



CSU Early Childhood Center

2016 Annual Report



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
AND FAMILY STUDIES
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear ECC Family and Friends,

We are delighted to share with you the 2016 ECC Annual Report, with news about the many exciting happenings of the past year. Highlights of 2016 include:

- **ECC children's artwork on public display at MUGS @ the Oval**
- **The IJOYY study (It's Just OK, Yummy, Yucky)**
- **An expanded collaboration with the CSU Department of Occupational Therapy**

The ECC has been in existence as a laboratory school on the CSU campus since 1929 and continues to be a leader in the field of early childhood education. This year we were successfully re-accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, indicating that we adhere to the highest standards for providing the best learning experiences for children. These high standards are essential to both the children in our care and to the development of the early childhood professionals we train.

We invite you to read more about the ECC and our commitment to providing high-quality experiences for future early childhood educators within our Reggio Emilia-inspired environment for young children.

As we look back at 2016, we invite you to look forward with us to 2017. Thank you for being a part of this outstanding community as we serve our threefold mission of teaching, research, and service.

Warmly,

Karen Rattenborg, Ph.D.
CSU ECC Executive Director



Artists in Our Midst

The young toddlers at the CSU Early Childhood Center worked on a long-term painting project during the spring of 2016. It began with their interest in making marks with oil pastel sticks on paper. After careful teacher observation and reflection, a variety of tools and media were offered to the toddlers to extend their interest in making marks. The children were offered pipettes with water color paints and brushes with tempera paint. The toddlers continued exploring this three-step process with a variety of colors for two months.

Towards the end of the spring session, the class moved from individual painting to exploring color palettes together on one large canvas. The young toddlers, ages 1 to 2 years, chose colors in warm tones of red, orange, magenta, and yellow. First they used orange and yellow oil pastel sticks, then they moved on to pipettes with water color paints, and then they ended with different sized paint brushes. We wanted to share our love of painting with the Fort Collins community! On May 5 the children and families gathered to see the canvas installed for public display at MUGS @ the Oval.

The ECC Administrative Team



Karen Rattenborg, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Karen is responsible for the overall administration of all aspects of the ECC operation, maintenance, and growth including strategic planning of research infrastructure; fundraising and strategic development; supervision of ECC senior staff; supervision of budget and HR processes; and direction of grants from the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation, the Poudre School District, and the U.S. Department of Education.



Barbara Benn, M.A.
Director

Barb is in charge of the daily operations of the ECC, ensuring the appropriate implementation of our mission, policies, and procedures in the context of our Reggio Emilia-inspired approach. She is responsible for the adherence to and implementation of all State of Colorado licensing requirements and National Association for the Education of Young Children accreditation standards.



Elizabeth Fannon, M.A.
**Assistant Director and
Coordinator of Student Learning**

Elizabeth provides general support to the ECC as we implement our mission, policies, and procedures in the context of our Reggio Emilia-inspired approach. She also places, mentors, and supervises student teachers, interns, and practicum students at the ECC.



Sara Geyer, B.B.A.
Operations Manager

Sara joined the ECC team in May 2016. In this role, Sara manages the business operations of the ECC, including budget and financial operations, the billing and enrollment processes, and our business and marketing plan.

NAREA SCHOLARSHIP

Karen Rattenborg was awarded a scholarship from the North American Reggio Emilia Alliance for a study tour to Reggio Emilia, Italy. This study tour took place October 15-22 and allowed for the exploration of the historical, cultural, and social contexts of the Reggio Emilia approach to educating young children. Topics covered in presentations included the image of the competent child; teachers as researchers; observation, interpretation, and documentation; children with special rights; the role of the environment; the pedagogy of listening; the 100 languages of children; and parents' involvement in the life of the school.

RESEARCH

Our research mission is to promote diverse opportunities for research related to children, families, and early childhood education.

As such, we support a wide array of research from across CSU related to child development.

The ECC's relationship with RE-Mind, Pyramid, and Motivational School Readiness Assessment continued in 2016.

OBSERVATION OPPORTUNITIES AT THE ECC

Each of the ECC's seven classrooms is equipped with observation technology that provides meaningful applications for CSU students and researchers.

1,060

CSU Student Observations

296

CSU Student Observers

Occupational Therapy and ECC Collaboration

Occupational Therapy graduate students Aaron Manns and Lindsay Guber completed their level II fieldwork at the ECC during the summer of 2016. Aaron and Lindsay were supervised by mentor teachers and Assistant Professor of OT Lisa Fyffe. The expansion of the OT student program at the ECC reflects a larger shift within allied health to transition from a disability-focused, reactionary service model to a more preventative and wellness-oriented service model.

OT is a natural fit within the ECC as the profession focuses on child development and learning through the experience of play. Because the ECC is a Reggio Emilia-inspired lab school, this mindset integrates well with the ECC's philosophy and approach to early childhood education.

The ECC and CSU OT collaborate to enhance children's abilities to play and to embrace the whimsical nature of childhood in order to promote learning and meaningful educational experiences in a healthy, caring, natural environment.



TEACHING

Our teaching mission is to provide hands-on learning opportunities for CSU students interested in working with children and families.

136 CSU students at the ECC in 2016

39 CENTER FOR EDUCATOR PREPARATION STUDENTS

2 Student Teachers
12 Practicum Students
25 Literacy Fieldwork Students

45 FOOD SCIENCE AND HUMAN NUTRITION STUDENTS

7 OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY GRADUATE STUDENTS

45 HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES STUDENTS

26 Practicum Students
13 Interns
6 Honors Students

KAGAWA UNIVERSITY

The ECC continues its ongoing relationship with Kagawa University in Japan.

Professor Yumiko Takagi, the head of the International Exchange Committee of the Faculty of Education, brought three undergraduate students to the ECC to gain first-hand experience in an early childhood education setting in the U.S.

As an exciting extension of our relationship with Kagawa University, we welcomed Haruyo Kurano, a visiting principal from Japan, who participated in an immersive experience at the ECC between August 18-26. Ms. Kurano's visit included a tour of the school, time in observation booths, opportunities to interview directors and teachers, and spending time in classrooms with children.





ECC Annual Sing-Along with Tony Frank

Our annual Sing-Along with CSU President Tony Frank took place on December 5. The children in Room 6 were expressing mixed feelings about the event, and they worked with their teachers to draft the following email to Dr. Frank:

Dear Tony Frank,

We are so excited to come and sing to you on Monday! Some of us are feeling really good to come and sing, others are feeling very excited, and some are feeling kind of scared. Some think we are scared because we are nervous. We have been practicing our songs here a lot, our favorite song to practice here is Jingle Bells! Are you as excited as we are for our Sing-Along? Maybe you can practice our songs with your friends!

Have a good weekend!
Your friends in Room 6

And he wrote back!

Friends in Room 6:

Thanks for your note. I am excited for the Sing-Along! When I became president in 2008 (before many of you were born!), the Sing-Along really cheered me up during a very bad day and I've looked forward to it ever since. I keep a picture from that day hanging in my office.

Since Thanksgiving I have been listening to some holiday music and I listened to a version of Jingle Bells from the 1950s last evening.

Please don't be nervous about the Sing-Along; I'm sure you will do your best and that is all that anyone can expect of any of us. Be proud of yourselves and know that all of us in the Administration Building just look forward to seeing you and your families.

See you next week! – tony

Anthony A. Frank
Chancellor and President, Colorado State University

SERVICE

Our service mission is to provide high quality developmentally appropriate programming for children in partnership with families.

In 2016 the ECC was re-accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Colorado Shines, the new Quality Rating Improvement System in Colorado, assigns a quality program rating to licensed early care and education programs. The ECC has an impressive Colorado Shines program quality rating of four out of five.

139

TOTAL FAMILIES
SERVED

153

TOTAL CHILDREN
SERVED

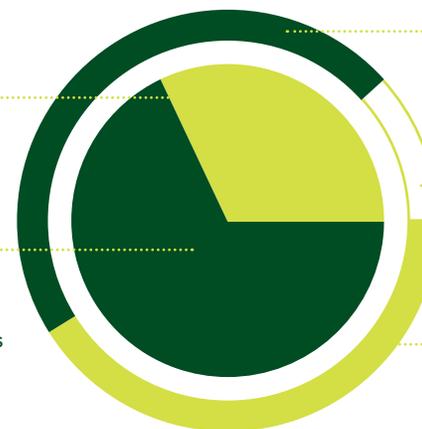
WHO WE SERVED IN 2016

49

INFANTS/
TODDLERS

104

PRESCHOOLERS



72

Children of
CSU faculty or staff

18

Children of CSU
student parents

63

Children from the greater
Fort Collins area

ECC GRANTS

THE TEMPLE HOYNE BUELL FOUNDATION

19

Families served through the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation grant

21

Children served through the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation grant

THE TEMPLE HOYNE BUELL FOUNDATION provides tuition assistance for eligible ECC families and provides funds for wrap-around care for Colorado Preschool Program families.

CCAMPIS FUNDING

\$871,447

CHILD CARE ACCESS MEANS PARENTS IN SCHOOL

The ECC supports student parents through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. CCAMPIS provides financial support for campus-based child care services to income-eligible CSU student parents. Between 2014 and 2018, a total of \$871,447 in CCAMPIS funding is supporting CSU student parents and their children at both the Early Childhood Center and the Sunshine House at CSU.

Who was helped with CCAMPIS funding in 2016?

18 CHILDREN

16 STUDENT PARENTS

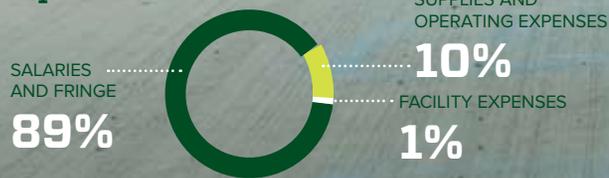
COLORADO PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

The ECC received a two-year grant in 2015 to support a collaboration between the ECC and the Poudre School District. In the first year, this grant provided half-day, part-week slots at the ECC for three PSD children participating in the Colorado Preschool Program, a state-funded early childhood education program run by the Colorado Department of Education. In the second year, PSD doubled its support to expand these slots to full-day participation. This was very exciting as we value the collaboration with the school district.



FINANCIALS

Expenses



Revenue

Revenue for FY16 was **\$1,273,960**, which was funded 100 percent through child care tuition, grants, and fees.

Impact of Private Support

We deeply appreciate the support provided to the ECC by our many generous donors during 2016. Gifts of \$100 and greater are recognized on our ECC Giving Trees mural in the ECC main office. Come visit us to find your name!

Support the ECC Today

In 2016, the ECC was supported by 50 donors, who gave more than \$53,000 in contributions, allowing us to provide additional services and programming support to our children and families. The major funding sources for the ECC in 2016 included the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation and United Way of Larimer County. The ECC also benefited from continued gifts from friends and family of Marie Macy to the Marie Macy Director's Legacy Endowment, as well as a growing number of CSU employees who give via payroll deduction.



To find out how you can partner with the ECC to help us enhance our offerings and make a difference in the lives of our youngest Rams, contact Karen Rattenborg at Karen.Rattenborg@colostate.edu



Early Childhood Center
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Fort Collins, CO 80521

Giving Grows Up

Sowing the seeds for a love of learning during early childhood can reap huge rewards in the future. Likewise, planting seeds of generosity by investing in the ECC can bear fruits beyond expectations. For example, we are pleased to share that for Colorado taxpayers, your next gift to the ECC may qualify for the Colorado Child Care Contribution Credit, which may provide a 50 percent tax credit on state income taxes when your donations promote our child care program. This credit is in addition to federal income tax deductions for charitable contributions. Please consult your tax counsel regarding your unique situation. For more information visit: <http://col.st/s490c>