

Aim4Excellence™ National Director Credential

LINKAGES AND PARTNERSHIPS

The McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership has partnered with professional development systems, institutions of higher education, scholarship agencies, and quality rating and improvement systems across the country to identify ways that the Aim4Excellence online modules fit with current options for early childhood professionals. Below is a working list and is updated as additional linkages are identified.

NAEYC PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

The National Association for the Education of Young Children recognizes Aim4Excellence as an alternative pathway for meeting part of the director qualifications for NAEYC program accreditation. Learn more about NAEYC's Alternative Pathways to Achieve Educational Qualifications of a Program Administrator: <http://www.naeyc.org/academy/pursuing/candreq>

ARIZONA | SOUTHWEST HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Southwest Human Development provides an Aim4Excellence cohort opportunity for early childhood leaders in the Phoenix area. Participants complete the Aim4Excellence online modules and engage in monthly face-to-face cohort meetings through which they receive guided feedback as they work through the 9-module program. For additional information or to apply, contact [Mary Jamsa](#) at 602.633.8801.

ARKANSAS | EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES CENTER

The Early Childhood Initiatives Center is offering Aim4Excellence leadership development cohorts in partnership with the McCormick Center. The early childhood administrators participating complete the Aim4Excellence National Director Credential with the support of monthly face-to-face cohort meetings. For additional information or to apply for an upcoming cohort, contact the Early Childhood Initiatives Center at 479.273.3552.

BRIGHT HORIZONS FAMILY SOLUTIONS®

Bright Horizons directors may use their tuition reimbursement benefit toward the cost of the Aim4Excellence national director credential. Both the noncredit and for credit options are eligible for reimbursement. For additional information see the flyer on Bright Web: <https://mybrightweb.brighthorizons.com>

DELAWARE EARLY LEARNING LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

The Delaware STARS along with the Delaware Office of Early Learning, funded through the Early Learning Challenge Grant, have partnered with the McCormick Center to offer Aim4Excellence cohorts (known as ELLI Leadership Groups) throughout the state. Participants complete the online modules with the support of a local learning community. Additionally, Aim4Excellence is recognized as the director credential of Delaware and is acknowledged within the Delaware STARS QRIS. For additional information or to apply to be part of an ELLI Leadership Group, visit: McCormickCenter.nl.edu/elli

DRAKE UNIVERSITY AND THE HEARTLAND AREA EDUCATION AGENCY

Iowa participants may opt to take Aim4Excellence Module 3: Promoting Peak Performance for 1 semester hour of graduate level credit through Drake University via the Heartland Area Education Agency. (Pending interest, additional courses may be added.) The registration cost is \$100. In addition to completing the module, students are required to complete added homework assignments and attend face-to-face sessions. Prior to registering for Aim4Excellence, students must register with the Heartland Area Education Agency. Those interested should contact Carolyn Wassenaar at 515.554.2876 for registration instructions.

FLORIDA DIRECTOR CREDENTIAL

The Aim4Excellence National Director Credential certificate can be submitted with the Florida Director Credential application to substitute the required "Overview of Childcare Management" coursework. Applicants should mark the "Director Credential from another state" box on their Florida Director Credential application: <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/childcare/dircred.shtml>

Aim4Excellence participants who opt to take the modules for credit through National-Louis University may submit their transcripts to fulfill the Florida Director Credential - Advanced Level requirements for at least two three-semester hour courses:

Curriculum area required by the Florida Director Credential - Advanced Level	Aim4Excellence Course through National-Louis University meeting requirement
Child Care and Education Organizational Leadership	ECE311: Administration I – Leadership Strategies and Staff Development (Covers Modules 1, 2, and 3)
Child Care and Education Financial and Legal Issues	ECE312: Administration II – Managing Center Operations and Finances (Covers Modules 4, 5, and 6)
Child Care and Education Programming	ECE313: Administration III – Implementing and Evaluating the Program (Covers Modules 7, 8, and 9)

ILLINOIS DIRECTOR CREDENTIAL

Illinois Aim4Excellence participants will receive points toward the *Education and Training in Early Care & Education Administration* component of the Illinois Director Credential. Points will be notated on the participant's Certificate of Completion for each module. View details:

http://aim4excellence.nl.edu/assets/idc_breakout.pdf

ILLINOIS GATEWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Practitioners working in Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS) licensed centers and homes can apply for a Gateways Scholarship to cover the cost of the Aim4Excellence modules when taken for college credit. Learn more at: <http://www.ilgateways.com/en/gateways-scholarship-program>

ILLINOIS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

Illinois Child Care Resource & Referral agencies have professional development funds available (based on funding from the Illinois Department of Human Services) to help defray the expense of certain credential and accreditation fees. CCR&Rs may also have funds available for college tuition, to attend a professional conference, and/or for in-service training/consultation. Locate your local CCR&R at:

<http://www.ilqualitycounts.com/find-child-care/find-your-local-ccrar?view=index>

ILLINOIS/IOWA | COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE GREAT RIVER BEND

The Community Foundation of the Great River Bend has partnered with the McCormick Center to offer a bi-state early childhood leadership initiative in the Iowa/Illinois Quad Cities. Area early childhood directors and aspiring directors build leadership skills by completing the Aim4Excellence National Director Credential online modules with the support of monthly face-to-face cohort gatherings. For additional information or to apply to be a part of the next cohort, contact [Danen Busch](#) at Montessori Heartland Teacher Education Center at Villa Montessori School: 309.764.7047.

In 2012, the Community Foundation conducted an evaluative study of the impact of the Aim4Excellence project on the Quad Cities Community. The Research Notes from this study are available for download at: <http://mccormickcenter.nl.edu/research-resources-library/>

INDIANA PATHS TO QUALITY

Family child care homes enrolled in Indiana's Paths to Quality™ quality rating system can complete the Aim4Excellence National Director Credential as an equivalency to meet credential requirements. Learn more at: <http://www.in.gov/fssa/pathstoquality/3737.htm>

INDIANA | T.E.A.C.H. EARLY CHILDHOOD® INDIANA

Eligible Indiana residents who take the Aim4Excellence modules for credit through the University of Southern Indiana may apply for a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship to assist with the tuition costs for students completing the coursework through the University of Southern Indiana. The T.E.A.C.H scholarship will cover up to 80 percent of tuition costs, as well as fees for the module content. Visit <http://www.iaeyc.org/programs-research/teach-early-childhood-indiana/> for addition information and eligibility requirements.

IOWA | UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL IOWA & POLK COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA

The United Way of Central Iowa and Polk County Early Childhood Iowa have partnered with the McCormick Center to provide an Aim4Excellence leadership development opportunity for Polk County early childhood directors. Participants take part in monthly cohort gatherings while completing the Aim4Excellence Online National Director Credential. For additional information or to apply for an upcoming cohort, contact Stacy Walter at 515.321.7227.

IOWA'S QUALITY RATING SYSTEM

Iowa acknowledges the Aim4Excellence™ National Director Credential as an accepted qualification for receiving points toward Iowa's Quality Rating System (QRS). Aim4Excellence has been approved as an exception to 441 Iowa Administrative Code 118.3(2) a. Learn more at: www.dhs.state.ia.us/iqrs/

KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTOR'S CREDENTIAL

As part of the requirements for the Kansas Early Childhood Director's Credential, candidates must complete coursework in leadership and management. One option to do so is to complete an approved 9-credit hour course of study in early childhood program leadership and management from an accredited college or university. The Aim4Excellence National Director Credential is approved to meet the requirement. Details are available at http://kaeyc.net/Director_Credential.html

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY AND THE MISSISSIPPI CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL NETWORK

The Mississippi Child Care Resource & Referral Network (MSCCR&R), through funding by Mississippi Department of Human Services, provides professional development to early care and education directors across the state. Eligible Mississippi residents may apply for a scholarship to be part of a cohort through the Mississippi Child Care Resource & Referral Network to help defray the cost of completing Aim4Excellence. Applicants must complete the Mississippi Director's Credential program and agree to 20 hours of one-on-one technical assistance as an extension to the workshops. Contact [Lydia Bethay](#), MSCCR&R Professional Development CD Coordinator, at 866.706.8827 or email for registration instructions.

MONTANA DIRECTOR CREDENTIAL

Aim4Excellence has been included in the three-level director credential framework for the state of Montana. Directors can complete the Aim4Excellence modules to meet education requirements in early childhood administration at all three levels of the Montana director credential. To view the framework and how Aim4Excellence fits in, visit: <http://mtecp.org/career.html>

NATIONAL LOUIS UNIVERSITY | UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE CREDIT

Participants may opt to take the modules for undergraduate level credit through National Louis University. The approved courses (5 quarter hours per course) are ECE311: Administration I – Leadership Strategies and Staff Development (Covers Modules 1, 2, and 3), ECE312: Administration II – Managing Center Operations and Finances (Covers Modules 4, 5, and 6), and ECE313: Administration III – Implementing and Evaluating the Program (Covers Modules 7, 8, and 9). Students pay an additional \$330 per course and register by selecting the college credit option when registering online: McCormickCenter.nl.edu/Aim4Excellence.

NORTH DAKOTA | CHILD CARE AWARE® OF NORTH DAKOTA

Child Care Aware® of North Dakota provides an Aim4Excellence cohort opportunity for early childhood leaders in North Dakota. Participants complete the Aim4Excellence online modules and receive support to help them implement the content into their programs. For additional information or to apply visit <http://www.ndchildcare.org/training/aim4excellence.htm> or call Jackie Berndt at 217.299.7007 or 800.452.3646 x7007.

NEW YORK STATE EDUCATIONAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Eligible participants in New York state may apply for a scholarship through the Educational Incentive Program (EIP) to help defray the cost of completing Aim4Excellence. Applicants must meet EIP requirements and must take the Aim4Excellence modules for credit through National Louis University. Apply or learn more at: <http://www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu/apply.shtm>

OHIO ADMINISTRATOR CREDENTIAL

The Ohio Administrator Credential (ACL) includes three levels designed to allow flexibility as well as a growth potential for early childhood leaders. The Aim4Excellence National Director Credential can be used to meet the requirements of Option 2 of the ACL. For additional information, contact the [Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral](#) at 877.547.6978.

OHIO STEP UP TO QUALITY

The Ohio Step Up to Quality Program and the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association (OCCRRA) are offering a limited number of scholarships to administrators/directors in Step Up To Quality programs who are interested in completing all nine Aim4Excellence modules. For additional information, contact OCCRRA: <http://occrra.org/sutq/index.php?pid=20>

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ACT 48

Public school teachers in Pennsylvania are required to complete continuing professional education credits to maintain their certifications as outline in the [Pennsylvania Department of Education's ACT 48](#).

Pennsylvania Aim4Excellence participants who take the modules for college credit may be able to apply their credits to meet ACT 48 requirements. After completing the modules for credit, send an official unopened sealed transcript showing completion of the Aim4Excellence college courses to:

PDE Act 48 Transcript
333 Market St, 3rd Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

For additional information visit the Pennsylvania Department of Education's website: <http://www.portal.state.pa.us>

PENNSYLVANIA KEYSTONE STARS

The Aim4Excellence National Director Credential is recognized as meeting the Pennsylvania Keystone STARS requirements for nine-hour director credential coursework. Participants must present proof that they have completed all nine Aim4Excellence modules for college credit when applying for the PA Director Credential certificate. Learn more at: <http://www.pakeys.org>

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

The Aim4Excellence National Director Credential has been approved as meeting the criteria for a Day Care Administrator's Credential Program by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Child Care Licensing Division. Individuals in Texas who have completed the Aim4Excellence credential and met additional requirements as defined in the state's administrative code may meet the licensing requirements to be a center director. Learn more at: http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/Information_for_Providers/credentialing.asp

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA WESTERN | UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE CREDIT

Montana Aim4Excellence participants may opt to take the modules for undergraduate level credit through the University of Montana Western. Three 3-semester hour courses are offered at points in the year corresponding with the Aim4Excellence modules. Note that this coursework is available to Montana residents only. Interested participants should contact Ryann Gibson at r_gibson@umwestern.edu, or call 406.683.753 prior to registering.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA | GRADUATE COLLEGE CREDIT

Aim4Excellence participants may opt to take the modules for graduate level credit through the University of North Dakota. The approved courses (4 semester hours per course) are T&L590: Administration and Leadership in Early Childhood Education I (Covers Modules 1, 2, and 3), T&L590: Administration and Leadership in Early Childhood Education II (Covers Modules 4, 5, and 6), and T&L590: Administration and Leadership in Early Childhood Education III (Covers Modules 7, 8, and 9). In addition to completing the modules, students are required to engage in an online discussion. Interested participants should contact Jo-Anne Yearwood at joanne.yearwood@email.und.edu or call 701.777.3947 to get started.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA | UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE CREDIT

Participants may opt to take the modules for undergraduate level credit through the University of Southern Indiana. The approved courses (3 semester hours per course) are EDUC 340: Special Topics Aim4Excellence™ (Covers Modules 1, 2, and 3), EDUC 340: Special Topics Aim4Excellence™ (Covers Modules 4, 5, and 6), and EDUC 490: Special Topics Aim4Excellence™ (Covers Modules 7, 8, and 9). Courses are offered at USI's standard tuition rate. Eligible Indiana participants may apply for scholarships through T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® INDIANA to assist with the costs. Interested participants should contact Dr. Jane Meyer at JMeyer@usi.edu.

This is a working document. Tell us about additional linkages or scholarship opportunities by contacting:

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