That's right! The Early Childhood Education Institute turned 10 years old in 2016! Click on the photo above to watch a video celebrating our 10 years. For more information about how the ECEI has grown since our small beginning in 2006, please click on the link below to read our 10-year anniversary brochure. This publication includes a special letter from Diane Horm, a timeline of our major accomplishments in the last 10 years, and a look forward to future endeavors.
A special thank you to all who joined us at our celebration! The night was a major success and we hope everyone enjoyed the festivities as much as we did.

Happy Birthday to us! On November 10, 2016, the ECEI held its 10-year anniversary party at Circle Cinema in Tulsa. Staff, friends, family, partners, and collaborators all came together for a night of celebration and cheer, as well as the debut screening of KPJR's film "Resilience" - an official 2016 Sundance Film Festival Selection. This documentary focused on the biology of stress and the science of hope, which highlights the importance of our Institute and the work we do in the community. To learn more about the film, and to see more pictures from our anniversary party, visit the links below.

What's New at ECEI

The 10th Annual Early Childhood Leadership Institute

The 10th Annual Early Childhood Leadership Institute (ECLI) “The Building Blocks of Resilience in a Trauma-Filled World” was held on Friday, November 11, 2016. Over 200 early childhood professionals attended the one-day conference and learned about ACES, Trauma and Resilience. This year’s ECLI was a dramatic departure from previous
conferences. Instead of a keynote speaker and breakout sessions, a panel format featured 17 local and statewide experts who work with children and families intrauma. Participants spent all day together with plenty of time for audience questions and discussion. Several professors from OU-Tulsa and OSU, along with community leaders, informed the audience about current data, research, and initiatives impacting our community. OU-Tulsa President John Schumann and Dr. Diane Horm moderated the day, and Ginnie Graham of the Tulsa World closed the conference by asking participants to help Tulsa become a trauma-informed community. One participant said “I liked the variety of information and people with similar interests coming together for the greater good for children.” Stay tuned for information about next year’s ECLI!

Click here for the 2016 ECLI in review

Congratulations Emisha! ABCD Award Winner

FIRST HEAD START DISSERTATION GRANT IN OKLAHOMA

The ECEI’s own Emisha Pickens-Young has been selected as one of only six doctoral students in the entire country—and the first ever in Oklahoma—to receive a prestigious and highly-competitive federal Head Start Graduate Student Research Grant. Emisha is earning a Doctorate in Instructional Leadership & Academic Curriculum in the Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education at OU-Tulsa and works as a Project Director for the Early Childhood Education Institute.

ABOVE & BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

The ECEI gives out a quarterly employee recognition award called the ABCD award. We are happy to announce the recipient for the third quarter (July-September) is one of our Bilingual Research Associates, Leah Miranda! Leah demonstrated the ECEI’s core values of Responsibility, Excellence, Learning, and Flexibility. Leah works on the Educare Implementation Study and Bridging the Word Gap study.

Halloween 2016

Service Day 2016
EMOJI HAPPY AT OU-TULSA

This year the ECEI's Halloween group costume was Emojis! The team had fun creating these cool and silly costumes, because everyone loves a good emoji of course. The team’s creativity won them 3rd place at OU-Tulsa’s Chili Cook-off and Costume Contest! Also a special shout out to ECEI’s very own Beth Sullins who took the People’s Choice 1st Place award in the Chili Cook-off contest. Way to go Beth!

VOLUNTEERING AT SALVATION ARMY

Several members of the ECEI staff spent the morning of December 12th giving back during our annual service day at the Salvation Army. Staffers helped with receiving and organizing toys and gifts for children and families in the Tulsa community. This service-filled morning was followed by a fun afternoon at the ECEI staff holiday party. To see more photos of our Service Day, click the link.

Recent Publications

Educare as a Model of Multi-Site, Collaborative, Policy-Relevant Research
Diane Horm
The purpose of this chapter is to describe two key processes embraced by Educare, an enhanced Head Start/Early Head Start program with the goal of informing cross-site, collaborative, applied research. The two processes are: (1) common data collection across multiple sites, and (2) use of data to impact program and policy at multiple levels. Educare’s “lessons learned” through implementing these two processes are shared to inform the formation and implementation of a research consortium of lab schools. Although Educare is not a university-based laboratory school, its focus on combining robust, embedded research with the delivery of a high-quality comprehensive child and family development program designed for children and families living in poverty is an example of Applied Developmental Science (Lerner, Jacobs, & Wertlieb, 2003, 2005) in action that has important implications for building and analyzing databases to answer the most relevant contemporary program- and policy-oriented questions related to early care and education.

Creating Career Pathways and Infusing Infant Mental Health into Early Care and Education Professional Preparation
Carla Goble & Debbie Laurin
Published in ZERO TO THREE
Infant–toddler teachers are often the first people outside of families to interact with infants on a daily basis. Through these interactions teachers can promote infant mental health, prevent problems, screen and identify infants experiencing difficulties, make referrals, and work as members of interdisciplinary intervention teams. However, research suggests that many teachers feel that they do not have the knowledge and skills to address young children’s mental health needs. To address this gap, early childhood teacher professional preparation programs should infuse infant mental health terminology and content into course work, as well as create career pathways for infant–toddler teachers that lead to higher levels of education.

Note: Some articles are not available online.

Read More

Featured Assessment

The Hybrid Narrative Record

One of the new classroom observations the ECEI assessors are learning is the Hybrid Narrative Record of Classroom Observations,
The Hybrid Narrative Record is an open-ended format for recording a running record of narrative data notes and live coding of information about the activities throughout the school day. Trainers from the Peabody Research Institute at Vanderbilt University spent a week in Tulsa teaching the ECEI assessors the measure. The Hybrid Narrative Record will be part of the battery of assessments used in the ongoing Tulsa SEED Study.

Get to Know Our Advisory Board

Aletha Huston, Ph.D.
Priscilla Pond Flawn Regents Professor Emerita of Child Development
University of Texas at Austin

Inaugural Chair of the Infants, Toddlers, Twos and Threes Advisory Board 2011–2016

As our inaugural Advisory Board Chair, Aletha provided invaluable support in helping us establish a foundation and plan for the future. Over the past five years, she guided us through strategic planning and helped us hone our research focus. We are forever grateful for her leadership and guidance. Now that her term as Chair has ended, we asked for her reflections from her time on the Board.

What is unique about the ECEI and its research?
"I think the ECEI has found its niche at the intersection of research and practice. The work the Institute does is always solid with good methods and sophistication but they also always have an eye on how their work is applicable to young children. They have done good strategic planning to help them know who they are and where they are going."

What are the biggest changes you have observed during your time on the Advisory Board?
"There has been a huge amount of growth in the kinds of projects and dissemination of information. The number and quality of the publications has increased greatly. Their research is becoming well-known nationally. For example, this new SEED Project with Georgetown would not have been possible five years ago."

What do you hope to see in the ECEI's future?
"I hope they secure a more stable funding base to continue to produce interesting research. I hope they can continue to grow the number of top-notch researchers affiliated with the center."

Any other thoughts?
"I believe that the ECEI is what it is today thanks to Diane Horm’s terrific leadership. She has built this organization skillfully and has assembled a great team."

Thanks Aletha for providing inspiration and insight as our first Advisory Board Chair!
We are a growing research institute focused on young children (birth to age 8) in early childhood programs. Read more about the history of the ECEI, view our most recent Annual Reports, download a copy of our Strategic Plan, or learn more about our staff.