



# HARRIS-STOWE STATE UNIVERSITY

## **William L. Clay Sr. Early Childhood Development/Parenting Education Center**

### *Fact Sheet*

#### **I. Program Goals:**

- Provide an ongoing contribution toward meeting the critical workforce needs for highly qualified early child development practitioners in the Greater St. Louis metropolitan area;
- Assist local partners, through collaborations, in improving the quality of early child care and education programs in the area;
- Contribute to the efforts of the HSSU Teacher Education unit toward making the Early Childhood Teacher Education preparation program an exemplary model;
- Assist parents in improving parenting skills; and
- Provide a comprehensive child development program for infants, toddlers and pre-k children.

#### Benefits For:

##### 1. Harris-Stowe Students

The center will provide a practicum setting for Teacher Education/Early Childhood Education majors to gain valuable insight and experiences observing and interacting with children 6 weeks to pre-k. Students will have opportunities to engage in hands-on learning activities to translate theory into practice. The lack of accredited programs and teachers with credentials in infant/toddler programming makes it difficult for our Teacher Education Department to locate adequate placements for its majors needing exposure to this early period of the life span.

##### 2. Parents/Families

The vision for the parent education component encompasses:

- Application of system's theory to the study of families;
- Working with families and parent educators in understanding family functioning;
- Addressing parenting in the context of a social system organized around roles and structure;
- Providing on-going parenting educational sessions addressing topics such as child

growth and development, health and nutrition, money management and discipline;  
and

- Providing parents with resources in child-rearing practices.

### 3. Children

It is proposed that the child development program serve 120 children, ages 6 weeks to kindergarten. The program will provide a full-day/full-year, well-rounded curriculum, including technology and the introduction of other languages, in a developmentally appropriate learning environment sensitive to the needs of children, parents and adult learners.

### 4. Community

The center will serve as a facility through which potential and practicing child care providers can receive training and acquire research-based materials for professional growth and development while networking and learning from others in the profession.

## **II. Action Research**

The center, its training components and clientele will provide possible data sources for educational research and scholarly publications.

## **III. ECE Center's Local Partnerships**

Child Day Care Association Regional Training Collaborative  
United Way Success By 6®  
United Way Family Support Council  
YWCA Head Start  
Children's Hospital  
MAGIC House Children's Museum  
Children's Center, Forest Park Community College  
Campus Child Care Center, Meramec Community College

## **IV. Center's Professional Memberships**

National Association for the Education of Young Children  
National Black Child Development Institute Inc.  
National Coalition for Campus Children's Centers

## **V. Grant Writing Efforts**

Support for Parent Education Programs  
Capital Improvement