

# ACDS Quarterly Newsletter



Fall 2019

Counties  
currently  
offering classes:

- Berkeley
- Cabell
- Greenbrier
- Kanawha
- Hardy
- Harrison
- Logan
- Mercer
- Monongalia
- Nicholas
- Ohio
- Putnam
- Raleigh
- Upshur
- Wood

  
For a complete  
list of ACDS  
events, and class  
start dates, visit  
the ACDS  
website.  
[www.wvacds.org](http://www.wvacds.org)

## 2019 Spotlight Winners

As part of our 30th Anniversary Celebration we continue to honor individuals that support the program.

Our June spotlight person was Cindy O'Brien. Cindy has been involved with ACDS for most of the 30 years. She has been an instructor, mentor, local council representative and executive council member. Cindy shares the benefits of the program with everyone she encounters. She often attends ACDS graduation in Monongalia County to celebrate with the graduates. As an executive council member, Cindy has been instrumental in the growth and development of the program's policies and procedures.

Our July spotlight was Tannel Green. Tannel graduated ACDS in spring 2019! She was an employee of Rising Stars in Raleigh County while attending ACDS. It was shared with us that Tannel is "a perfect example of what a childcare provider should be. She's loving and does her best to make sure children and

co-workers are doing okay." Tannel is now continuing her education in early childhood.

For August, Jacklyn Rutherford, also from Raleigh county, was selected as our spotlight winner. Jacklyn currently works at Pressley Ridge in Raleigh County. Jacklyn is also a recent



graduate of the ACDS program. It was written of her that she is a wonderful person, friend and teacher. Through the ACDS program she has "grown to be a confident woman and her love for children shines through her work."

Congratulations to each of our spotlight winners! You each are a reflection of what wonderful individuals make up the program.

Jennifer & Tara



### 2019 Spotlight Winners

January—Tonya Neal

February—Lisa Shaffer

March—Brenda Porter  
and Kerri Wade Carte

April—Polly Steele

May—Chinelle Duncan

June—Cindy O'Brien

July—Tannel Green

August—Jacklyn  
Rutherford

### To Nominate

Fill out a spotlight nomination form ([www.wvacds.org](http://www.wvacds.org)) or send us a letter explaining who you are nominating and what role he or she has played in the program.



## Orientation for Each Semester



Currently, new students are required to complete an online orientation prior to starting ACDS. ACDS is now creating online orientations for semesters 2–4 of the program. The purpose is to keep students informed of what to expect and how to be successful each semester.

Each of the new orientations will contain information that is specific to that semester. For example, 4th semester will dis-

cuss graduation options and 2nd semester will discuss previous experience credit. All semesters will contain the following basic information:

- Review of the previous semester
- Reminder of important policies and procedures
- Overview of upcoming semester content

ACDS will pilot the new orientations in some coun-

ties for the Spring 2020 semester. Counties that will participate in the pilot will be announced in November. If you are a student that is in a pilot county you will be notified by ACDS, via email and also by your instructor. The orientations will be located on the WV STARS website, [www.wvstars.org](http://www.wvstars.org), and will be available for both pathway and registry participants. Directions on the details of how to locate and take the orientation will be provided.

At the end of each semester, all apprentices and instructors will receive a survey monkey regarding their experience during the semester. Please take a moment to complete this brief survey. We appreciate your feedback.



## Extra Credit Assignments

During each semester of ACDS, students have the opportunity to earn up to 25 extra credit points. These extra credit points can help offset points lost from absences, homework assignments or lower quiz grades.

Your instructor can offer a variety of ways for you to earn extra credit. Below are some options that are typically available:

- Read and write a review of an article that relates to lesson content
- Attend a workshop or conference
- Read a book to classmates
- Organize a special event for employer that includes the community and/or families.
- Create a newsletter and share with families
- Create a poster board to reflect and explain a relevant topic covered in the current semester
- Participate in role playing activities or volunteer to take on a special class role;

such as class recorder in a discussion or project.

- Share an activity (in detail with prompts) carried out in the classroom with children and what skill (s) the children gained from the activity.

Your instructor may have additional opportunities for students to earn extra credit. If you are interested in doing an extra credit assignment please speak to your instructor to discuss what options are available for you.



# Contact Information

*ACDS promotes highly skilled, confident early childhood employees, quality early childhood classrooms, and informed supportive early childhood professionals.*

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“As an early childhood educator I am building the brains of our future adults. As an instructor I would like to pass this knowledge to others who choose to enter this field.”  
-Anonymous Instructor

*This program is being presented with financial assistance as a grant from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and is administered by WV Early Childhood Training Connections and Resources, a program of River Valley Child Development Services.*

# Questions and Answers

• **Do I have to type my homework assignments?**

All instructors use a standard ACDS grading rubric to guide them with grading assignments. The grading rubric helps ensure that the grading system is more consistent across the state. First semester students are not required to type assignments for maximum points. However, students in semesters 2 through 4 are required to type their homework to receive maximum credit.

• **When will my area have a new class starting?**

There are several factors that effect when an area will start a new first semester class. First, an instructor must be available. Each area must also have a local council and a local council representative. The local council determines the need for a new class and helps to recruit both students and instructors. To begin a first semester class there needs to be 12 students. Some areas that have numerous early childhood programs have new classes in August and January, other areas that have fewer programs may only start a new class once every year or two.



“A person's a person, no matter how small.”  
— Dr. Seuss

