



New partner to further support PDO Apprenticeship Program

First Up Expands PDO Apprenticeship Bench Strength

WHILE FIRST UP IS THE NEWEST PARTNER to join the ECE PDO beginning July 1, this Philadelphia-based nonprofit is no newcomer to early childhood education. In fact, for the last 50 years, First Up (formerly the Delaware Valley Association for the Education of Young Children) has championed high quality early care and education for children from birth to age 8.



Renowned for its success in advancing apprenticeships among early childhood teachers, First Up will support the statewide apprenticeship "infrastructure" that helps childcare center directors and apprenticeship coaches maximize this professional development opportunity.

In particular, First Up will focus on training those who will coach an apprentice on-site. These coaches work alongside the apprentice, must have equivalent or greater education and credentials than the apprentice, and a strong desire to lead and guide by best-practices. Coaches will learn how to help apprentices set "SMART" goals (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-based). Apprenticeships can range from one-two years, where the apprentice can earn a CDA credential or advance to an Associate's or Bachelor's degree.

"Coaches play a critical role in the professional development of apprentices," says First Up Senior Early Learning Specialist Christine Haley-Brinen. "We see First Up's role as not only helping to advance quality care through professional development of apprentice teachers, but growing a culture of leadership support through coaches."

Education and certified in teaching herself, Haley-Brinen believes the lasting way to learn is by "doing" and the best way to learn is through actively applying taught skills in the early childcare environment.

"The coach's job is to help the apprentice develop their pathway to learning by leveraging their strengths to build competencies."



Check out First Up's new apprenticeship website [here](#) to learn more about this no/low-cost career advancement opportunity!

PASSHE PARTNERS

[Shippensburg University](#)

[Lock Haven University](#)

[East Stroudsburg University](#)

[Edinboro University](#)

PDO PARTNERS

(until 6.30.21)

[Carlow University](#)

[Clarion University](#)

[Community College of Allegheny County](#)

[Delaware County Community College](#)

[Harrisburg Area Community College](#)

[Keystone College](#)

[Lehigh Carbon Community College](#)

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[Northampton Community College](#)

[Northwest Institute of Research \(ELRC 1, 3\)](#)

[PennAEYC](#)

[Reading Area Community College](#)

[Trying Together](#)

[Westmoreland County Community College](#)

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TAKE THE SUMMER PLUNGE!

'Wondering how you can advance your career and wages in early childcare education?

Join the many other Pennsylvanians who work in this field and have started to earn credentials and degrees to help them advance — **at no or low cost!**

Apply to the [ECE PDO@PASSHE](#) and register for fall classes. *You're right on time, so don't delay!*

Check out the [website](#) to learn more about how you can advance your career in early childhood education at no or very low cost. Contact a [PDO Liaison](#) who is waiting to help you or go straight to the [application portal](#) to get started **TODAY!**



Central Region Workforce Community Hosts EC Apprenticeship Session

NEARLY TWO DOZEN employers, workforce/economic development, and early childhood professionals gathered this month in the ECE PDO Central Region. Their mission—to better understand how to stem the deficit of workers needed to fill jobs across mid-state counties by supporting apprenticeships in early childhood education and care.

“There is a growing workforce crisis in our region,” said Mike Ross, president of the Franklin County Area Development Corporation, which hosted the event. SCPa Works, the regional workforce development board that administers workforce development programming and related resources for an eight-county region of southcentral Pennsylvania, reports there are currently 44,000 unfilled positions. Further, there are in excess

of 10,000 additional jobs expected to be created in the next 6-18 months in the region that will exacerbate the situation.

“There has never been a greater need for quality childcare providers to prepare our youngest for future education and for employers to create access to those services as a way to recruit and retain employees,” Ross said.

“It is important for our current childcare center directors and providers to understand the new Pennsylvania Registered Early Childhood Apprenticeship program,

and there is a need to better engage our employers in initiatives and collaborations that support early learning programs,” Ross added.

This very type of needed engagement was sparked by ECE PDO Apprenticeship Coordinator Consultant Dawn Manetta and Amy Pinkerton of First Start Partnerships, an ECE PDO Apprenticeship intermediary who presented.

“The challenges that resulted from COVID offer us an opportunity to bring this long-term need for quality childcare through increased worker credentials to the forefront,” Manetta says. “I am encouraged by the interest and enthusiasm for apprenticeship throughout the mid-state and across the entire commonwealth.”

To learn more about how the ECE PDO@PASSHE can connect early childcare workers to no-cost/low-cost apprenticeships, reach out to Dawn Manetta at DMManetta@ship.edu.



Lane Coyle-Colburn Joins PDO Ranks to Provide Student Support

MEET LANE COYLE, a recent addition the ECE PDO team of PDO Liaisons (which will be re-dubbed as PDO Coordinators starting July 1). Lane is the perfect



example of someone who recognized a deep desire to empower her passion by expanding her education. Lane is perfectly positioned to help early childcare workers navigate opportunities to advance their careers through PDO-sponsored education.

After graduating with a degree in international relations/politics, and interning at a law firm, she realized that simply was not the “sweet

spot” that was going to give her a lifetime of career satisfaction. Her next step set her pathway on a new trajectory, as she earned her Master’s degree in teaching and is certified to teach PreK-4th grade. Now the mother of two girls and living in Lycoming County, Lane wants to help others working in early childcare education to reach their career goals.

“Although COVID was nothing any of us planned for, it did help us realize the opportunity online learning offers to advance our education from the comfort of home, all while balancing work and family obligations,” she said.

Lane works with prospective students across a seven-county area to help them apply to the ECE PDO and find the right partner school and program in which to enroll. “Most of those with whom I’ve worked want to pursue a CDA credential. It’s a good place to start, so they recognize after three courses that they achieved a milestone and can advance even further if they choose to,” she said. “I’m excited for what the future can hold for these early childcare teachers!”

Contact Lane at acolburn@thelearninglamp.org. She looks forward to helping prospective students take the next step in their professional development.

This project is supported by the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) of Pennsylvania’s Department of Human Services (DHS) and Pennsylvania’s Department of Education (PDE). For more information, visit dhs.pa.gov and education.pa.gov.