

## ECE Workforce Conversations Continue

### Have you shared your thoughts yet about ECE as a recognized profession?

Here's a sampling of comments from your peers who have participated in conversations and completed the survey. As you read, do you find yourself agreeing? Disagreeing? What resonates for you?

*"I think it would be amazing (for ECE to advance as a recognized profession), but the amount of work it will take and looking down the road is something hard for me to imagine. So, my excitement is met with anxiety about that." —Teacher*

*"It's something that has been needed for many years. I want to be thought of as more than just a babysitter." —Family child care provider*

*"Change is difficult and there are some very excellent people who haven't had the time, money or maybe inclination to pursue further education, so it will be an adjustment in thinking for some." —Teacher*

*"I think the conversation left some in shock that ECE is not already recognized as a profession." —Early childhood trainer*

*"I am mostly very excited about the idea of being respected and compensated for the great work that we do, but I worry about losing some very qualified employees who have barriers to continuing their education." —Center director*

So far, there have been about 350 conversation participants, toward our goal of 1000. We're getting a 44% response rate to the follow-up survey. We've heard a lot from southern Vermont, where facilitators, Rachel Hunter and Laurie Metcalfe have been very active. Interestingly, there has been less activity in other parts of the state. We want to hear from you! Your input is what VTAEYC will use to gauge the wishes of the ECE workforce and to recommend next steps. The more participation, the more we can trust what we're hearing is representative of Vermont's whole ECE workforce.

Here's how you can be involved:

Center directors /owners and Starting Points Network leaders, host a conversation at your next meeting. Higher education instructors, host in-class or assign a webinar as homework.

Public pre-K partnerships, host at your next meeting or all "zoom" in to a webinar together.

Individuals, you can register for a March webinar.

If you're not in this list (still an important voice!), you get the idea. Find what fits for you and join us!

Host an in-person conversation with your group, contact Susan Titterton [sstitterton@gmail.com](mailto:sstitterton@gmail.com)

Register for a webinar (Tuesdays 1-2 p.m., Thursdays 6-7 p.m. Upcoming dates below. [Register Here](#)