



Your online professional development resource



It's Official: ecepdo.org Launches!

ONLINE RESOURCES, NEWS, AND INSPIRATION

are as close as a click away as the Early Childhood Education Professional Development **Organization** at PASSHE launched ecepdo.org late last month. A major milestone achieved in the new year, the website is a digital hub for early childhood workers and directors, PDO students and apprentices, education partners, and others who support the education and development of young children.

ECEPDO.ORG FINDS AND FEATURES

- ♦ Frequently-Asked-Questions (and Answers!)
- ♦ How to apply for no-cost/low-cost tuition
- ♦ Access to numerous ECE PDO education partners that offer certificates/credentials and college degrees
- ♦ Available resources, such as liaisons, apprenticeship coordinators, success coaches, and tutoring support
- ♦ Student success stories that inspire
- ♦ Access to monthly and quarterly publications

[ECE PDO Request for Proposals has been released](#)

Partner with the PDO: Calling Early Childhood Education Providers

CALLING PROSPECTIVE ECE PDO PARTNERS!

The ECE PDO@PASSHE is again inviting early childhood education institutions of higher education and community-based organizations to partner with us! Released February 1, the Request for Proposals (RFP) will enable the PDO to expand beyond its current 18 education partners that provide early childhood credential programming, coursework, and supportive services. In turn, this will enable early childcare workers across the commonwealth to have a greater number of choices available to advance their professional pathways. This is a time-sensitive opportunity, as **applications are due by March 15, 2021**. Selected qualifying partners will begin offering services July 1, 2021.

The ECE PDO@PASSHE is made possible through a grant funded by the Pennsylvania Departments of Education and Human Services, and is led by four universities in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education (PASSHE); namely, Shippensburg, East Stroudsburg, Edinboro, and Lock Haven.

BRIGHT IDEAS?



Your ECE PDO partners for professional pathways are dedicated to offering quality, timely, helpful information and resources. We welcome your ideas about publication and website features. Please connect with us on social or contact an [ECE PDO Liaison](#) today!



Visit ecepdo.org regularly to find more news you can use, tips and tools to help students succeed, and ways to connect with colleagues in early childhood education. We're often adding to the website, so check back frequently.

IMPORTANT RFP DATES

Release Date: February 1
Deadline for Questions: February 10
Preproposal Zoom: February 17
Amendment Issued (Q/A): February 22
Submission Deadline: March 15
Award Estimated by April 1
Services Start: July 1, 2021

FIND THE RFP

See the RFP and associated appendices on ecepdo.org [here](#) or navigate to the NEWS navigation tab on the website.

QUESTIONS?

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PASSHE PARTNERS

[Shippensburg University](#)
[Lock Haven University](#)
[East Stroudsburg University](#)
[Edinboro University](#)

PDO PARTNERS

[Community College of Allegheny County](#)
[Carlow University](#)
[Clarion University](#)
[Delaware County Community College](#)
[Harrisburg Area Community College](#)
[Keystone College](#)
[Lehigh Carbon Community College](#)
[Luzerne County Community College](#)
[Northampton Community College](#)
[Northwest Institute of Research](#)
[PennAEYC](#)
[Reading Area Community College](#)
[Trying Together](#)
[Westmoreland County Community College](#)

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Online learning success is achievable!

Envisioning a future in which all caregivers feel valued

Distance Learning Tips

GETTING STARTED

Review the syllabus and be sure to have your text, notepads, and other study tools at your work area. Know how and when to reach your instructor, where to submit your work, and how to access resources.



SET A SCHEDULE

Schedule times to work through course modules and participate in online discussions with your instructor and other students.



Know when assignments are due and mark your calendar!

SET UP STUDY & BREAK ZONES

Set up a comfortable, well-lit area and designate it for study. Avoid working from the couch or bed.

If possible, go elsewhere to take breaks.



ASK QUESTIONS

Overcome any reluctance to ask questions. Your instructor is invested in your academic success and wants to help! Chances are that other students have the same questions. Send your instructor an email or post a message through the learning platform being used.



ENGAGE!

Participation helps to keep you engaged and increases both your understanding and ability to retain information.

Collaborate with other students and your instructor regularly.



BE PATIENT WITH YOURSELF

Early childhood educators are typically people-oriented, so you may find it challenging to learn online. **YOU CAN DO IT!**

Remember, distance learning offers you flexibility in ways in-person instruction may not. Let it work for you!



GET TUTORING HELP

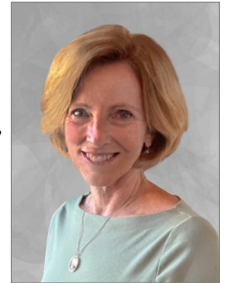
As a PDO-sponsored student, take advantage of free tutoring at tutor.com!



ECE PDO Liaison Spotlight:

Mimi Loughead

A LOVE FOR CHILDREN. A LOVE FOR LEARNING. A love for Pittsburgh, where she calls home. And a love for helping early childcare workers advance their career pathways in early childhood education. **This is ECE PDO Liaison Mimi Loughead.**



In addition to serving as an ECE PDO Liaison, Mimi is affiliated with Trying Together, a southwest Pennsylvania-based ECE PDO partner that works to support high-quality care and education for young children.

Mimi is excited about her dual roles, and finds that she is able to encourage early care providers to advance their career opportunities through college credit-bearing training.

“We look at what training a person already has, credit them for it where we can, and recommend where to expand their training. This is great for experienced providers who have taken training, but may not have received a credential or degree. The community-based CDA reaches that niche of childcare provider,” she says.

“I’m excited the PDO is committed to accessibility and flexibility to enable more worker-students to earn credentials and increase their earning potential, while improving the quality of care they provide to children. The PDO recognizes that not everyone can go the traditional college route,” she adds.

Mimi connects early care worker-students to other learning avenues that best suit their needs, including pathways to a college credit-bearing apprenticeship through Pittsburgh-based Carlow University, where students can also earn a PDO sponsored bachelor’s degree.

Inspired by childcare workers, children, and their families, Mimi is also moved by words from another Pittsburgh native, Fred Rogers (of the famed Mr. Rogers Neighborhood).

“We need to remember that children are trying, too. Trying to understand their feelings and their world. Trying to please the people they love. Trying to grow. When grownups and children are trying together, just about anything can be possible.” Fred Rogers

ECE PDO Liaison Mimi Loughead shares this vision of what is possible when we try together. She wants to hear from you!

Reach her at mimi@tryingtogether.org and start your vision of greater possibilities!