

FALL 2015

the

# TECTA TIMES

Volume 7, Issue 1

Special Edition: TECTA Student Success



## Declarations from the Program Director

In this issue of our TECTA Newsletter we have chosen to showcase a few of our most recent TECTA supported students and highlight their accomplishments. The foundation for children's future success in school and in life is largely influenced by those who are working with those children in their child care arrangements. The powerful impact of early experiences through positive teacher-child relationships can be built through responsive caregiving and teaching. When adults gain new knowledge, skills and abilities and then apply them to their practices with young children the impact can be strengthened.

For over 20 years, the TECTA program has maintained a system of professional development and academic support opportunities for thousands of Tennessee's child care providers. The TECTA network of professional development support begins with TECTA Orientation and encourages all students to reach their personal professional development goals. Many of our supported students struggle with classes that are a part of a degree requirement, or they experience personal health or family crises. TECTA staff provide the "You can do this" throughout the journey.

As a single mother of young children working in child care when I went back to school to finish my Masters degree, I am well aware of the many challenges our students face in balancing home, school and work. I recognize the sacrifices and the determination it takes to reach professional development milestones and major accomplishments. We at TECTA share the belief that inner strength comes from a solid network of support that validates our student's abilities and offers encouragement when things go wrong.

This issue features some of the 2015 program year graduates and some that completed TECTA Orientation and the TECPAC Academies. I hope you enjoy reading this issue as we share in celebrating the accomplishment of the students featured. Of course there are other students who may not be pictured here but we acknowledge their professional development journey and remain steadfast in our efforts in encouraging all on a pathway of steady progress.

***Lin Venable***

TECTA Interim Program Director



Lin Venable serves as TECTA's  
Interim Program Director

## Special Edition: TECTA Student Success

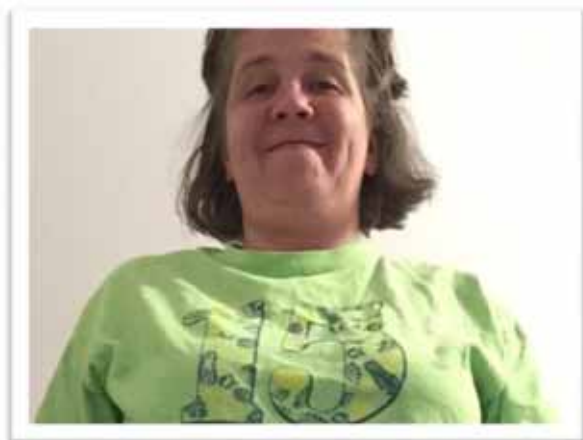


**Lori Garner**  
Associate of Applied Science  
Early Childhood Education  
Nashville State Community College  
(Tennessee State University)



**Myungsook Son (right)**  
Associate of Applied Science  
Early Childhood Education  
Roane State Community College

Myungsook Son received her Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education with assistance from the Roane State TECTA site. She graduated Magnum Cum Laude on May 8, 2015.



**Alexis Schwill**  
Southwest Tennessee Community College

TECTA met Alexis Schwill during an Orientation in 2008. At that time, she was not able to enroll in academic courses for personal reasons. She has now enrolled in courses to earn her Associate of Applied Science degree.



**Meagan Wells (left)**  
Technical Certificate  
Early Childhood Education  
Roane State Community College

Meagan Wells received her Technical Certificate in Early Childhood Education on May 8, 2015. She graduated with a 4.0 grade point average. She is currently working on an Associate of Applied Science degree.





Kristi Webb (second from right)  
Associate of Applied Science  
Early Childhood Education  
Roane State Community College

Wanda Risner has owned and operated a child care center for eight years. She recently earned a CDA Credential. She now plans to pursue the Administrator Credential and an Associates degree.



Wanda Risner  
Child Development Associate Credential  
Austin Peay State University



Meghan Padgett  
Child Development Associate Credential  
Tennessee Tech University

*"I want to say a big thank you to TECTA! Without them, I wouldn't be able to be where I am now. They have supported me financially by paying a big part of my college classes as well as providing the books I needed for the classes. They have been a huge support and blessing."*

- Meghan Padgett



Faith Caldwell  
Associate of Applied Science  
Early Childhood Education  
Chattanooga State Community College

Faith Caldwell is a 2015 graduate and TECTA supported student. She was recognized by the Early Childhood Education department as an Outstanding Early Childhood Student.



**Deonza Turner**  
 Technical Certificate and  
 Associate of Applied Science  
 Early Childhood Education  
 Dyersburg State Community College



**Center-Based Orientation Class**  
 Roane State Community College



**Latangela Johnson**  
 Associate of Applied Science  
 Early Childhood Education  
 Chattanooga State Community College

Latangela Johnson is a 2015 graduate and TECTA supported student. She was recognized by the Early Childhood Education department as an Outstanding Early Childhood Student.



**Kimberly Whiteside**  
 Bachelor of Science  
 Early Childhood Education  
 University of Memphis  
 (Southwest Tennessee Community College Site)

Kimberly Whiteside began her academic journey with TECTA in 2009. She graduated from the University of Memphis in May 2015.



Nedra parks earned a CDA Credential. Nedra works at Siskin Children's Institute. The majority of her children are children with special needs.

**Nedra Parks**  
Child Development Associate Credential  
Chattanooga State Community College



**Susan Johnson**  
Associate of Applied Science  
Early Childhood Education  
Chattanooga State Community College



**Carolyn Gordon**  
Technical Certificate and  
Associate of Applied Science  
Early Childhood Education  
Nashville State Community College  
(Tennessee State University Site)

Carolyn Gordon wanted to complete her A.A.S. in Early Childhood Education by the time she turned 50, and she did! Carolyn also received her Technical Certificate on May 11, 2015.

Mary Shell received her Bachelor of Science degree from Milligan College with support from the ETSU TECTA site.



**Mary Shell (right)**  
Associate of Applied Science  
Early Childhood Education  
Milligan College  
(East Tennessee State University Site)





*"Thanks to TECTA, this summer I took yet another early childhood course but this one was a very fast pace, 5 weeks! Ms. Claudia had faith in me and knew I could do it, even when I had self-doubt. Yet again, I did it; in fact, I made another A in the class, yeah! Hard work and dedication does pay off."*

- Stella Cook

**Stella Cook**  
Currently pursuing a  
Child Development Associate Credential  
Austin Peay State University



**Shanta Hampton**  
Technical Certificate  
Nashville State Community College  
(Tennessee State University Site)



**Joya Cole**  
Tennessee Tech University

*"I encourage everyone to take the classes offered through TECTA, their team is always available to assisting you from financial aid, beginning your education or continuing on to get your degree. I*

*hope that the TECTA Program will be continued*

*for years to come, their professionalism and team effort has been an awesome experience for me. I am thankful for the opportunity that has been given to me and I will continue to spread the word about the TECTA program."*

- Joya Cole



**Hillary Vonderheide**  
Associate of Applied Science  
Early Childhood Education  
Volunteer State Community College  
(Tennessee State University Site)

# The Times Spotlight:

## TECPAC

### Administrator Academy Graduates



Tara M. Hurdle is a 2015 recipient of the Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential.

*"I am excited not only for myself but my center, my staff, my children and my families to continue those things I've started in the academy. Again I am grateful for the opportunity, the growth and the experiences!"*

- Tara M. Hurdle

*"As I reflect back to my journey, I would admit it has impacted my administrating skills tremendously! I have gained not only skills but also knowledge, forms, ideas, and individual accomplishment. I feel that the children, families, teachers, and our programs have also benefitted from TECPAC greatly."*

- Debbie Snyder



Debbie Snyder is a 2015 recipient of the Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential.



## CONFERENCE CALL

Mark your calendars for these upcoming conferences and events.

### **National Head Start Association (NHSA)**

#### **2016 Winter Leadership Institute**

"The Next Generation of Commitment"

Hyatt-Regency  
Washington, DC

**February 1-4, 2016**

<http://www.nhsa.org/events-and-news/event/2016-winter-leadership-institute>

### **Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA)**

#### **67th Annual SECA Conference**

"The Whole Child in Harmony"

Hyatt-Regency  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

**February 11-13, 2016**

[www.southerlyearlychildhood.org/](http://www.southerlyearlychildhood.org/)

### **2016 Children's Advocacy Days**

"Under Construction: Building the Next Generation"

War Memorial Auditorium  
Nashville, Tennessee

**March 8-9, 2016**

[www.tn.gov/tccy/](http://www.tn.gov/tccy/)

### **Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance (TECTA)**

#### **Annual Steering Committee Meeting**

Tennessee State University

**March 17, 2016**

[www.tecta.info](http://www.tecta.info)

### **Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance (TECTA)**

#### **Annual Higher Education Institute**

Tennessee State University

**March 18, 2016**

[www.tecta.info](http://www.tecta.info)

### **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Young Child Expo & Conference**

The Wyndham New Yorker Hotel  
New York, New York

**April 13-15, 2016**

[www.youngchildexpo.com/](http://www.youngchildexpo.com/)

### **Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance (TECTA)**

#### **Eight Annual Summer Research Institute**

Tennessee State University

**May 21, 2016**

[www.tecta.info](http://www.tecta.info)

### **National Education of Young Children (NAEYC)**

#### **2016 National Institute for Early Childhood**

#### **Professional Development**

Baltimore, Maryland

**June 6-8, 2016**

[www.naeyc.org/institute/](http://www.naeyc.org/institute/)

### **2016 NAFCC National Association for Family Child Care Annual Conference**

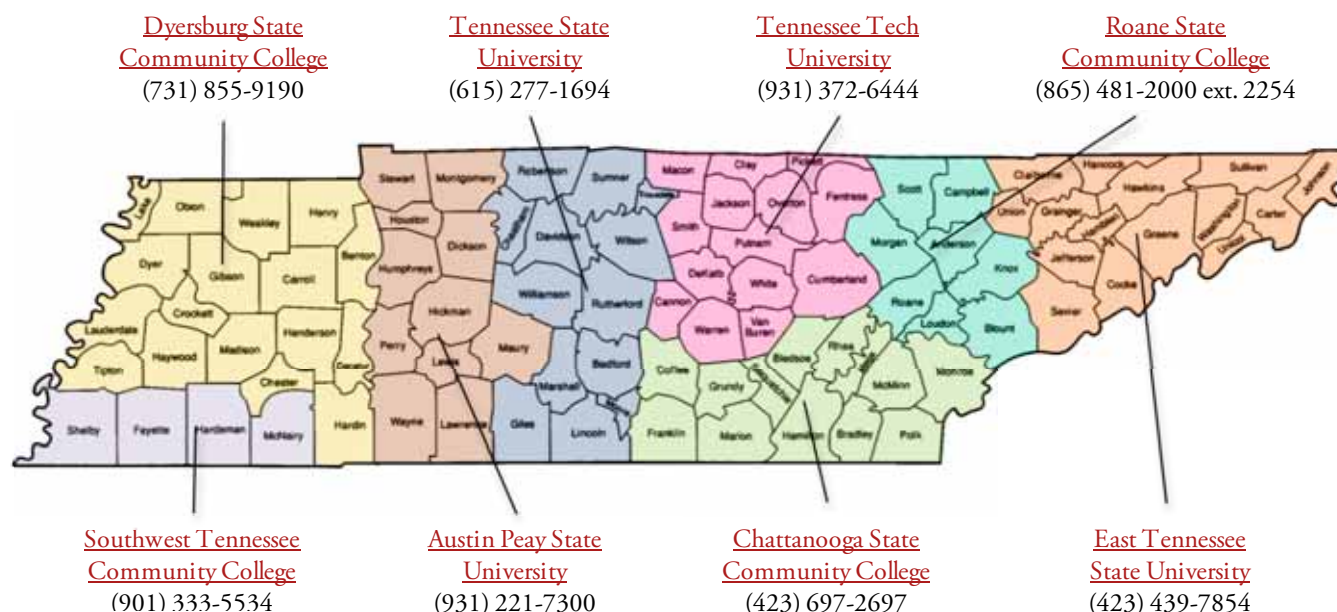
"Family Child Care Strengthens America: Red, White and You!"

San Diego, California

**July 6-9, 2016**

[www.nafcc.org](http://www.nafcc.org)

## CONTACT THE TECTA SITE IN YOUR REGION FOR MORE INFORMATION



### The TECTA Service Areas

The institutions currently selected by the statewide management office to serve as coordinating institutions are:

| <u>APSU</u> | <u>CSCC</u> | <u>DSCC</u> | <u>ETSU</u> | <u>RSCC</u> | <u>STCC</u> | <u>TSU</u> | <u>TTU</u> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| Dickson     | Bledsoe     | Benton      | Carter      | Anderson    | Fayette     | Bedford    | Cannon     |
| Hickman     | Bradley     | Carroll     | Claiborne   | Blount      | Hardeman    | Cheatham   | Clay       |
| Houston     | Coffee      | Chester     | Cocke       | Campbell    | McNairy     | Davidson   | Cumberland |
| Humphreys   | Franklin    | Crockett    | Grainger    | Knox        | Shelby      | Giles      | Dekalb     |
| Lawrence    | Grundy      | Decatur     | Green       | Loudon      |             | Marshall   | Fentress   |
| Lewis       | Hamilton    | Dyer        | Hamblen     | Morgan      |             | Robertson  | Jackson    |
| Maury       | Lincoln     | Gibson      | Hancock     | Roane       |             | Rutherford | Macon      |
| Montgomery  | Marion      | Hardin      | Hawkins     | Scott       |             | Sumner     | Overton    |
| Perry       | McMann      | Haywood     | Jefferson   |             |             | Trousdale  | Pickett    |
| Stewart     | Meigs       | Henderson   | Johnson     |             |             | Williamson | Putnam     |
| Wayne       | Monroe      | Henry       | Sevier      |             |             | Wilson     | Smith      |
|             | Moore       | Lake        | Sullivan    |             |             |            | Van Buren  |
|             | Polk        | Lauderdale  | Unicoi      |             |             |            | Warren     |
|             | Rhea        | Madison     | Union       |             |             |            | White      |
|             | Sequatchie  | Obion       | Washington  |             |             |            |            |
|             |             | Tipton      |             |             |             |            |            |
|             |             | Weakley     |             |             |             |            |            |

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