

# INTERESTED IN STARTING OR ADVANCING YOUR CAREER IN EARLY CHILDHOOD?



## **Expanding Professional Possibilities in Early Childhood (EPPEC)**

An innovative workforce initiative in Larimer County

The Early Childhood Council of Larimer County is looking for people interested in working in early childhood who are ready to participate in this innovative approach to address our current workforce challenges. The purpose of this initiative is to increase the number of qualified early childhood teachers through increased support for individuals interested in the field. We are creating a cohort of students in partnership with Front Range Community College, who will be employed in early care and education programs under the guidance of an experienced mentor teacher. Because of the formal education, high quality mentoring and positive work experience you receive, you will be better prepared as future Early Childhood Teachers (ECT).

### *Prerequisites:*

- *Not currently ECT qualified*
- *Passion for early childhood and interest in working in the field*
- *Basic understanding of child development*
- *Experience working with young children a plus*

### **What will you receive?**

- Students attend FRCC (Larimer Campus) and take **up to 9 credits** during the spring 2020 semester.
- Scholarships will cover full cost of ECE cohort on-campus classes (**up to \$2,100 value**)
- Classes are taught in a hybrid model (part online, part on campus) and offered during evening hours
- Employment in an early care and education program- hours dependent on course load and employer
- High quality, on the job learning experience with a mentor teacher

### **What are the expectations of cohort students?**

- For all cohort students:
  - Work with ECCLC to determine pathway to Early Childhood Teacher qualifications, to help determine which and how many classes to complete.
    - Register for your classes at FRCC
    - Attend a “New Student Orientation” at FRCC, if applicable
  - Attend classes and complete assignments at FRCC

- Pass all classes with a “C” or better
    - Complete homework on personal time, not during work hours
  - Maintain employment during the year/semester in your child care/preschool program
    - Recommend students work 25-35 hours/week, depending on course loads
    - If you have concerns about balancing coursework with your work schedule, please talk with us or your director. Pell Grants or other scholarships may be available to students.
  - Respond to surveys and requests for information from the ECCLC in a timely manner
  - Work with and learn from your mentor (recommended minimum of 80 hours per semester working in a classroom with your mentor)
  - Attend a 1-day cohort student orientation at FRCC in January 2019 (date TBD)
  - Be open and willing to learn!
- If you **are** already employed in an early childhood program:
    - Your director must be aware of the program application and able to meet the requirements for participation, including having a mentor teacher.
    - If your program does not participate, you would not be eligible to be in this project, but may qualify for other scholarships from ECCLC. Contact Lauren Powers at info below.
  - If you **are not** already employed in an early childhood program:
    - You will be given provisional acceptance into the cohort program
      - We will provide you a list of employers participating in this EPPEC program
      - Apply for employment with participating child care programs
        - Be ready to interview at child care programs with a resume and references (if requested)
        - Pass a background check with employer
      - Be hired at a participating child care or preschool program and commit to work hours assigned.
      - This is a real job, not a paid internship.
    - Complete pre-service trainings as required by Child Care Licensing (approximately 12 hours) before beginning employment. Most trainings are free and available online. For trainings with fees, the ECCLC will cover these expenses either directly to the student or with your employer.

**Ready to apply?**

- **Cohort Applications are due December 10<sup>th</sup>.** Applicants will be notified by December 17<sup>t</sup> about their status and acceptance in the project.

**Complete the cohort application at:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FY20EPPEC-CohortApplication>

**Contact Information**

*For Cohort Students:* Lauren Powers, PD Coordinator- [lpowers@ecclc.org](mailto:lpowers@ecclc.org), (970) 377-3388 ext. 202

*For Child Care Program/Mentors:* Heather Blanco, Early Childhood Coach, [hblanco@ecclc.org](mailto:hblanco@ecclc.org), (970)377-3388 ext 208

*FRCC Questions:* Anne Marie Jacobson, Allied Health and Education Chair- [annemarie.jacobson@frontrange.edu](mailto:annemarie.jacobson@frontrange.edu), (970)204-8329