develop and implement a diverse action plan for my classroom, agree to receive four supportive visits and three observational visits in my classroom, and to participate in peer group meetings via teleconferences.

I further agree that I will do my part, to the best of my ability, to assure that my original teaching team remains together for the course of the program. In addition, the Center Director agrees to participate in a two-day Cultural Conversations Directors Institute to learn about the program and how they can support their teachers. Directors also agree to keep the teaching team together for the duration of the program.

VII. SIGNATURES

Candidate’s Signature: ___________________________  Date:  __________________

Director’s Signature:_____________________________  Date:  __________________

Directors’ Email:________________________________ Phone:____________________
Application Check-List

☐ Cover Letter

☐ Completed 6 page application with (2) required signatures, teacher’s and center’s director.

☐ Signed photo/video release and data collection form.

☐ Resume

☐ Personal Essay

☐ Personal Reference Letter

☐ Professional Reference Letter

☐ Electronic Photo of the Team (email to aberdecia@tesc.edu)

☐ New Jersey Registry Certificate www.pinj.org (1)

NOTE: The Teaching Team’s applications must be mailed in together. Single applications will not be considered until both teachers’ applications are received.