



## Congratulations BA Graduates!

Allison Beckvold

Erika Buchholz

Christina Cantino

Candy Capinpin

Stephanie Edwards

Danielle Hoffman

Leilani Mueller

Raychel Workman

## News from Child Care Aware of WA Scholarships

Happy New Year and Happy New Decade! We are excited to launch into 2020 inspired by our scholars and dedicated to strengthening Washington child care and early learning system.

Thank you to the approximately 350 scholars we supported in 2019. You inspire us with your commitment to the early childhood field and we know our state's child care system is stronger because of you.

The new year is a great time for providers to begin their higher education journey. If you know someone in the early learning field who is thinking about going back to school, please send them to our website. <https://childcareawarewa.org/providers/#scholarships>

We currently do not have a waitlist. Potential Montessori early childhood scholars can start their research on accredited Montessori academies and plan to apply for our Bachelor's Degree Pathways scholarship in late spring.



CCA of WA Scholarships Staff:  
Ivonne Pereira, Program Coordinator  
Meka Riggins, Senior Program Manager,  
Scholarships & Professional Development  
Christine Zumwalt, Program Coordinator  
Tiffany Khanphongphane, program assistant

## Advocacy 2020 — It's Time

Ready, set, advocate! In Washington, winter is the season for advocating our state legislature on important issues, including the need for increased scholarship funding for child care and early education professionals.

The Washington State Legislature started on Jan. 13. Since the bi-annual budget was passed last year, this year's session is expected to be relatively short. You can find out more about our legislature here: <http://leg.wa.gov>.

CCA of WA's main areas of focus for this session are:

- Increasing Working Connections Child Care rates
- Expanding the Working Connections Child Care Homeless Grace Period from four to 12 months so families have more time to reach stability

You can advocate quickly and easily from our online Action Center at <https://childcareawarewa.org/advocacy/take-action> where you can email your elected representatives right from your phone in just a few minutes.



## Scholar Spotlight — Rachel Morriss, Sequoia's Treehouse, Olympia

It's easy to tell that Rachel Morriss loves children. In addition to being a new mom, she also is the assistant director at a child care center and is in college working toward her Bachelor's Degree in Early Care and Education at the University of Washington.

Rachel credits her BA Pathways scholarship from CCA of WA Scholarships with allowing her to afford getting her degree. "That opportunity continues to benefit both myself and the students [in my care] as I become better everyday at offering quality child care and education."

She also credits Early Achievers with teaching her about the importance of early learning spaces. "I've personally learned so much about how to create a loving and engaging environment for the students, and have been amazed as I've watched them learn and grow."





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## Welcome Deeann Puffert—New CEO



Child Care Aware of Washington has a new chief executive officer. Deeann Puffert, formerly CEO of Child Care Resources in Seattle, brings to us nearly 35 years of experience in serving children, youth, families and child care providers. She has worked tire-

lessly to expand access to high-quality early learning opportunities for all children and families.



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



WASHINGTON  
**EARLY ACHIEVERS**  
PREPARING CHILDREN FOR SUCCESS IN SCHOOL

## Winter Reminder:

**Release Time** - CCA of WA scholars and their child care programs have access to this important benefit. Please make sure you complete and submit your release time form each quarter.

<https://childcareawarewa.org/providers/scholarship-forms/>

**Child Care Aware of Washington Scholarships is generously funded by the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families**

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.



## 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](#)

CCA of WA on Twitter: [@childcarewa](#)

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