As part of the Wisconsin Strong! festivities, children and parents, and child care programs. Join us for an interactive panel discussion with local stakeholders, facilitated by Adrienne Smolinski, Resource Manager at Total Administrative Resources Corp (TASC) and our own Abbi Kruse, Executive Director of Wisconsin Strong for the next generation.

This event is hosted during a national week to honor the Week of the Young Child (WOYC), first started in 1971 in an effort to promote the academic and professional goals of early childhood educators because it allows teachers to share, network, and remain current in the field. Another powerful session at the conference was the screening of “No Small Matter,” a documentary film and national engagement campaign that brings public attention to the importance of quality early care and early education for all children, and why we are failing so many children in this country. We hope to bring it to our campus for a viewing. Stay tuned for more information in the fall.

According to director Michele McDonough, “The teachers plan a program that is developmentally appropriate, focusing on the ‘whole child’ in terms of his/her social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development.”

We are pleased to introduce another campus child care network partner. Meeting House Nursery School is one of Madison’s oldest and finest half-day preschool programs, delighting thousands of children since 1949. The Meeting House is located on University Bay Drive in the heart of west campus. Its mission is to provide children with a play-based curriculum in a welcoming environment that encourages exploration, celebrates the individual, and fosters meaningful relationships. The curriculum at Meeting House Nursery School has always been based upon the importance of free play, a respect for children and their ideas, and the freedom for children to explore and develop relationships.

The program is housed in the west wing of the First Unitarian Church, a building designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and designated as a national landmark. Meeting House has five classrooms and two fenced playgrounds, which offer a variety of large motor equipment and movement opportunities.

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Parker Palmer, founder of the Center for Courage and Renewal, states, “Good teaching cannot be reduced to technique; good teaching comes from the identity and inner life of the teacher.” Courage to Teach focuses neither on pedagogical technique, nor directly on curriculum design or school reform, but rather on renewing the inner lives of professionals in education.

So much is expected of our campus early care and education professionals and they rise to the challenge because we continue to invest in their success. This professional development program is tailored to meet the unique needs of our campus early educators, encouraging them to reconnect to their passions and reach for excellence in their work. In turn, participants will be better able to engage with families and hear their concerns and dreams, become more attuned observers of young children, provide more secure care for our youngest Badgers, and act as the ultimate role models to student teachers and the greater early childhood community.

Candice Wagener

Infant, Early Childhood & Family Mental Health Capstone Program

This current academic year, Tera Sarow and I (both teachers at Eagle’s Wing) have been fortunate to participate in the Infant, Early Childhood & Family Mental Health Capstone program at UW-Madison. We join a cohort of early childhood professionals, including Birth to Three and Head Start providers, mental health clinicians, nurses, specialists, and educators in learning how to provide extremely valuable mental health consultation for young children and their families. Course content is informed by theory and knowledge from developmental, neuroscience, and attachment research. The cohort meets for three days each month, and topics include how to administer and interpret various assessments and screeners for children and families; attachment theory; cultural implications and responsiveness in working with families of various backgrounds; sensory integration; and trauma-informed care. Additionally, the course has a mindfulness component and includes certification in the Newham Behavioral Observation through the Brazelton Institute.

The foundation of all domains of human development is laid in those early years. The need for early evaluation, consultation, evaluation, and intervention is undeniable. Studies indicate that the demand for professionals trained in this specialty is on the rise as the number of infants and young children living with trauma and toxic stress continues to grow. Tera and I are bringing what we learn back to our practice, as well as sharing these teachings with our colleagues at Eagle’s Wing. We have already gleaned so many valuable lessons to make us more responsive, informed, and empathetic in our work with young children and their families. We are each planning a final project that will directly benefit Eagle’s Wing. Tera is working on using video replay to help teachers examine and build their connection to the student-child relationship, while I am creating a dedicated sensory break area at our center. We are deeply grateful to OCCFR and UW-Madison Division of Housing for their funding support and for allowing us to pursue this important opportunity.

Elaine Squire

Help us celebrate campus child care and early education! Join us at Jazzin’ on April 17.

Paying it Forward: Miranda’s Story

According to the Institute for Women’s Policy Research, student parent enrollment in higher education is trending upward. Affordability of quality child care becomes a challenge if a student parent can continue to pursue post-secondary degrees. When a financial emergency strikes, student parents often have nowhere to turn. With private gift dollars, our office offers a one-time grant to help in a time of crisis. Here is a testimonial from Miranda Newman, a student parent who received an award from the Student Child Care Scholarship Grants fund.

Living with wages below the poverty line is a stressful truth for many people. Attempting to continue upper-level education while managing the responsibilities of motherhood is a challenge. Combining the two is plain lunacy; exactly what I am currently undertaking. I often find it difficult to maintain the mental clarity necessary to be a successful student and parent with the weight of potential financial collapse on my shoulders. My experience is not unique but is still uncommon. Yet, I understand that these hardships are those of privilege and I gladly undertake any stress with the hopes of a productive future. With that, I am perpetually grateful for those donors to the Student Child Care Scholarship Grants fund who have generously funded me, and several others, with financial support. Without this aid, I would not have the opportunity to complete my academic aspirations.

Miranda Newman and her son

Development News

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Year-end giving numbers are still being posted to Advancement Resources, but early returns indicate that there has been a 15% increase in gift volume of $100 or more and a 3% increase in gift amounts over last year. The Student Child Care Scholarship Grants fund has seen the most growth as student parent alumni recognize the value of the Child Care Tuition Assistance Program (CCTAP) to their academic success. In turn, they are making a strong commitment to those student parents who are currently enrolled and who follow in their footsteps.

Since we initiated the UW Badger Families for Families campaign, our office has awarded grants to student parents faced with crisis situations that would impede their ability to complete their degrees and/or to sustain upper-level education while managing the responsibilities of motherhood. Facilitated by Mary Peters, MSE, this program is an essential role model for the greater early childhood community. Our goal is a boost in attendance and greater campus visibility. We will let you know the outcome and, as always, we love to see you there!

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The Student Child Care Scholarship Grants fund who have generously gifted me, and several others, with financial support. Without this aid, I would not have the opportunity to complete my academic aspirations.

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Courage to Teach: A Year of Renewal for Campus Early Educators

We appreciate your generous support!

University Staff Child Care Grant

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William Richner
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March 2018-February 2019

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Since we initiated the UW Badger Families for Families campaign, our office has awarded grants to student parents faced with crisis situations that would impede their ability to complete their degrees and/or to pay the cost of care for their children. Last December, we issued two awards. At UW–Madison, children are our primary concern and at the center of all our efforts. Your gifts enable us to make a profound difference in their lives and in the well-being of their teachers and families. Thank you for all you do to support our work and please consider making a gift to Campus Child Care. The giving page on our website, https://occfr.wisc.edu/giving/, provides descriptions and UW Foundation links to our five funds. As always, feel free to contact me with any questions about contributions, programs, or to discuss how you can help with major gifts.

Ten Stratton

Paying it Forward: Miranda’s Story

According to the Institute for Women’s Policy Research, student parent enrollment in higher education is trending upward. Affordability of quality childcare is an issue for a student parent can continue to pursue post-secondary degrees. When a financial emergency strikes, student parents often have nowhere to turn. With private gift dollars, our office offers a one-time grant to help in a time of crisis. Here is a testimonial from Miranda Newman, a student parent who received an award from the Student Child Care Scholarship Grants fund.

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Miranda Newman and her son
The Greater Dane County Early Care and Education Director’s Caucus in collaboration with the Wisconsin Early Childhood Association, the Office of Child Care and Family Resources, Madison Public Libraries, and Satellite Family Child Care presents the second annual Wisconsin Strong! event on April 9, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Madison Central Library, 3rd floor. The purpose of Wisconsin Strong! is to draw intersections between business and early care and education. This year’s event brings together three distinct voices: employers, working parents, and child care programs. Join us for an interactive panel discussion with local stakeholders, facilitated by Adrienne Smolinski, Resource Manager at Total Administrative Resources. The panel will highlight the importance of early care and education, the challenges and solutions of business leaders and parents, and the needs and supports for child care programs. Attendees will have the opportunity to network and discuss ideas for collaboration and innovation.

Wisconsin Strong! encourages community involvement, collaboration, and support for the early care and education sector. It is a celebration of the partnerships that form a strong foundation for children’s development and readiness for success in life. By joining together, we can better support the needs of all young children and their greater support network of early care and education.

Wisconsin Strong! is sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, WOYC first started in 1971 in an effort to promote the academic and professional goals of early childhood professionals. I was deeply impressed, at the keynote stage. They are outstanding and dedicated professionals working to make a difference in young children’s lives.

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Wisconsin Strong! is dedicated to calling attention to young children, their families, and their greater support network of early care and education. Sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, WOYC first started in 1971 in an effort to “plan how we—as citizens of a community, of a state, and of a nation—will better meet the needs of all young children and their families.”