



WCAA Updates

June 2011

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STARS is a program of the Wyoming Children's Action Alliance. Other programs include Kids Count.

Dig into learning

Education Opportunities Offered

Spring means it is time to think about the educational opportunities available in the fall.

The **WY Quality Counts** scholarship application window is open right now for the community-college based CDA programs offered at Laramie County Community College and Northwest Community College. The same application window applies for scholarships to support work on associates or bachelors degrees in early childhood at any community college or the University of Wyoming. Remember you have to be employed at least part time in child care to qualify and the application windows vary a few days based on the specific college. Call Career Development at 1-800-400-3999 if you are interested.

The **Pathways for Professional Development** classes will again be offered beginning in September. The 97 individuals who completed Pathways I this spring will be eligible for the Pathways II class and a new round of Pathways I classes will be offered. Watch your email for announcements on Pathways later in the summer. Another cycle of classes is also planned for the January to May period. Pathways III and Pathways II will be offered at that time. Each class is 40 hours and results in a stipend payment for those who successfully complete. The 120 hours of training in the three class series positions providers to gain their CDA.



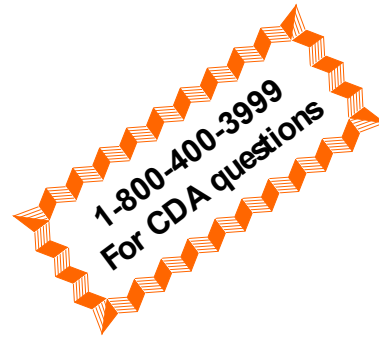
Fill your bucket at Stand and Celebrate!

Watch your mail! The brochures with the registration forms for the annual Stand and Celebrate conference will arrive soon. The conference is set for August 4, 5, and 6 at Casper College and the Casper Events Center.

Some deadlines and procedures for the conference are changing so pay close attention to dates and details.



3116 Old Faithful Rd., Ste. 100
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Renewing your CDA?



Child Development Associate certifications (CDAs) from the Council for Professional Recognition need to be renewed. The first renewal period is three years and thereafter the renewal period is five years. If you share a copy of your CDA certificate with STARS, it will be entered into your training record. STARS will email or mail you a reminder of renewal one-year before the expiration date on your certificate so that you have time to plan for renewal.

You can submit your renewal packet beginning 90 days prior to your expiration date. You need 45 hours of qualifying training, proof of current CPR/First Aid and proof of membership in a professional organization. You also need to document 80 hours of recent work with young children. You need a letter of recommendation from someone who knows your work with children.

WY Quality Counts scholarships are available for renewing your CDA including the renewal fee and taking a three-credit college class to get the required 45 hours of training for renewal. Classes at Northwest Community College in Powell and Laramie County Community College are available on-line. Plan ahead and take Curriculum and Instruction or Observation and Guidance to renew and round out your knowledge. You can also acquire 45 hours of community training but remember that clearing-house and conference training hours will not count for CDA purposes.

Online Orientation Changes

Beginning April 1, 2011 DFS Licensing changed how the on-line orientation for new directors and assistant directors is handled. Credit will be granted for this training only to directors and assistant directors. STARS will provide credit only after being notified by a licensor that credit is complete. This is a required one-time training needed when a provider becomes a director or is a new owner.

STARS Board of Review Welcomes New Members

Response to the call for participation in the STARS Board of Review has been strong. The board welcomes the following members:

Mary Scherden, Cheyenne, home provider,
Karl Coulson, Cheyenne, center provider,
Jessica Barksdale, Jackson, center provider,
Kerri Mahlum, Casper, higher education

The board also welcomes new advisory members Nicole Novotny-Smith of the Department of Workforce Services, and Heidi Dickerson of Children and Nutrition Services.

Elizabeth Schmick who was the representative from the Wyoming Department of Education was thanked for her service as she left the department and the board. This position is currently vacant.

