

# **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.

# 11.1 ECADA – Next Steps

- 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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