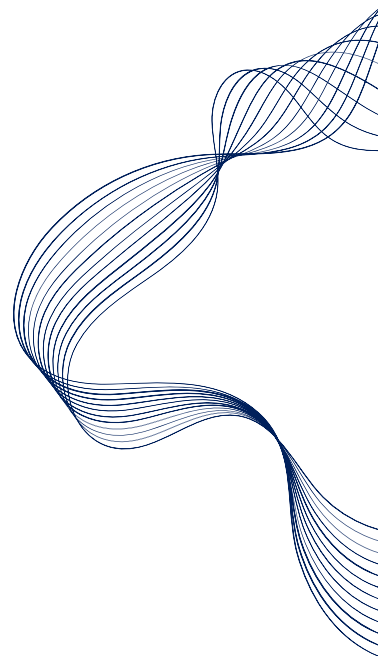


**BACK TO
WORK**

Summer 2022 Participant Newsletter

100%
of participants
were impacted
by COVID-19



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL
LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

Back to Work:
Early Childhood Education
Scholarship Program

4891 Independence St., Suite 140 | Wheat Ridge, CO 80033 | Ph: (720) 899-3048 | www.ecclacolorado.org/backtowork



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL
LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE



Congratulations!

You are one semester closer to completing your Early Childhood Credential!

Another semester has come and gone, but you should be proud of your achievement and your continued dedication to make a difference in the lives of Colorado's Children and families.

As a reminder, **don't forget to update your Expense Report if you have expenses that need to be paid.** If other expenses come up during the semester, just update the form and email the Navigator! To update the form, visit this link, login to your account, click Scholarship Packet on the left-hand side of the page.

Please reach out to the ECE Scholarship/Career Navigator with any questions or concerns that you have throughout the semester. The Navigator can support you in **any of the following areas:**

- Support in enrollment, registration, understanding the total cost of obtaining your degree, CAFSA, FAFSA, financial aid, scholarships, and more!
- Support in navigating institutional barriers, academic hurdles, and social, wellness, familial, and personal concerns
- 1:1 support to ensure progression toward the completion of your credential/degree
- Support in connecting to resources, careers, and transitioning back into the workforce

Thank you for your hard work. We see and appreciate all of the work you are doing. Feel free to reach out at any time with any questions or concerns!

Thank You!



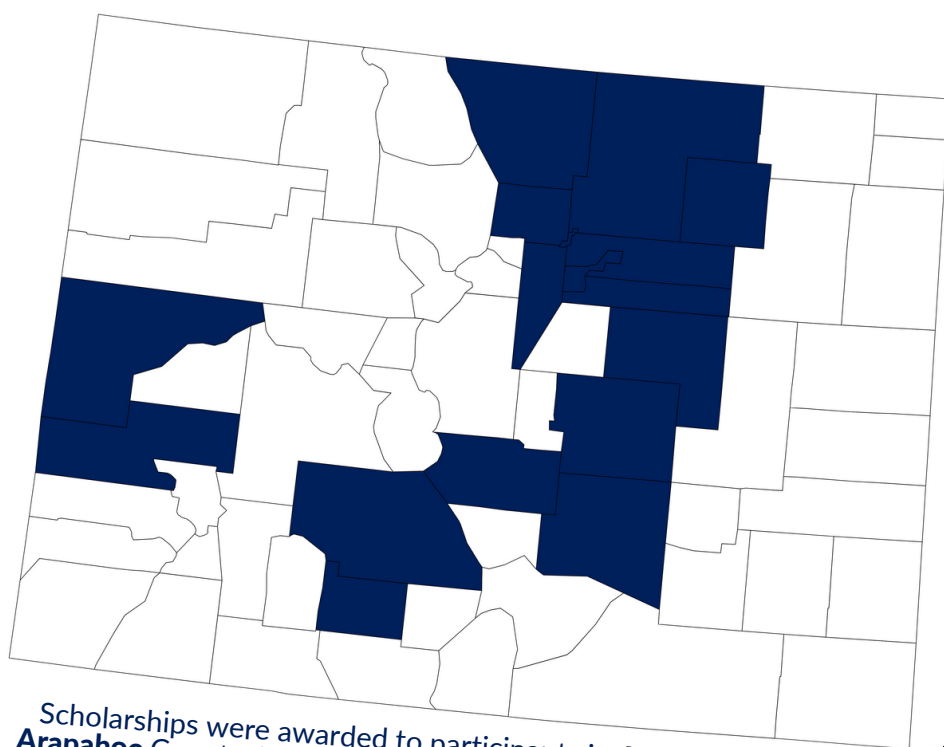
EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL
LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE

**BACK TO
WORK**

The Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance (ECCLA) is proud to partner with the Colorado Department of Higher Education's COSI program to help provide the education and training you need for your next job in the Early Childhood field, through the new Back to Work Grant!

Across the state, there are only enough licensed child care services for 45 percent of the 256,000 kids birth to age six with working parents. There is a substantial increase in the need for early childhood teachers and leaders – between 33-43% (depending on job category) through 2025. Back to Work is a strategy that helps to support increased capacity and quality for young children while increasing education for professionals.

Back to Work: Early Childhood Education is a scholarship program that works to support Coloradans that have experienced an economic loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as lost or adverse changes in employment, increased food or housing insecurity, had to withdraw from college after March 13, 2020, or suffered another form of economic loss. The Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance (ECCLA) is an equal opportunity scholarship provider. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, gender, age, national origin, ancestry, disability, marital status, military status, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression in any of its activities or operations.



Scholarships were awarded to participants in **Adams County, Arapahoe County, Boulder County, Broomfield County, Denver County, Elbert County, El Paso County, Fremont County, Jefferson County, Larimer County, Mesa County, Montrose County, Morgan County, Pueblo County, Rio Grande County, Saguache County, and Weld County.**

**BACK TO
WORK**



IMPACT

32 Recipients



Congrats!

88

Credits
Completed

3.20

Average GPA

0

Degrees
Completed

2

Certificates
Completed

\$25,000



Scholarships
Awarded



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL
LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE



Congratulations to Summer 2022 Graduates!

BACK TO
WORK



VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Participants are at the heart of the Back to Work: Early Childhood Education Scholarship Program. **And their stories matter.**



Meet Carol

"I have been in child care for almost 6 yrs. I walked into the Kinder Haus in Jan of 2017 not knowing a single thing about childcare and what it involves. I know I had babysat all my younger life and thought it can't be that hard. Oh boy was I wrong! I walked in as a teacher aid, and in two months, I was asked if I would be willing to take college courses so I jumped on the chance and registered that upcoming semester. I finished my classes and became the lead teacher in the Butterfly classroom and led that classroom for almost two years while working on continuing my education.

When I originally walked in, I thought to myself how cool would it be to climb that ladder, so I set my sights on that goal. While I ran the classroom, I was also taking all of the courses needed to become a Director. I finally accomplished that in 2019 but had to step away from my degree. Then, 2020 hit along with COVID and I kept seeing all these investments in continuing your education. I told my boss that I would like to finish my education and she handed me the flyer to the Back to Work: ECE program. I can't explain what a help this scholarship has been in helping me get back to my degree and really setting sail on finishing. As well as I can't begin to express how helpful Cameron was and how he walked me through what was needed and really was great encouragement and support. Without this program I would have probably kept putting my degree on the back burner."

A background image showing the silhouettes of five graduates against a sunset sky. They are all raising their black graduation caps in the air. The scene is backlit by the warm light of the setting sun, creating a glowing effect around the figures.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Participants are at the heart of the Back to Work: Early Childhood Education Scholarship Program. **And their stories matter.**



Meet Raelynn

"I am honored to be one of the Back to Work: Early Childhood Education Scholarship Program Recipients. I want to take this opportunity to thank Back to Work for the generosity in funding. Thanks to your scholarship, I can continue my education and work towards getting my degree. I am sincerely very appreciative of being picked for this scholarship, and your help makes it possible to pursue my dream of obtaining a college degree. I am currently working towards getting my Associate Degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education. I am excited to continue working towards and pursuing this degree to show my children how significant a college degree is. I have a four-year-old son and a two-year-old daughter, and I want to work hard to get my college degree to show them how important it is to get an education. I currently work as a preschool teacher and I am excited to continue taking college classes to expand my knowledge to be a better preschool teacher."