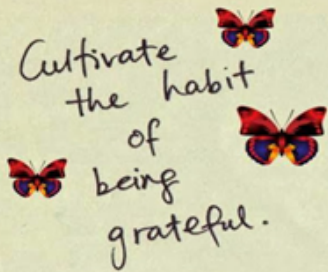


Connections

The EESLPD West Office Newsletter

November 2017

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When November rolls around each year, I am reminded of the promise that I made to myself last year at this time. I make a promise to myself to be grateful for the many blessings that I have in my life but to also making a habit of expressing my gratitude in ways that are limitless and without boundaries. Each year, I go a few weeks putting a lot of effort into telling my children, my husband, friends, and family exactly what they mean to me, describing exactly what I am grateful for and why. I consciously practice random acts of kindness with strangers, making sure to point them out to my children hoping to serve as a model to them for what is good and right in the world.

Then January rolls around and I am vaguely aware that my commitment has faded. Realizing that the calendar does not pause and wait for me to catch back up, I look up and before I know it, here is November again. Guilt swallows me whole, thinking about all of the months that went by that could have been days, minutes, a limitless number of opportunities to express my gratefulness to the ones that I love, the ones who fill my days with joy, and to those who I may not know but may have needed a smile, a hug, or just a small act of kindness to lift their spirits.

Today, here I sit on a chilly day in November, thinking about how I might re-commit to this promise in a way that will ensure that I do not waste any more days, minutes, or the smallest of opportunities to express my gratitude. Then I came across this quote, "Cultivate the habit of being grateful" and realized that maybe this means that being grateful is something that requires work/effort from most of us, it requires us to practice it enough that it becomes a habit....something that we eventually do almost involuntary.

With that, I am challenging you to join me in my effort to "cultivate the habit of being grateful." Today, whether in a quick email, a phone call or a text let someone on this team know that you appreciate them. Let them know that you are grateful for them and why. The "what" doesn't matter, it can be appreciation for their hard work on a task, for saying something that made you smile or made you reflect...anything at all. When you receive your message(s) of appreciation from a team member, take a minute to stop. Stop all of the noise, the hustle and bustle and just feel how great it feels to know that you are appreciated, to know that your teammates are grateful for you. Take that feeling and spread it over and over again through your own expressions of gratitude and kindness. There is something to be said for trading our expectations for appreciation and watching how it changes our lives.

I am grateful for today because it provides me with so many opportunities to do better, to be better at giving thanks.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Amanda

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Supporting Teachers

Supporting teachers as they develop and write their Professional Development Plans.



Teachers often have a difficult time knowing where to start when writing their Professional Development Plans (PDPs). Below are some tips and suggestions (from our Regional Leads) that can help you guide teachers as they develop and write their PDPs.

Things to Keep in Mind:

- PDPs are intended to be professional goals that teachers set for themselves out of their own interests/professional practice areas they want to focus on
- The first post conference is a great opportunity to have a collaborative conversation about professional goals
- 2 PDP goals are generally enough
- Because these goals belong to the teacher, teachers should write them using their own words

Examples of Guiding Questions to Ask Teachers:

- What is important for you to achieve?
- Are there standards, elements or descriptors that jump out as areas you do not feel confident about?
- Do you see yourself growing as a leader, in your classroom, your center, and among colleagues?
- Do you have strategies in place to guide your reflective practices as a teacher?
- Is this goal really achievable by the end of the school year?
- How will you know you have achieved it? What will be evident?

Additional Tips to share with Teachers:

- Begin with the end in mind. Think about what you want to achieve and the steps needed to get there
- Connect your goals to a standard and element
- Rewrite the element as a SMART goal
- Consider using action words like direct, organize, lead, use, plan, reflect, coordinate, build, utilize, etc.

For additional help with guiding a teacher in writing PDP goals, please contact your Regional lead.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Angela Wilson has been a Full-time Mentor and Evaluator with the UNC Charlotte office for 2 years. However, she has been part of our team since 2014 as she previously served as a partner Mentor. Angela says, "the most enjoyable aspect of my vocation, is having the opportunity to build relational bridges and social connections that validate, support, and enhance the awesomely important work for early educators."

Her favorite children's book is *The King, the Mice, and the Cheese*, by Nancy and Eric Gurney

In addition to supporting teachers, she loves HGTV and DIY projects! This past summer, she flipped a house. Angela's next construction project will be building a tiny house!



COLLABORATOR CORNER

Lavonna Ruth has partnered with the EESLPD for 4 years. She currently serves as the Evaluator for 10 teachers!

The three things she enjoys most about this work are the strengths-based approach, observing quality early childhood classrooms, and hearing teachers reflect on their own practice. Her favorite children's book is *Brown Bear Brown Bear*

Outside of work, Lavonna enjoys working in her yard and growing flowers, visiting craft shows, decorating her house for each season, reading, and doing Sudoku puzzles. She is also actively involved in her church.





DID YOU KNOW?

The Introduction Evaluation Resource Manual Link is now available

The following link provides viewers with an introduction to the revised (2016) Resource Manual for Administrators and Principals Supervising and Evaluating Teachers of Young Children, presented by Drs. Rowland and Lambert.

The Resource Manual serves as a very meaningful and practical tool for anyone working with or on behalf of young children. The introductory video will be followed by an interactive module that helps support Mentor/Evaluators in the practical application of the Resource Manual in support of early childhood educators.



This link can also be found on the EESLPD West Office at UNC Charlotte website under the Evaluation Resource Manual page located at the following link:

<https://ceme.uncc.edu/early-educator-support-licensure-and-professional-development-eeslpd-office/evaluation-resource>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November 2017

Part 2 of NC TEP Training

November 17th from 9:00am-4:00pm at UNC Charlotte in Charlotte

Thanksgiving Break (UNC Charlotte Staff)

November 23rd and 24th

Initial PDP locked in NCEES/Home Base (All teachers)

November 30th

December 2017

Regional Team Meetings

December 10th from 10:00am-12:00pm-Team #2 (Joanie Oliphant)

December 5th from 3:00pm-5:00pm-Team #3(Malinda Rathbone)

December 6th from 12:00pm-2:00pm-Team #4 (Stephanie Bridges)

December 6th from 1:00pm-2:00pm-Team #1 (Kyle)

Observation 1 completed in NCEES/Home Base (Continuing-SPII licensed)

December 20th

Observation 2 completed in NCEES/Home Base (Initial-SPI /LE licensed)

December 20th

Winter Break (UNC Charlotte Staff)

December 22nd -January 3rd

For more information about the EESLPD West Office at UNC Charlotte, please follow this link:

<https://ceme.uncc.edu/early-educator-support-licensure-and-professional-development-eeslpd-office>