



Early Childhood Care and Education Best Practices Sharing Session

August 26, 2020

Attendees:

1. Dr. Nathalie Dames -TCSG
2. Jennifer Roberts - Gwinnett Technical College
3. LaVerne Pruitt - Georgia Northwestern Technical College
4. Nan Walker - Atlanta Technical College
5. Tamika Brundidge - Chattahoochee Technical College
6. Rita Parmer - Columbus Technical College
7. Cristina Tippy - Central Georgia Technical College
8. Becky Lansing - West Georgia Technical College
9. Diane Griffin - Lanier Tech
10. Lisa White - Athens Technical College
11. Mindy Sumner - Southeastern Technical College Vidalia
12. Jim Gale - Atlanta Technical College
13. Kay Wilson - Southeastern Tech
14. Kalista Green - Coastal Pines Technical College
15. Ruth Nimmer - Coastal Pines Technical College
16. Diane McHughes - Southern Crescent Technical College
17. Dianne Callaway - Southern Crescent Technical College
18. Kathy Weber - Southern Crescent Technical College
19. Rita Parmer - Columbus Technical College
20. Cathy Hoover
21. Betsey Bouwhuizen
22. Angie Minish
23. Angela Robinson
24. Sherry Lowery
25. Paula Clifton
26. James Peas
27. Phoebe Coquerel
28. Lourdes Dumke
29. Carolyn F Jones
30. Jennifer Roberts
31. Valerie Tisby
32. Susan McKoy
33. Christy Bivins

Points of Discussion:

The purpose of this meeting was to address issues and concerns related to internship and practicum for the fall 2020 term. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic some of the colleges were having issues with placement. The goal of the meeting was to discuss some possible strategies for those colleges that were experiencing issues with placement.

Discussion Notes:

- Bright from the Start (BTFS) does not want to put out a statement that students are not allowed to go into the childcare facilities.
- Only some colleges were having issues with finding a facility for placement, while others were not in the same situation.
- We are here to assist with strategies for finding placement if possible.
- If you are in a place where you do not have any opportunities to place the students, making decisions for an alternative would be a college level decision. Alternative assignments should be a last resort.



Students do not have to complete internship or practicum in their preferred age group. All (students and faculty) must be flexible in finding placement sites during this time.

- Emphasis was placed on it not being mandatory for instructors to visit their students in the childcare centers or schools during this time. Think outside the box. Use virtual platforms to meet the observation requirements if necessary.
- Athens Technical College had a great experience with getting immediate feedback from principals, directors, and school board members. Communication was key in getting all students placed a week before the term started.
- Southeastern Technical College, Swansboro had a great experience seeking out old partners that they may not have worked with for a while as well as finding new partners.
- Georgia Piedmont: Local schools are beginning to transition away from a completely virtual school year to putting plans in place for face to face instruction. This has made placement easier. Having a good relationship with the child care centers is the best thing that can be done for any internship or practicum partnership. The main campus in DeKalb County is in a high risk spot and the schools are not taking any students. Due to the relationships with the child care centers in the surrounding counties, Rockdale and Newton, they were able to offer this solution to their students. Students that were not able to take this opportunity understood that they would need to delay those courses until the next semester. Do the best that you can to assist your students.
- Southern Crescent: Their previous issue was that although they had a childcare center on campus, the students needing internship and practicum placement were not considered essential and therefore the childcare center was reluctant to place their students. The designation of essential vs nonessential was determined by the childcare centers. The childcare center director consulted with their licensing consultant who informed them that it was up to the center director. This issue has been resolved and the students were placed. Centers have stated that they cannot guarantee they will be open the entire semester or the utilization of students during the semester. They are currently exploring options such as alternative assessments to utilize for the contact hours.
- Alternative assignments and any other deviations should be decided at the college level in conjunction with your college level leadership.
- If you are dealing with limitation on the numbers of students placed for internship or practicum be sure to consider where the student is in their program and if there are other courses that are more appropriate. If it is determined that the students must take the course to graduate this semester be sure to document how you are allocating hours using alternative assessments. Use a detailed plan that itemizes the assessments/activities, how many hours it represents and how it aligns with the practicum or internship experience.
- We are all in this together. Continue to use the list serve. Reach out to individual faculty members at other colleges for additional resources and to share ideas.