

## ECHO Fact Sheet

Early Childhood Higher Education Options (ECHO) is a consortium of university faculty from public and private Kansas institutions working together to meet the teacher standards specified by the Kansas State Board of Education for the Early Childhood Unified License.

These faculty members are working collaboratively to:

- Develop institutional curricula that meet the licensure standards
- Develop courses to be shared inter-institutionally
- Develop learning resources to support on-campus instruction

### ECHO Participants

College/University	Faculty Representative(s) at ECHO Meetings
Associated Colleges of Central Kansas	Jeanne Schweitzer
Emporia State University	Eileen Hogan
Fort Hays State University	Art Hoernicke
Kansas State University	Mary Deluccie, Browyn Fees, Ann Murray, LuAnn Hoover
Pittsburg State University	Duane Whitbeck, Jan Vetter-Barkley, Marti York
Southwestern College	Shawn Neises
University of Kansas	Eva Horn, Barbara Thompson, David Lindeman
Wichita State University	Linda Mitchell
Washburn University	Judith McConnell

Other Representation at ECHO Meetings: Kansas State Department of Education, Kansas Board of Regents, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, Kansas Access to Early Childhood Higher Education Committee

### ECHO Consortium Achievements

- Supported university redesign of curriculum to address unified early childhood license/teacher or standards based degree program
- Completed a survey of faculty to identify potential course needs
- Development of courses by inter-institutional faculty teams to address core program needs

### Courses Being Developed with ECHO Resources

The following courses are designed to be Internet-based and available to students at all participating universities.

Working Course Title	Partners in Development:
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	Lead	Support
Intro/Overview of Early Childhood	McConnell/Washburn	Horn/KU Neises/Southwestern
Diversity	Hornieke/FHSU	Thompson/KU DeLuccie/KSU
Collaboration	Schweitzer/ACCK	DeLuccie/KSU Mitchell, WSU
Curriculum/Methods (Infant-Toddler)	Michell/WSU	Fees/KSU McConnell/Washburn
Curriculum/Methods (PreK)	Horn/KU	Vetter-Barkley/PSU Neisis/Southwestern
Social Competence/Social Development	Whitbeck/PSU	Fees/KSU, Horn/KU
Math/Science Methods	Neisis/Southwestern	DeLuccie/KSU Whitbeck/PSU
Literacy/Language Development	Crowe/KSU	Neisis/Southwestern Hornieke/FHSU
Creative Expressions	Thompson/KU	Hoover/KSU Hornieke/FHSU
Assessment of Young Children	Murray/KSU	York/PSU, Angie/ACCK McConnell/Washburn

### Utility of ECHO Developed Courses

- If a program does not have the necessary resources to offer a particular course – college/university could utilize collaborative offering
- If a student(s) needs a particular course to fill their plan of study and their program does not offer the semester they need it
- Faculty will have the opportunity to work and learn from each other and have the potential for new/additional information to be available for their in-house courses
- Teachers in the field will have additional options for re-certification/licensure

### ECHO Next Steps

- Seek continued support of Deans in development of collaborative strategies to meet the state standards for Early Childhood Unified Licensure.
- Meet with appropriate administrators (Deans, Associate Deans, Department Chairs, Financial Officers, faculty) to identify institutional needs and constraints, relative to sharing courses inter-institutionally and begin to formalize an inter-institutional early childhood education alliance.

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