



## Congratulations BA Graduates!

Jenelle Bennett  
Sharail Butler  
Judith Edwards  
Flora "Lilly" Ferguson  
Barbara Harris-Bojang  
Yvonne Hetherington  
Era Jenks  
Kimberly Meeder  
Rachel Oldham  
Renee Pierre  
Sarah Roberts  
Bonnie Senter  
Kathryn Smith  
Hailey Wiebe  
Suk Wilmot

## News from Child Care Aware of WA Scholarships

Fall is a great time of year to get prepared for a great academic year. Make sure your education information in MERIT is current, double check to be sure all of your scholarship forms are submitted and start researching national scholarships and other sources of higher education funding, including any scholarships offered at your college/university.

It's also time to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2020-21 academic year. Forms for next year were made available Oct. 1. For full information, visit <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>.

By now you have probably heard a lot about the Washington educational requirements for child care licensing that came out with the Aug. 1 WACs. There are three pathways providers can choose from to meet the requirements in the next five years. The Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families has a great graphic outlining the three pathways. You can find it here: [https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WADEL/2019/07/15/file\\_attachments/1248197/Education%20Requirements.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WADEL/2019/07/15/file_attachments/1248197/Education%20Requirements.pdf).

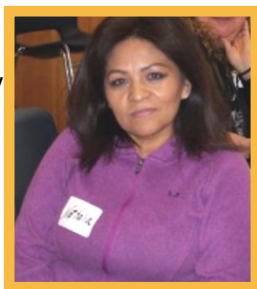
If you're considering earning a BA in ECE to meet the requirements, visit us at <https://childcareawarewa.org/providers/#scholarships> to learn about our scholarships.



CCA of WA Scholarships Staff:  
Christine Zumwalt, Program Coordinator  
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Meka Riggins, Senior Program Manager,  
Scholarships & Professional Development

## Advocacy Matters

Early learning professionals frequently put the needs of children ahead of their own needs. Sometimes this can mean missing a break or staying up late to finish a project for kids. And sometimes it can mean being braver than we think we are.



Parents and early learning professionals can really make a difference when they make themselves heard in Olympia and in Washington, D.C. Legislators want to hear from their constituents. There are many ways to be heard — email, hand-written letters or even in-person visits and speaking with legislators. Nathalia Medina, an Early Achievers provider in Yakima, recently spoke with legislators in Olympia.

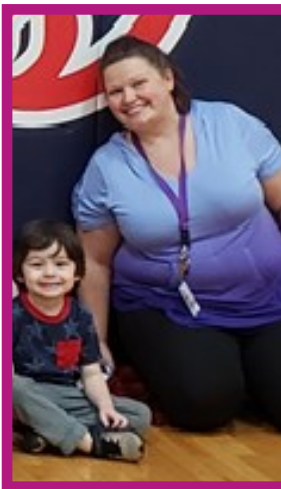
"I advocate because I know that the work we do as providers is important...I believe we have the power to make changes when we join and express our needs and concerns at the state level."

You can advocate too at <https://childcareawarewa.org/advocacy/take-action>.

## Scholar Spotlight—April Nicholas, Lower Columbia College Head Start, Longview

April Nicholas used to work three part-time jobs while raising two sons, so she knows how hard it can be to go back to school. But, she said "I knew I needed an education so that we could actually live...There is always a way if you are determined to go and know what you want."

Now she's the lead teacher at Lower Columbia College Head Start and is working toward her BA in Children's Studies at Eastern Washington University via their online program. Being able to attend school online allows her to continue to serve children in her community while she's in school.



April credits her scholarship from CCA of WA Scholarships with making it possible for her to be a lead teacher, because she could not attend the university without the support the scholarship provides, and Head Start requires teachers to have degrees.



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## Fall Reminders:

**Academic Advising Forms**—Please submit your Academic Advising Form at the beginning of each scholarship contract. This form tells us about your academic plans and must be signed by both the scholar and an academic advisor. This and other scholarship forms can be found online: <https://childcareawarewa.org/providers/scholarship-forms/>

**Other financial Aid**—Do you receive financial aid in addition to your CCA of WA scholarship? If so, we would like a copy of your financial aid awards each quarter. This information helps us to calculate your tuition voucher. Please send financial aid information to us via email (along with your schedule) to [scholarships@wa.childcareaware.org](mailto:scholarships@wa.childcareaware.org).



Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**



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PREPARING CHILDREN FOR SUCCESS IN SCHOOL

**Child Care Aware of  
Washington Scholarships is  
generously funded by the  
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## Stay Connected!

CCA of WA Scholarships on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Child-Care-Aware-of-Washington-Scholarships-235971555192/>

CCA of WA on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/child-care-aware-of-washington/>

CCA of WA on Instagram at [wachildcarematters](https://www.instagram.com/wachildcarematters)

CCA of WA on Twitter: [@childcarewa](https://twitter.com/childcarewa)

Child Care Aware of Washington Scholarships offers scholarships to early learning professionals to enrich their expertise. Our goal is to advance the early learning field by increasing educational achievement and helping early learning professionals achieve their goals.

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