



## Early Childhood Iowa Monday Musings January 26, 2015 2015 Vol. 2, No. 4

Welcome to the ECI **Monday Musings**. It is a compilation of information, practical advice, training announcements, and/or success stories. **Monday Musings** is intended to disseminate information to Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders in a timely fashion. (We may on occasion send out a separate email with information if it needs immediate attention or if for a specific audience.)

Please let us know if you have something you would like to contribute or have suggestions or comments at [jeffrey.anderson@iowa.gov](mailto:jeffrey.anderson@iowa.gov)

**“Conditions are never just right. People who delay action until all factors are favorable do nothing.”**  
-William Feather

### State Information:

#### **NEW: RSVP for the 2015 ECI Day-on-the-Hill March, 5 2015 (RSVP by February 25, 2015)**

The 2015 Early Childhood Day on the Hill event will be held on **Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**! Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend. This year’s event will focus on the importance of brain development in the first 2,000 days of life. The keynote presentation will be given by Dr. Andrea McGuire, followed by regional and individual meetings with legislators. More information will follow closer to the date. To register for the 2015 ECI Day-on-the-Hill: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/66KDPR5>

**A Day-on-the-Hill preparation webinar is planned for February 10, 2015, 9:00 – 11:00 AM. Materials will be presented and well as logistics for the day.**

**To sign up for the February 10 webinar:**  
<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/608060769>

#### **Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) Public Engagement Component Group Seeks *Child at Heart* Nominations (Due January 30)**

Early Childhood Iowa is seeking nominations for its 2015 ***Child at Heart*** award, to be presented on March 5<sup>th</sup>. This award is given annually to one individual who advocates for early childhood at the local level, and one individual who advocates for early childhood at the state level.

Nominations are due by close of business on January 30<sup>th</sup>. ***Instructions for submitting a nomination are attached to the email, as well as an optional toolkit for Early Childhood Iowa Boards or other organizations to use in promoting local recognition.***

Please be aware that nominations can be submitted by anyone; however, this year nominations must include a letter of support from the local ECI Director or Chairperson. ECI Directors/Chairpersons may submit letters on behalf of multiple individuals. The purpose of this new requirement is to promote awareness and communication between the community and ECI Boards.



The awards will be presented during ECI's annual Day on the Hill event. Please take advantage of this opportunity to recognize those who work diligently to advocate for young children.

**Nominations must be submitted to [james.olson@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:james.olson@idph.iowa.gov) no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, January 30, 2015.**

Questions may be directed to James Olson at 515-281-6880 or [james.olson@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:james.olson@idph.iowa.gov).

**Iowa Department of Public Health Seeking Nominations for the Family Support Participant of the Year and the Family Support Professional of the Year. (Due February 18, 2015)**

IDPH has some exciting news from the world of Iowa Family Support and they need your help! This is our chance to recognize and honor the hard work of families and family support professionals in Iowa.

One family and one family support professional will be selected from all nominations received and will be recognized at the opening night reception of the **2015 Child Abuse Prevention and Family Support Conference** (April 13, 2015). The person who has nominated said family or family support professional of the year will be notified via email early March if their nominee has been selected. The conference registration will be coming out soon!

*Please see both nomination forms attached to this email* and feel free to share with others in your agency, your program and as well as family support programs in your area! **Nominations are due no later than February 18, 2015 at 4 p.m** and should be returned via email to PJ West at [pj.west@idph.iowa.gov](mailto:pj.west@idph.iowa.gov). I have included an audio-photography-video consent and release form if needed.

**Annual Condition of Education report is available**

The Iowa Department of Education released the latest edition of the Annual Condition of Education report.

The report provides a wide range of state-level data, including shifts in student populations and demographics, teacher salaries and characteristics, student achievement results and school financial information.

"Data and information are vital in education," Iowa Department of Education Director Brad Buck said. "They help us determine our needs, map out goals and action steps, and then evaluate our progress. We also depend on good data to help guide our improvement efforts, from the local classroom to the state level."

The Condition of Education report contains the most recent data through the 2013-14 school year, unless otherwise noted.

The full report is available on the Iowa Department of Education's [website](#).

## Federal Information: Helping Working Families with Young Children



Helping working Americans meet the needs of their jobs and their families is a key part of the President's plan to bolster and expand the middle class. Access to high-quality child care and early education not only promotes a child's development, but it also helps support parents who are struggling to balance work and family obligations. A safe, nurturing environment that enriches children's development is critical to working families and is one of the best investments we can make in our economy. Yet today, a year of child care costs higher than a year of in-state tuition at most colleges – putting a significant strain on parents.

Last week, President Obama outlined his plan to make affordable, quality child care available to every working and middle-class family with young children. His plan includes:

- Making a landmark investment in the Child Care and Development Fund that helps every eligible family with young children afford high-quality child care.
- Tripling the maximum child care tax credit to \$3,000

per young child.

- Creating a new innovation fund to help states design programs that better serve families that face unique challenges in finding quality care, such as those in rural areas or working non-traditional hours.

See the details here:

[FACT SHEET: Helping All Working Families with Young Children Afford Child Care](#)

## Other Information:

### Early Educators Leadership Conference (National Conference)

#### *Promoting Excellence, A Focus on Competency*

The Council for Professional Recognition's Early Educators Leadership Conference (October 1 -4, 2015) will provide training, innovative tools and presenters to assist early care and education leaders develop a broad vision to advance, and unify the early care and education workforce. **View:** [Full Event Description](#)

### Family Engagement Webinar, February 12, 2015

Join the McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership for a free webinar! [Family Engagement and Marketing: An ECE Leader's Guide to Accomplishing Both](#)

**For more information about Early Childhood Iowa, visit our website:**

<http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org/>

**To join the ECI Stakeholders, please complete the commitment survey at:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FSXR5F2>

**2015 ECI Meeting Calendar:**

**ECI State Board**

10:00 – 1:00

April 3

June 5

September 4 November 6

**ECI State Dept. Directors**

8:30 – 9:30

February 6

March 6

May 1

August 7

October 2

December 4

**ECI Stakeholders Alliance**

3 – 4 Hour meetings

February 10 (Webinar)

March 5 (AM) Held in conjunction with the ECI Day on the Hill

May 12 (PM)

September 8 (AM)

December 8 (PM)

**ECI Steering Committee**

Time Varies

March 12 (9:00 – 4:00 PM)

April 2 (9:00 AM – Noon)

June 4 (9:00 AM – Noon)

August 4 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM)

October 1 (9:00 AM – Noon)

November 5 (9:00 AM – Noon)

**ECI Area Directors**

All day

April 8

(June will be regional meetings)

September 16

(December will be regional meetings)

**Early Childhood Iowa Day on the Hill**

March 5, 2015