

# 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.

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### OUR MISSION

The Office of Child Care and Family Resources promotes the academic and professional goals of the University of Wisconsin community through the administration of early education and family support programs.

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School of Education  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## 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 enables our world-class educators and researchers to give children the very best start in life."

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 make our world the best possible place for young children and their families.

What made the event even more special were remarks from Chancellor Blank, Provost Mangelsdorf, and Diana Hess, Dean of the School of Education. We are fortunate to have such outstanding leaders who truly believe in the importance of investing in early childhood education.

Provost Sarah Mangelsdorf emphasized recognizing the multiple roles of student-parents and facilitating their access to a UW-Madison education. Financial support through CCTAP and private funding creates an optimal environment for students with children to enroll, persist, and graduate.

Dean Hess noted that campus centers work tirelessly to provide the best possible student teaching, practicum, and internship opportunities for students where experienced educators mentor and model best practices for our future teachers. She also shared how inspiring it is for students to observe the joy of exploration and discovery in the teacher-child relationship.

As Abraham Lincoln declared: "The best way to predict your future is to create it." Thank you to our UW-Madison leaders for your commitment to early childhood education and educators so that we can create a better world for our entire campus family.

*Cigdem Unal*

## Introducing Paula Z.

While she is not new to campus child care, we are pleased to introduce Paula Zipperer as the new director at Eagle's Wing Child Care, taking over for Debb Schaub, 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 early childhood organizations, including Launching into Literacy and Math, which hosts valuable training events for early childhood educators in Madison.

Paula says the definition of "what we call best practice [has] changed and evolved," including

professional development opportunities about trauma-informed care and mindfulness for children. "Early childhood educators tend to be lifelong learners who are constantly creating new ways to support children's development."

Eagle's Wing has also evolved during Paula's time—expanding from two classrooms to six and including infant care—to meet the needs of its community. Paula looks forward to seeing Eagle's Wing continue to thrive and be the happy place that it is.

"I feel very fortunate that I can be a part of such an exceptional center," says Paula. "I am looking forward to my new role as the director."



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## Prenatal to Five Summit: An Interview with Dean Shim



This past summer, the School of Human Ecology (SoHE) brought together 300 researchers, teachers, and community members to discuss “Elevating the Early Years through Access and Equity,” during the Prenatal to Five Summit (PN25).

### 1. What should the community know about SoHE's involvement in early childhood education?

SoHE includes the Human Development and Family Studies department and major, ranked among the top programs of its kind focusing on family relationships, child and adolescent development, adult development and aging, child and family intervention, prevention programs, and policy studies. Helping children and families thrive is in our DNA. Our preschool, which functions as a child development lab, is the oldest of its kind in Wisconsin, established in 1926.

### 2. What drove the creation of the PN25 Summit?

Recent studies have revealed our state's significantly large poverty and achievement gaps. We need to turn that around quickly. Bringing together our UW System and state education resources are the first steps toward big change.

## Treat Your Teachers Well: We Need Them

*“Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education.”*

*-President John F. Kennedy*

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.

Coincidentally, this conversation occurred in the same week 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—discouraging 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.

### 3. What were the successes or lessons learned from the first PN25 Summit?

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

The response was more than I could have imagined—more than 300 participants from over 50 of Wisconsin's 72 counties and seven 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.

### 4. 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 a community-focused effort to advance knowledge and discovery, as well as develop teaching strategies, inform policy, and advance best practices, to improve outcomes for all children across the state of Wisconsin.

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—understanding child care as a national, societal issue that effects every single one of us. If parents, educators, and community members rally to give early childhood the attention it deserves, keeping it in the spotlight for lawmakers to discuss and develop, our world will be much better for it.

*Candice Wagener*

## 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 unfathomable energy that keeps me on my educational path. As a first-generation, non-traditional, low-income student, I qualify for Child Care Tuition Assistance (CCTAP) 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 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 OCCFR 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 OCCFR and donors to the Student Fund because this grant was essential in restoring a sense of security to my entire family.

*Angeline Maboutgam*



## We appreciate your generous support!

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## 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 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:

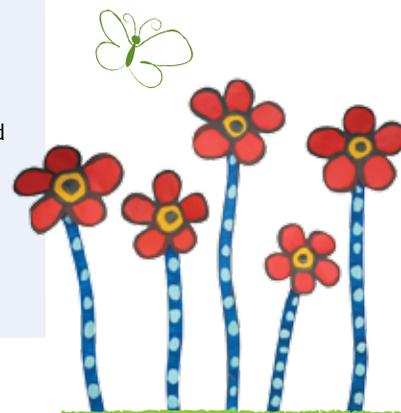
- With gifts to the New Initiatives Fund, Eagle's Wing created a multi-cultural library with books and CDs to reflect the international diversity of their families and their anti-bias and peace education philosophy.
- Lynn E. Edlefson Fund gifts enabled one Pre-

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.

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, [occf.wisc.edu/giving](http://occf.wisc.edu/giving), provides descriptions and UW Foundation links to all of our five funds. As always, feel free to contact Teri Stratton with any questions about contributions, programs, or to discuss how you can help with major gifts.

*Teri Stratton*



## OCCFR Early Education Programs and Resources

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

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 Welk, director at Bernie’s Place Child Care Center, will lead classes for parents and children to learn about self-awareness and nature through 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 foster their creativity.

At OCCFR, we strongly believe in the adage, “It takes a village to raise a child.” We continually strive to enrich that village by supporting educators, parents and families during their journey in raising healthy, capable, kind members of society.

