

New Partnership with Missouri Western State University creates an affordable and more easily accessible Bachelor's degree program for MCC-Penn Valley students

To better prepare our students for the next step in their early childhood education career path beyond MCC-Penn Valley, the Francis Institute and Missouri Western State University (MWSU) have entered into a partnership agreement to offer a unique way to earn a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education starting right here on the MCC-Penn Valley Campus.

Why is this important?

The professional development of all early childhood educators—at all levels of expertise—should be an ongoing process. This belief is especially important here in Missouri as the new Commissioner of Education, Dr. Chris Nicastro, seeks to establish Missouri's position as a leader in improving America's public schools over the next decade.

One of the strategies Dr. Nicastro developed to accomplish this goal is encouraging the introduction of legislation and funding by 2014 to support voluntary universal early childhood opportunities for all 3- and 4-year-olds in Missouri. Several states have already started down the road toward universal public Pre-K education, such as Oklahoma and Georgia, and federal support is encouraging others to set a goal for universal access. These state funded Pre-K programs will require bachelor's level preparation for early childhood teaching positions.

Who may join the program?

- Current elementary teachers with certificates and applied science degrees
- Childcare employees with certificates and applied science degrees
- College students who have earned an A.A.T. or an A.A.S. in Child Growth and Development
- Metropolitan Community College students have the opportunity to plan their A.A.T. or A.A.S. degrees to seamlessly transfer to Western through a simple Dual Enrollment program

This unique 2+2 college degree program offers a much more affordable way to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education while at the same time creating more accessible educational opportunities right here in the heart of Kansas City. Courses are offered at MCC-Penn Valley, with some courses also available online and at Missouri Western's Kansas City Northland campus. Courses are offered in the evening and online to fit your busy schedule. Graduates will be prepared to teach in public or private school settings where a teaching certificate is required.

To learn more go to <http://www.wi.missouriwestern.edu/ece>