

March 2015

WSUCC FAMILY NEWS

WSU CHILDREN'S CENTER AND EDUCATION PROGRAM TO MERGE

Effective July 1, 2015, the WSU Children's Center (WSUCC) and the Department of Human Development's Child Development Program (CDP) will merge under the administration of the Department of Human Development in the College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Resource Sciences.



The Decision to Merge

We are pleased to let you know that President Floyd has approved the decision to merge WSU's two early care programs in order to provide an academic home for the Children's Center. This merger will allow WSUCC to take advantage of quality-of-care and educational enhancements that the Department of Human Development can provide.

The two programs have been housed in the same building since 2000 and have been working collaboratively over the last several years. The Human Development faculty who have staffed the CDP will become part of the administrative team of the Children's Center. By joining forces, the early childhood educators leading the merged program will be able to take advantage of new opportunities to further enhance the quality of programming provided to children and families at the center.

Current services to families at WSUCC will continue with this merger, however, in addition to these services, the teaching and research activities at the Children's Center will be expanded. This merger represents an exciting time of growth and development for the WSU Children's Center –growth that will occur in the context of maintaining a stable experience for the children and families served by the Children's Center.

"The Department of Human Development is excited to be an integral part of this wonderful growth opportunity. We plan to keep the current classroom configuration and staffing model in place at the Children's Center as we expand and enhance teaching, research, and professional development opportunities."

*~ Dr. Brenda Boyd
Associate Professor, Human Development*



Did You Know?

- WSUCC has provided child care for the WSU community for over 40 years. Under the administration of Student Affairs, the Children's Center has embraced a service and outreach mission to provide quality care for university-affiliated families.
- The Human Development Child Development Program has been operating for nearly 85 years. It has provided a half-day educational program for preschool children of families affiliated with the university as well as community families. The CDP addresses the mission of teaching, research, and outreach.

For more information, please read the Frequently Asked Questions section and plan to attend a Parent Meeting (dates to be announced soon).



Washington State University Children's Center

Promoting Community-based Relationships Through Active Family Involvement

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Will the merger change the process of enrolling my child at the WSU Children's Center?

A: The merger does not affect the application or enrollment process. The current WSUCC online application process will continue to be used.

Q: Does the merger impact the classroom and teaching structure of WSUCC?

A: There is no plan to change the current classroom configuration or staffing model at the Children's Center.

Q: What will happen to the Department of Human Development's Child Development Program?

A: The classroom currently used by the Human Development department to offer their half-day preschool program will become a full-day classroom for preschool children and will be open to community members as well as university-affiliated families. Half-day enrollment opportunities will be offered to those families currently served by the CDP and those who are currently on the CDP waiting list.

Q: Will tuition be increased because of the merger?

A: For families who have children enrolled in the current WSUCC program, tuition will not be impacted other than by the regular, annual budgetary process. For families who have been enrolled in the Human Development's CDP program, tuition subsidy will no longer be offered and families will need to enroll in the regular WSUCC program at the current WSUCC tuition rate. Student families may apply for tuition assistance/ tuition subsidies as available through WSUCC.

Q: Will my child become part of a research project?

A: Children and families will be invited to participate in approved research studies. Any studies that occur at the Children's Center must be approved by the Institutional Review Board for protection of human research subjects, approved by parents, and be vetted by the WSUCC administrative team for appropriateness to the WSUCC community.

Q: How will an expanded teaching mission impact the Children's Center?

A: Parents may see more undergraduate students in the classrooms. Currently, Human Development students are already being placed in classrooms in a variety of capacities. These range from introductory observational assignments, to mid-level courses requiring students to increase their teaching experience with young children, to senior level placements where the student is essentially an apprentice teacher under the supervision of a WSUCC mentor. The WSUCC administrative team will arrange these placements to insure no classrooms are overwhelmed by additional adults, to provide periodic supervision of the students, and to provide support to the teachers who have Human Development students in their classrooms.