

Students to have even more career advancement opportunities



ECE PDO Increases Capacity, Student Supports for Year 3

THE ECEPDO@PASSHE will be expanding its Education Partners' capacity in the third year of its operation, beginning July 1, 2021. Selection of PDO Education Partners and their requests for funding was the result of an extensive and deliberative process of reviewing applications under the lens of determining which best align with PDO goals of increasing educational access by removing barriers to professional development for early care workers.

Also based on demand for more student-supportive services, the PDO has increased its complement of Liaisons. While their services to students will remain unchanged, their title will change to PDO Coordinators as of July 1 to more accurately reflect the role they play in coordinating connections between students and PDO-sponsored career advancement opportunities, including credentials, degree programs, apprenticeships, and numerous supports—all at no or low cost! Welcome to new PDO (Liaisons) Coordinators Lane Coyle-Coburn, Robin Evans, and Rueben Ransom!

*"We couldn't be more excited about the new professional development opportunities offered by returning PDO Education Partners and our newest addition—**First Up**, a southeastern Pennsylvania partner that will offer PDO-sponsored, community-based, credit-bearing*



ECEPDO Leadership
Dr. Jennifer Pyles, right
Liz Knouse, left

apprenticeships that transfer credits to college associate's degree programs!

The expanded partner capacity enabled by Year 3 reflects students' needs for additional supports to remove the barriers to professional development.

With the launch of the co-enrollment pilot that encourages high school juniors and seniors to earn a CDA credential while taking other high school courses, we continue to build the pipeline of credentialed early childhood educators."

Announced by Governor Tom Wolf in October 2019, the ECEPDO@PASSHE will begin its third year of funding on July 1, 2021, to support early childcare workers who are pursuing professional development credentials and degree programs across Pennsylvania.

ECE PDO Pilots Concurrent Enrollment Program

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS AND SENIORS can now earn early childhood education college credits while they are still in high school, thanks to a PDO-funded concurrent enrollment opportunity that is being piloted in southcentral Pennsylvania.

On completion of three college-level courses, students will earn a Child Development Associate (CDA), which is a national credential for the early childhood workforce. Students can then apply for a job at an early learning center or transfer course credits to Shippensburg University or other participating educational partners. CDA courses will be offered online and taken concurrently with high school courses. An apprenticeship component is included with instructional support.

Presently, the pilot includes these high schools: Big Spring, Cumberland-Perry Area Vocational Technical School, Reading, Steelton/Highspire, Reading, Eastern York, and Waynesboro. For more information, contact: **Dr. Corrine Eisenhart**, Concurrent Enrollment Coordinator eisenhartconsulting@outlook.com.



PASSHE PARTNERS

[Shippensburg University](#)

[Lock Haven University](#)

[East Stroudsburg University](#)

[Edinboro University](#)

PDO PARTNERS

(until 6.30.21)

[Carlow University](#)

[Clarion University](#)

[Community College of Allegheny County](#)

[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 \(ELRC 1, 3\)](#)

[PennAEYC](#)

[Reading Area Community College](#)

[Trying Together](#)

[Westmoreland County Community College](#)



Taking workforce development to a new level

New faces, new places, new ways to support students

PDO Teams with SCPA Works to Expand Apprenticeships

AMID DEVASTATING LOSS, it can be hard to find positivity from the COVID pandemic. And yet, the pandemic has shone a glaring spotlight on the essential need for and the integral nature of quality care provided by credentialed workers who teach our youngest citizens. As childcare centers closed due to COVID, workplaces scaled back operations, as many workers needed to stay home to care for their children. Some adults, for the first time, worked and learned from home — next to their children. COVID proved that remote learning is a do-able environment that for many, provides essential flexibility to manage a home-work-school balance.

Now that the pandemic is subsiding and more workplaces and educational facilities are opening, the value of PDO-sponsored apprenticeship opportunities are attracting significant attention, including in the eight counties served by SCPA Works, a regional workforce development organization.

ECE PDO Apprenticeship Coordinator Dawn Manetta leads efforts to team with SCPA Works and to connect early care workers to PDO-sponsored education and apprenticeship opportunities in the region. She will be the featured speaker at the Franklin County Area Development Corporation’s “Early Childhood Apprenticeship Virtual Information Session” on June 17 at 10 AM. Register for this event [here](#).

To learn more about apprenticeships, reach Dawn Manetta at DMManetta@ship.edu.

PDO Podcasts to Launch

PDO PODCASTS WILL SOON BE LAUNCHED as another way to connect with the early childhood education community!



Featuring educators, students, early care employers, and subject matter experts, **PDO Podcasts** will offer information, inspiration, and instruction on a wide range of topics.

The variety of podcasts will include quick tips on time management, establishing good study habits, and the importance of self-care. We’ll feature student success stories with a ‘you can do this!’ focus, and take deeper dives on top-of-mind education issues and topics from recognized voices in the early childhood education field.

PDO Podcasts will increase accessibility with this audio medium. While most podcasts will be recorded and posted on ecepdo.org and available on your favorite podcast apps for listening at any time, some later podcasts will be livestreamed for interactive audience engagement!

Stay tuned and stay **PDO Podcasts**-connected!



ECE PDO Liaison Rueben Ransom Joins the Team

THE ELDEST OF SIX CHILDREN, ECE PDO Liaison Rueben Ransom learned early in his life what it takes to help care for younger children. Born and raised in southcentral Pennsylvania, Rueben started his higher education at Harrisburg Area Community College and ultimately graduated with a degree in Human Development and Family Studies from Penn State Harrisburg.

“I always knew I wanted to pursue a career that involved helping others, and was so thankful to have been offered an internship with the PDO, which has now turned into a full-time job as a PDO Liaison,” Ransom said.



Among the first things that attracted him to the PDO was the spirit of collaboration and warm welcome he received from colleagues. “I was so impressed with the supportive teamwork, communication, and collaboration among very dedicated people,” he explains, adding it is with that same supportive spirit he hopes to encourage prospective and enrolled PDO students.

“This is a great opportunity for people already working in early childhood to advance themselves. What a terrific way for them to meet their career goals, qualify to earn higher pay, and become better professionals as a result of their studies,” he adds.

Rueben offers words of encouragement to those considering a PDO-sponsored credential or courses taken toward their degrees. “The formal schooling the PDO offers you, free of cost, will teach you the finer points and ways to improve on what you are already doing with young children every day you are on the job. With a PDO-sponsored credential or degree, you’ll now earn credits to advance!”

Reach Rueben at rransom@thelearninglamp.org. Watch out, his energy and enthusiasm are both engaging and magnetic.

This project is supported by the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) of Pennsylvania’s Department of Human Services (DHS) and Pennsylvania’s Department of Education (PDE). For more information, visit dhs.pa.gov and education.pa.gov.

