Race to the Top

11.1 ECADA Grants and
11.2 Innovation Grants

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11.1 ECADA

• ECADA – Early Childhood Associate Degree Accreditation via NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children)

• Prior to the grant, 22 early childhood associate degree programs were accredited.
11.1 ECADA Outcomes

• The grant supported mentors who helped colleges through the self study process, paid for the expenses related to the peer review site visits, and accreditation fees.

• 14 community colleges in NC received their NAEYC ECADA accreditation thanks to the support of this grant.

• At the end of the grant, 36 of the 58 community colleges in NC are now accredited.

• Additionally, one college had their site visit in the fall and another is scheduled to have their site visit in the spring of 2016.
Now that more than half of all community colleges in NC are now accredited, we are examining the impact of ECADA accreditation on broader early childhood systems.

- TEACH Scholarship
- Articulation

The mentoring system established by the grant has created a faculty community that continues to reach out to colleges who are not yet accredited.

NCCCS is currently working with NAEYC on a research project that looks to use accreditation to expand articulation opportunities within the state.
11.2 Innovation

• Innovation Grants
  – College Innovations (part 1)
  – Growing Greatness (part 2)
11.2 Innovation (part 1) Outcomes

- **Blue Ridge CC** - Expanded bi-lingual books available for students, **collaborated with developmental instructors** to co-teach entry level coursework (DRE and EDU 119), Spanish version of EDU 119 was created and offered online

- **Craven CC** – Created online course content/videos to support content delivery; Expanded access to Foundations

- **Durham CC** – Customized EDU 119 and co-req ACA 122 with English as a second language infused content

- **Gaston College** – Remediation modules created for EDU 119. Writing Center **expanded services** for students in this course.
11.2 Innovation (part 1) Outcomes

- **Haywood CC** – Expanded **course integration and access** for DRE, ACA, and EDU 119; DRE courses now directly connected to EDU 119

- **Stanly CC** – Created **learning community** for students enrolled in EDU 119, ACA, and DRE courses. Learning community graduates continued as a cohort in coursework after the first four courses were completed

- **Wake CC** – Hired **bilingual instructor** and **expanded access to ESL courses** - EDU 119, 153, 131, and 144

- **Wayne CC** – **Expanded access** to EDU 119, EDU 131, EDU 146, and EDU 153; **Created weekend cohorts** for students to support community need for course access outside of weekday/online offerings
11.2 Innovation Growing Greatness (part 2)

- **Objective 1** - Incorporate an explicit & intentional emphasis on and alignment with *Foundations* and NC formative assessments to embed in NCECE course work.

- **Objective 2** - Provide a sequence of professional development for NC ECE faculty to support the use of current evidence-based content and methods in coursework and programs.

- **Objective 3** - Update the program of study to support enhanced career pathways for ECE professionals.

- **Objective 4** - Increase pathways for ECE professionals through articulation and collaboration.
11.2 Innovation Growing Greatness (part 2) Outcomes

- Partnered with NC CCR&R to distribute the updated Foundations document to Community College EC degree programs

- Provided ECE faculty with a link to Foundations post on Department websites

- All courses have been reviewed, course descriptions changed if needed, and SLO’s written or revised

- Courses aligned with NAEYC Standards, B-K standards, NC Professional Teaching Standards, INTASC standards, and DEC recommendations

- *Careers in Early Childhood*, a North Carolina Directory, 4th edition, 2015 - a copy was provided to each college at Caraway and electronic link. This document is to be used to support career exploration.
11.2 Innovation Growing Greatness (part 2) Outcomes

• Professional development was provided for faculty for the following topics:
  – Pathways
  – Intensive Behavior Strategies in Foundations
  – Health Expectations in Child Care Centers
  – Evidence based practices to enhance activities and assignment resources
  – NC Early Childhood Teacher Assessment Tool
  – Articulation
  – Formative assessment in outdoor education
11.2 Innovation Growing Greatness (part 2) Outcomes

• Growing Greatness worked with CCSA/ALT articulation coordinator to expand opportunities for articulation.

• Creating a chart of EDU courses that articulate to BK programs. A draft of this document was shared at Caraway and will be sent electronically when complete.
11.2 Innovation Growing Greatness (part 2) Outcomes

- Engaged in discussions with NCCCS and high school articulation partners to ensure connections to ECE degree opportunities (CCP)
  - Discussions with DPI have continued about how to strengthen college to career pathways.
    - pre-qualifications
    - cut scores regarding the DCDEE credential
    - held initial working session of EC high school continuing education and community college faculty
11.2 Innovation Growing Greatness (part 2) Outcomes

• Engaged ECE partners in discussions about increasing the use of college credits across systems and strategies
  – Ed2Career Summits
  – A focus group of business partners was scheduled held online with employers.
11.2 Innovation Growing Greatness (part 2) Outcomes

• Growing Greatness faculty worked to create textbook free course content

• Worked to expand accessibility (ADA compliance) with online course access by providing closed captioning for video resources

• Reached out to Head Start partners and identified strategies to support their needs for workforce access to CDA credits and degrees
11.2 Innovation Next Steps

- All core courses now have Foundations and Formative Assessment imbedded content. Faculty will work will continue after the grant ends to infuse technology into all core courses.

- Spring and Fall NCACCESS meetings will reinforce support of the new Course Descriptions, SLO’s and informing local colleges about Program of Study options

- NCACCESS will promote professional development opportunities related to core course SLO’s.

- NCCCS will continue to work with NAEYC on a research project to expand accreditation and articulation opportunities within the state.
For more information:

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