Madison, WI 53705
611 Eagle Heights, Room 148

Treat Your Teachers Well

Message from Cigdem

As we celebrate early childhood education and campus educators at Jazzin’, I am reminded of the teachers who made a difference in my life. I remember vividly the kindergarten teacher who inspired me to become a teacher. Early childhood is the most critical phase of human development and early childhood professionals play an integral role in children’s developmental outcomes. As Chancellor Blank stated at Jazzin’: “Outstanding early education takes deep knowledge of infants and children and a passion for learning everything we can about their growth and development. That strong foundation enables us to create programs that are flexible enough to meet the many needs of our diverse families and to support our world-class educators and researchers to give children the very best support.” Our campus early childhood educators rise to that challenge every day as they engage minds, support struggles, and cultivate dreams. Thank you, educators, for shaping the future and for making certain that all children reach their highest potential. You are my HEROES!

This year, we celebrated a milestone: 20 years of Jazzin’! It was wonderful to see so many campus and community educators and leaders who strive to create a better world for our entire campus family.

Cigdem Unal

Message from Laura Froyen

While she is not new to the campus child care, we are pleased to introduce Paula Zipperer as the new director at Eagle’s Wing Child Care, taking over for Debb Schauf, who retired at the end of August. In her tenure at Eagle’s Wing, Paula has been a two-year-old teacher, young toddler teacher, and, most recently, assistant director. Outside of the center, she is also a member of several local and national family support programs, we wanted to highlight some ways we do that.

As it is our mission to promote the academic and professional goals of the UW-Madison community through the administration of early education and family support programs.

Introducing Paula Z.

Follow us on Twitter: @OCCFRUWMadison
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OCCFR Early Education Programs and Resources

Prenatal to Five Summit

Leadership and Development News

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Programs and Resources

In Their Words

In Their Words

FALL 2017

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The Children’s Journal

News from Campus Child Care for parents, advocates and all who work to provide quality early care and education for children and their families.
The Power of Philanthropy: Angeline’s Story

A single parent, an unexplainable feeling comes into my heart knowing that my children are in a safe and nurturing environment. This feeling manifests in diverse ways, one of which is the unattainable energy that keeps me on my educational path. As a first-generation, non-traditional, low-income student, I qualify for Child Care Tuition Assistance (CCTA) and Access for Infants and Mothers (AIM) funding to pay for the cost of care for my children. Without this support, it is safe to say that I would not be enrolled at UW. Student parents face many challenging issues; financial hardship is at the top of the list.

Life can sometimes seem like an uphill climb and the fear of leaving college without a degree is real and alive every day. I have witnessed classmates drop out of college because they have capped the limit of their federal loans before they could graduate. I realized that I was not immune to this predication last spring when my husband lost full-time employment. As a consequence, our housing lease could not be renewed. The prospect of having no housing and nowhere to turn was overwhelming.

I shared my situation with OCCFR and learned about the University Parent Scholarship Grants fund allowed her to stay in school and to rise above difficult personal circumstances.

Never doubt the impact of your gifts to campus child care and early education. We can’t thank you enough! Ongoing or one-time gifts can be made at any time during the year. Our new and improved website has made the electronic process easier. The giving page on our website, occfr.wisc.edu/giving, provides descriptions and UW Foundation links to all of our five funds. As always, feel free to contact Teri Stratton with questions about contributions, programs, or to discuss how you can help with major gifts.

We appreciate your generous support!

Jazzin’ Sponsors

Community Partners

We encourage you to attend this year’s Jazzin’ event and to discuss how you can help with major gifts. The giving page on our website, occfr.wisc.edu/giving, provides descriptions and UW Foundation links to all of our five funds.

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This spring, my kids and I started a bedtime chat. Coincidentally, this conversation occurred in steps toward big change.

What drove the creation of the PN25 Summit?

The Summit was the first statewide convening session for those interested in improving practices and programs targeting the development and well-being of Wisconsin children during the prenatal-to-five years.

The response was more than I could have imagined—more than 300 participants representing more than 50 counties and 7 tribal nations, all together in one place focused on a single question, “How might we ensure all children in Wisconsin thrive?” The enthusiasm from community members and scholars alike indicate that this initiative is welcome and needed by those dedicated to young children in our state.

What are the future plans for PN25?

We want to implement a five-year strategic plan to position UW-Madison as a leading collaborator in research, training, prevention programs, and policy studies. Helping children and families thrive is in our DNA. Our preschool, Delaney’s, with young children if it could pay the bills. Perry believes the best teachers should be working with the youngest children "Because that’s where it all takes place...you put your money where your values are; we don’t value early childhood enough." While 52% of the early childhood profession has, at minimum, an Associate's Degree, the average educator makes $10 an hour compounded with minimal benefits, a lack of respect for the important work they do, and a high-stress daily routine—how’s that for motivation? Yet people continue to dedicate their career to the field because they recognize the importance of having a solid foundation of care and education from the start. While some argue the child’s developmental path is dependent on the family before age five, the reality is 74% of children under age 6 have all available parents working outside of the home in Wisconsin. Panelists agree a perception change is in order—welcome and needed by those dedicated to young children across the state of Wisconsin.

The Power of Philanthropy: Angeline’s Story

As a parent, an unexplainable feeling comes into my heart knowing that my children are in a safe and nurturing environment. This feeling manifests in diverse ways, one of which is the unshakable energy that keeps me on my educational path. As a first-generation, non-traditional, low-income student, I qualify for Child Care Tuition Assistance (CCTA) and Access for Infants and Mothers (AIM) funding to pay for the cost of care for my children. Without this support, it is safe to say that I would not be enrolled at UW. Student parents face many challenging issues; financial hardship is at the top of the list. Life can sometimes seem like an uphill climb and the fear of leaving college without a degree is real and alive every day. I have witnessed classmates drop out of college because they have capped the limit of their federal loans before they could graduate. I realize that I was not immune to this predicament last spring when my husband lost full-time employment. As a consequence, our housing lease could not be renewed. The prospect of having no housing and nowhere to turn was overwhelming. I shared my situation with OCFFR and learned about a grant opportunity for struggling student parents. I was fortunate to receive a private grant from the Student Child Care Scholarship fund, which helped pay the rent for April, keeping a roof over our heads. Once this financial burden was removed, I was able to focus on my summer classes and prepare for my Pharmacy College Admission Test exam. I will forever be grateful to OCFFR and donors to the Student Fund because this grant was essential in restoring a sense of security to my entire family.

Angeline Mboutngam

Development News

Jazzin’ was bigger and better than ever thanks to the outpouring of generosity from our campus and community partners and loyal OCCFR friends. We could not have done it without you and your shared commitment to high-quality early care for all children. Event attendance and silent auction proceeds reached record highs and we now have over $18,000 to support our youngest learners. Jazzin’ income returns to our five centers in the form of curriculum enrichment, playground equipment, and classroom resources. The date is set for Jazzin’ 2018. Mark your calendars for May 24 and join in the fun!

Research continues to document the value of investing in high-quality early care and education and the far-reaching impact of this investment. With your gifts, this investment has widespread outcomes on our campus, and not only for our little ones. Here are a few examples:

• With gifts to the New Initiatives Fund, Eagle’s Wing created a multi-cultural library with books and CDs to reflect the international diversity of their families and their anti-bias and peace education philosophy.
• Lynn E. Edlefsen Fund gifts enabled one Pre-school Lab teacher to attend the National Association for the Education of Young Children conference and another teacher to take part in the Children and Nature Network conference in Vancouver. Professional development training for our early education workforce is critical to ensure the delivery of first-rate care and education.

In her newsletter article, Angeline tells the story of how a timely grant from the Student Scholarship Grants fund allowed her to stay in school and to rise above difficult personal circumstances.

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Teri Stratton

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Milwaukee Bucks
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The Old Fashioned
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Pirate’s Cove Adventure Golf
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Roundy’s/Pick n’ Save
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Secosky’s Club
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The Comedy Club
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Tom Tempkin
Sally Webster
Paula Zipperer

Prenatal to Five Summit: An Interview with Dean Shim

“This spring, my kids and I started a bedtime chat about professions and, subsequently, teaching. “Oh, I would never want to be a teacher; they don’t make any money!” my ten-year-old remarked. “But teachers help people. What if nobody wanted to be a teacher?” my eight-year-old wondered.

Coincidently, this conversation occurred in the same ways that OCCFR hosted an expert panel to address the early childhood teacher shortage in Wisconsin. With a 35% turnover rate in our state—compared to an 8% turnover rate for the workforce in general—and a 30% turnover nationwide, it’s a relevant question.

Robin Fox, department chair at UW-Whitewater’s School of Education, has heard so many parents—and teachers—discussing young people from entering the field. Cynthia Perry, associate professor at Edgewood College’s School of Education, echoes that sentiment, saying her students would love to work with young children if it could pay the bills.

We appreciate your generous support!

PAGE 3
Couples and Family Therapy and an extensive background in early childhood and parent support. Parents have the opportunity to ask questions in a safe, comfortable environment and to problem solve constructively to support their family’s needs. Dr. Froyen will also be running a parent/child group at Eagle Heights this fall.

Music and Movement
Amy Weik, director at Bernie’s Place Child Care Center, will lead classes for parents and children to learn about self-awareness and nature though the use of their own voices, bodies, scarves and instruments. The benefits for young children include boosted brainpower, improved memory, increased confidence and patience, and a chance to ask questions in a safe, comfortable environment.

Message from Cigdem
As it is our mission to promote the academic and professional goals of the UW-Madison community through the administration of early education and family support programs, we wanted to highlight some ways we do that.

UW-Madison Early Childhood Community of Practice
With much excitement, we announce the creation of a sister group to the Infant-Toddler Community of Practice, catering to educators working within preschool and 4K teaching roles on campus. Under the guidance of Paula Drew, members will gather regularly and rely on digital communication platforms to share ideas, raise questions and concerns, and seek out opportunities for growth and leadership, aiming to cultivate new understandings of what it means to educate young minds.

Parenting Consultations
Last spring, and again this fall, we have offered individual sessions with Dr. Laura Froyen, who has a PhD in Human Development and Family Studies with a specialization in Family’s needs. Dr. Froyen will also be running a parent/child group at Eagle Heights this fall.

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