New credential gives Sullivan students a competitive edge

Sullivan’s Early Childhood Education (ECE) program has been approved by the Kentucky Cabinet for Health & Family Services, the Division of Child Care, to offer the Kentucky Director’s Credential to current Early ECE students and the child care community at large.

Sullivan instructor paved the way

ECE Instructor Vickie Bowman was instrumental in organizing and facilitating the approval process for the Director’s Credential. Ms. Bowman serves as one of five Master Trainers for the state of Kentucky and provides training for Kentuck y. Her knowledge of the process and the overall structure of Kentucky’s KDWS NOW program which oversees Director’s Credential program was an asset when navigating the approval process.

The Director’s Credential is intended to provide education and development in the skill areas needed to manage an early childhood program. Sullivan’s ECE students are fortunate, since the Director’s Credential can be earned as part of their associate degree program. Major courses in knowledge and competencies for the Credential include Regulations & Laws; Ethics; Programming for Families & Children; Supervision & Staff Development; Health & Safety; Financial Management & Marketing; and, Community Collaboration/Resource Management.

Sullivan courses involved with the Director’s Credential are ECE 202 Child Care Administration, ECE 124 Growing Child, and MGT 254 Small Business Management. Sullivan offers these both on campus and online. Graduates of Sullivan’s Early Childhood Education program who earn the Director’s Credential are granted the Credential with their diploma.

The Early Childhood Department is excited to provide this credential for our students and those in the community who wish to further their education in this way. ECE students gain custom edition of new textbook

Thanks to ECE Director Angela Riggs, Sullivan’s Early Childhood Education department will have a new textbook in the Summer 2010 quarter. The Associate degree prepares students to be certified professional nannies, child development center directors/business owners and lead teachers upon graduation. Mrs. Riggs noted, “I saw a need for a textbook to meet the program outcomes but I never found one that was a good fit to meet the needs of our students.” When the current professional nanny text was being printed, Mrs. Riggs decided that she would customize a text specifically for ECE majors at Sullivan. Although she researched databases to find material that was not addressed that were needed to support the curriculum. With little time to consider the magnitude of the project, in January, Mrs. Riggs agreed to build a text that utilized chapters found in the Pearson Custom Library Database and write her own chapters for topics that were not covered, including CPR. Mrs. Riggs has since submitted all her chapters with the unit introductions, table of contents, and index. Thankfully her husband, Nick Riggs, Director of Legal Studies, has been instrumental and supportive during the many late night and weekend hours it took to complete the project. But, my daughter, Shelby stated that she did not want me to do this again and she is glad to have her mom back!”

Legal Administrative Professional student Rodnitia Allen has been busy working towards success. Beginning college in Elizabethtown, she thought she wanted to be a teacher, but when she realized teaching was not for her, Rodnitia enrolled in courses at Sullivan University’s Fort Knox campus to prepare for an administrative office career. Working with attorneys and other legal professionals at First Federal Savings Bank helped her to decide that the legal field would be a good fit for her. Rodnitia transferred to the Legal Administrative Professional program on Sullivan’s main campus in Louisville. Dedication and persistence have led to excellent grades and outstanding administrative skills. Rodnitia has not only met the requirements for her Associate degree, she has also earned Microsoft Certified Application Specialist certification for both Microsoft Word 2007 and Microsoft Excel 2007.

Sullivan internship results in great new career

Rodnitia’s excellent qualifications enabled her to be hired for an internship at O’Bryan, Brown & Toner PLLC. She impressed her colleagues with her “extremely knowledgeable and encouraging” and plans to continue her education at Sullivan in the Paralegal program. Congratulations, Rodnitia!

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

You can almost hear RaiShon Batts say “coochy coochy coo” as she tickles a baby with a CPR teaching device.

Sullivan’s ECE department is fortunate to have staff member Michael O’Reilly, as an excellent medical officer and a qualified CPR trainer. Angela Riggs, ECE Director stated, “Mr. O’Reilly works very hard to ensure our students are trained in the most current procedures, with attention to detail and plenty of interesting stories with humor infused into the six hour training to keep students engaged.”

The ECE department utilizes Mr. O’Reilly’s other expertise, too. He performs the drug test screenings each quarter to ensure our students are drug free. Mr. O’Reilly also complies with policies for externship placement. Always ready to assist if an emergency arises during the 4C’s (CPR training) class, O’Reilly has been a welcome addition to the year campus for early childhood education professional development workshops, O’Reilly stays busy serving as a valuable resource, consultant and teacher to Sullivan’s ECE students.