

Counties currently offering classes:

- Berkeley
- Cabell
- Kanawha
- Harrison
- Logan
- Mercer
- Monongalia
- Nicholas
- Ohio
- Putnam
- Raleigh
- Upshur
- Wood

Week of the
Young Child is
April 16-20!

Plan an event or special activity to celebrate children and families during this week.



History of Apprenticeship Programs

Apprenticeship is one of the oldest forms of training in the United States, dating back to 1937. Apprenticeship programs are a way for individuals to: learn job skills while earning an income; receive wage increases; and earn a widely recognized certificate of completion and proficiency. In 2017, there were more than 22,000 registered apprenticeship programs and approximately 533,607 active apprentices throughout the US. The number of active apprentices has grown 42% since 2013.

In 1989, West Virginia was

the first state to offer an apprenticeship program for individuals working in the field of early care and education. Since that time, many



other states have implemented similar apprenticeship programs, but not all have been successful. For a variety of reasons, many states have faced difficulty in sustaining programs similar to WV's ACDS program. Thankfully,

WV has experienced much success with our early childhood apprenticeship program. Since the establishment of the ACDS program it has expanded across the state, and has approximately 25 classes a semester.

Enrollment in apprenticeship programs is growing across the country. We appreciate all of the people that come together to support ACDS and keep the program available across the state. It truly takes a team approach for the program to be successful.

Upcoming ACDS Events & Trainings

- Instructor Update April 24, 2018 Charleston, WV **Must Pre-register to attend**
- Executive Council Meeting May 3, 2018 Parkersburg WV
- Instructor Academies June 11-12 in Beckley **Requires Pre-Acceptance**
 - July 9-10 in Charleston **Requires Pre-Acceptance**
 - July 19-20 in Morgantown **Requires Pre-Acceptance**

For a complete listing of events, including anticipated class start dates, visit the ACDS website, www.wvacds.org, and click on the calendar link!

Celebrate Your Accomplishment



Congratulations Graduates!

We would like to have pictures of your graduation to add to our website and/or the ACDS scrapbook. You can send your photos along with a completed photo release form to the ACDS office. Photo release forms can be printed from our website www.wvacds.org.

What does a graduation ceremony mean to you? We expect students graduating from high school and college to participate in ceremonies, but are you remembering to celebrate your own accomplishments? The graduation ceremony is traditionally a rite of passage that marks a transition from one stage to another in one's educa-

tion or professional development. ACDS graduation is an important recognition for your hard work and dedication! We understand that it is sometimes challenging for us to take a moment and pat ourselves on the back, but at this time it is important to do so. You have spent much time and effort into finishing your ACDS

classes, so you deserve to take a moment to reflect on the past two years and celebrate! Don't let this moment slip by without consideration.

We want each 4th semester class to have a ceremony of your own design. There is no right or wrong way, discuss it as a class and do what is comfortable for your group. Enjoy the moment!

Graduation Suggestions-make it your own

- Send invitations
- Serve finger foods and/or refreshments
- Invite guest speakers
- Speeches given by class members
- Share favorite memories from past semesters
- Play music

- Hold a reception
- Take a graduation photo
- Reserve a special location
- Share funny stories
- Take polls of class favorites and place in venue for others to read; for example, favorite children's book, favorite

- ACDS activity)
- Class awards (voted on by peers)
 - Reflections from 1st semester to now
 - Create a class scrapbook to be shared with future ACDS classes at orientation.

Graduates Spring 2018

Congratulations to all of this spring's ACDS graduates! The following counties will have graduating classes this spring!

Cabell

Monongalia

Kanawha

Mercer

Nicholas

Putnam

Raleigh



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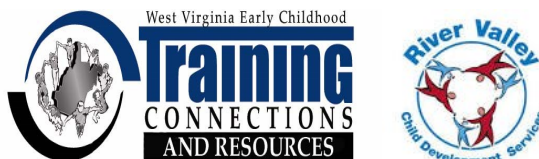
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This program is being presented with financial assistance as a grant from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and is administered by WV Early Childhood Training Connections and Resources, a program of River Valley Child Development Services.

At the conclusion of the spring semester both apprentices and instructors will receive a survey from ACDS through Survey Monkey.

Please take a moment to complete this brief survey.

Your feedback is very important to us and effects future decisions made about the program.

Thank you

ACDS Questions and Answers

What is a mini-grant and who is eligible to receive one?

Mini-grants are grants up to \$150.00 that local councils can receive to assist them with graduation, recruitment, or promotion of the program. Mini-grants are available twice a year, once during the fall and again in the spring. There are guidelines outlining how the money is to be spent.

When will I receive my Department of Labor Certificate?

An apprentice can submit for their DOL certificate after they have completed the required number of On the Job Training (OJT) hours, which is a minimum of 3200. To submit, the ACDS office needs to receive copies of all of your OJT logs and all of your supervisor evaluations. Once that information is received and verified ACDS will submit for your DOL certificate. Once the DOL issues a certificate to you it will be first mailed to the ACDS office. We will make a copy for our records and mail the original to you.

I had WVIT I, does that count toward ACDS?

If you have a WVIT I Completion Certificate you may choose to enter ACDS in 2nd semester. You will still need to attend an ACDS orientation, and communicate to ACDS your desire to enter in 2nd semester. A copy of your WVIT Completion Certificate must be provided to your 2nd semester instructor the first week of class.

