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New Haven

GCC 1st In Connecticut To Earn NAEYC Accreditation

On Campus

Submitted by Alison Skratt, Gateway Community College, on 2010-08-03.

Gateway Community College's early childhood education associate degree program has become the first in Connecticut to earn accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

The seven-year accreditation by the NAEYC's Commission on Early Childhood Associate Degree Accreditation means that the program's curriculum and faculty meet the highest national standards.

Founded in 1926, the NAEYC is the largest and most influential voice for early childhood education professionals and the field of early childhood education in the United States. The association began accrediting associate degree programs in 2006 and has since accredited 113 programs, or about 10 percent of eligible associate degree programs in the nation.



Gateway Community College

Joshua Berrios, right, reads to children at Gateway Community College's Early Learning Center. Berrios, a graduate of GCC's early childhood education degree program, is employed at the center.

GCC's early childhood education program was the first in the state to apply for NAEYC accreditation. The degree programs at the state's other 11 community colleges are still in the "self-study" process of applying, said GCC program coordinator Susan Logston.

"I am extremely proud of our outstanding faculty for this achievement," said GCC president Dr. Dorsey L. Kendrick. "This seal of approval from the NAEYC validates our associate of science degree in early childhood education as nationally transferable and adds value for our students."

The NAEYC is the latest organization to signify that GCC programs meet rigorous national standards. GCC's nursing, dietetic technology and radiation therapy degree programs recently received re-accreditation.

GCC's early childhood education associate degree program prepares students to teach in preschool

settings and includes student teaching at facilities like GCC's Early Learning Center, a fully licensed and nationally accredited lab school for children aged 3-5 located on the college's Long Wharf campus. For more information, visit www.gwcc.commnet.edu.

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