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**University of Maryland’s Center for Early Childhood Education and Intervention (CECEI) Establishes a Registered Apprenticeship Program for Early Childhood Educators**

The Early Childhood Workforce Connector (ECWC), a U.S. Department of Labor Registered Apprenticeship Industry Intermediary for Early Childhood Education operated by WRMA Inc., a TriMetrix corporation, is pleased to announce the registration of the first Standards of Apprenticeship under its guidance. The University of Maryland’s Center for Early Childhood Education and Intervention (CECEI) has successfully established a Registered Apprenticeship program tailored for early childhood educators with collaboration and support from the ECWC team.

This initiative offers apprentices paid on-the-job training within centers dedicated to serving children and families with complex needs. “The goal of the Maryland Early EdCorp Registered Apprenticeship Program is to rebuild the child care workforce with high-quality early childhood educators prepared to support all children and families, particularly those with difficulties accessing services arising from disability, language barriers, poverty and other complex needs,” according to Christy Tirrell-Corbin, executive director of CECEI. Apprentices will not only engage in hands-on training but also complete coursework in early childhood education. They will receive valuable mentorship from experienced ECE professionals, along with access to career coaching and support services. In collaboration with the Council for Professional Recognition, this program ensures that participants attain their Child Development Associate® (CDA) certification.

Registered Apprenticeship programs are an important investment in the early childhood workforce, providing high-quality professional learning and equitable compensation. The ECWC serves as a no-cost resource that organizations such as early childhood program employers, state and local agencies, community organizations, and higher education institutions can leverage for guidance in developing or expanding a Registered Apprenticeship program. With expertise spanning early childhood education, Registered Apprenticeship, workforce development, and more, the ECWC team assists organizations with a variety of supports, including navigating the application process and apprentice recruitment. Amanda Schwartz of CECEI affirms, “Partnering with ECWC made the process of becoming a Registered Apprenticeship smooth and guaranteed our success.”

“WRMA is proud to be the primary vendor for the ECWC,” said Jim Bates, WRMA’s chief operating officer. “With more than 15 years of supporting early childhood and local workforce development, we are enthusiastic supporters of the continued expansion of Registered Apprenticeship in ECE as an opportunity to grow and develop the ECE workforce. We appreciate our partnership with CECEI and celebrate their success.”

To learn more about the Early Childhood Workforce Connector, visit [ecwconnector.org](https://ecwconnector.org). For inquiries regarding sponsorship or apprenticeship development within your organization, please email [info@ecwconnector.org](mailto:info@ecwconnector.org).