

Night of the Stars



*Let Your
Inner Star
Shine*

*June 25th
2020*

Annual Recognition of Child Care Professionals

Online via Zoom: A Virtual Isolation Celebration!

2020 Night of the Stars Let Your Inner Star Shine

Welcome

Kathryn Aldridge ✨ Emcee; University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Reflections

Rev. Oliver Helsabeck ✨ Fairfield United Methodist Church, High Point

Keynote Address

Rhodus Riggins, Jr. ✨ University of North Carolina at Greensboro & Alamance Community College

Presentation of Awards

Kathryn Aldridge ✨ Emcee



Rhodus Riggins, Jr.

Keynote Speaker

Rhodus Riggins, Jr. is Quality Enhancement Coordinator at the Education Quality Improvement and Professional Development Project at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Adjunct Faculty member at Alamance Community College. Rhodus has over 30 years of extensive experiences in research, technical assistance, professional development, evaluation, and higher education. His research and professional development interests include quality supports for early care and education professionals, family engagement, social-emotional wellness, cultural competency, racial equity, and implicit bias. Rhodus is a grassroots advocate and champion from the Low Country region of South Carolina. He holds a M.Ed. in Educational Leadership, Public Policy, & Advocacy in Early Childhood.

2020 Stars

The following individuals earned Associate's degrees:

Kim Brewer

Honeycomb Kids

"From the time I was around three years old, I could never decide if I wanted to be a teacher, a babysitter, a nurse, a mama, a librarian, a counselor, a secretary, or just play pretend. Being an Early Childhood Educator allows me to fill all of those roles with one career," Kim explains. "I wanted to make sure that children know they matter, know they are loved, and to give them the freedom



and responsibility to feel safe." She is the director of Honeycomb Kids and is the lead teacher for 2 and 3-year-olds. Quipping that it has taken her 52,000 years to complete her program, which she finished in December, she clarifies that it took about seven years, "due to life happening," she adds. Nevertheless, she now has an Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education,

with five different Early Childhood certifications as well. Numerous challenges stood in the way of finishing her degree sooner, including deaths in the family, car accidents, emergency surgeries, and health complications, all of which caused long interruptions, but she notes, "Through a lot of prayers and a strong faith in God's will, I started back again. It took a long time, but I have worked hard and hopefully my children have learned that you just keep going, never stop, it's never too late, and that you can do anything you set your mind to." Kim is proud to know that she has accomplished her goal of earning her degree, but she has done it well, finishing with a high GPA from Stanly Community College, and she has been such a good example for her children.



Brittany Cox

Connie Redding Head Start

Brittany graduated from Randolph Community College this spring with her Associate in Applied Sciences degree in Early Childhood Education.

This milestone has been three years in the making. At Connie Redding Head Start, she works with mostly 3 and 4-year-olds. "I chose Early Childhood Education because I found that I wanted to work with younger children, and I also wanted to learn more about their development," she says.

She does not really consider herself to have faced many challenges during this process, though she says the hardest aspect of going to school and working simultaneously was definitely, "getting on the right path by staying focused, working ahead, and not slacking." As Brittany plans on continuing her education to obtain a Bachelor degree next, she is grateful to have come this far to pave the way to further goals, and finds the greatest reward to be accomplishing something she set her mind to for so long.



Talonda Flowers

Flower's Daycare

Randolph Community College;

Associate in Applied Sciences in Early Childhood Education



Kaylea Roberts Hall

First Church of God

Stanly Community College;

Associate of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education

2020 Stars

The following individuals earned Bachelor's degrees:



Dee Davis

The Growing Place

In May, Dee earned a Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies with a Concentration in Early Care and Education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro that she has been working on for the past three years. She explains,

"I love working with children and I enjoy my job at The Growing Place," where she works with 3 and 4-year-olds. "I wanted to earn a Bachelor's to help me learn new things and become a better teacher." Endeavoring to not let any of her preexisting duties suffer, Dee is pleased that she was able to balance a busy schedule consisting of family events, church activities, Civitan club, and meetings, with her academic obligations. The greatest reward for her is not merely the sense of accomplishment she now has from earning her degree, but that she was able to graduate alongside her daughter as well.



Michelle Delk

Shepherd's Way Day School

"I feel this is part of God's plan for me. I want to help young children learn skills for long term success in their lives," Michelle explains, talking about her duties at Shepherd's Way Day School, where she works with 4- and 5-year-olds. As a teacher, student, wife, and mother, Michelle found the stress of time management to be difficult, but she notes the importance of not neglecting herself during this process. "It is important to rejuvenate and make time for yourself," she explains, which helped her balance her many responsibilities. She has spent the past four years enrolled at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She notes that, as of this spring, she is proud to be a first-generation college



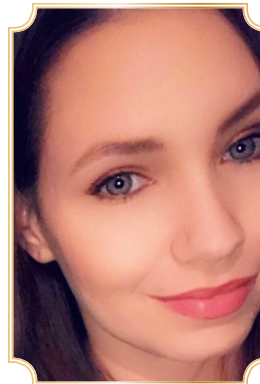
graduate in her family, with a Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies under her belt.



Barbara Jent

Harmony Place

"I have always enjoyed working with children. I had a nephew that was born when I was eight and ever since, I have enjoyed taking care of and being around children," Barbara explains. At Harmony Place, she works with infants.



After earning her Associate degree in 2017, she has spent the past three years steadily working on completing her Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies with a Concentration in Early Care and Education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and completed her course studies this spring.

A single mother of two, Barbara notes that she had "to figure out how to not only juggle one job, but two, all while raising my children." She states, "Just obtaining the degree is a great reward, and knowing that I did not give up, even when I really wanted to."

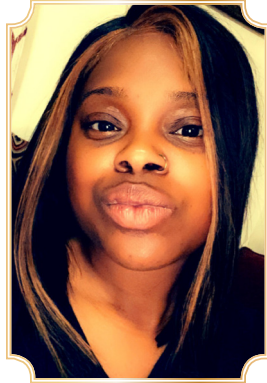


2020 Stars

Roderica Johnson

North Asheboro Head Start

This past December, Roderica accomplished her goal of obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies with a Concentration in Early Care and Education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. The past four years have been spent working to complete her degree. She stumbled into working in Early Childhood Education after becoming a mom as a teenager and currently works at Connie Redding Head Start in the NC Pre-K classroom with 4 and 5-year-olds. A mother of three, Roderica notes that raising her children while attending school and working full time was both a challenge, but was also the greatest reward. She loves how she has become a role model for her kids, and has let them know that, as she says, "Anything is possible and that the sky is the limit! No matter what comes your way, just keep pushing!"



Ruth Moreno Tress

First Church of God

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies with a Concentration in Early Care and Education



Scarlet Welborn

Randolph Partnership for Children

When she transitioned from working at The Growing Place to Randolph Partnership for Children, Scarlet was in the middle of her degree program from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, which she graduated from this spring. She has spent the past three years obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies with a Concentration in Early Care and Education. Scarlet has worked with infants and toddlers and explains, "I'm led to work with children and provide them with every opportunity to learn." In addition to balancing her home and work life with school, she had the challenge of changing jobs and working with a new program at the Partnership, which includes furthering the opportunities that infants and toddlers in childcare have to learn. She is most enthused about how earning her degree prepares her for the next step in her career.



Jessica Tinnin

The Kids of Hope

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies with a Concentration in Early Care and Education

Let Your
Inner Star
Shine



"I know that there is only
one of me in this world
and as such, I know-
I am special.

Let that special part of me shine
and reflect upon others,
so they will know-
they are special too."

- Eleesha



2020 Stars

The following individuals earned Master's degrees:

Christine Cassidy

Christine's Playhouse

Christine has been working with children for 20 years and says she loves what she does. Her work at Christine's Playhouse involves teaching and caring for children ranging from infants to preteens. It has taken two and



a half years to complete her degree from Purdue University, which she finished last summer, earning a Master of Science in Human Services. She says she faced many challenges during her time as a continuing education student, including health issues, dealing with running her own business, and opening her home to a foster child. "I had a lot of late

hours," she remarks. She considers the greatest reward to be learning the extent of her own perseverance regarding how she did not give up, and the fact that she was able to attend Purdue's graduation in Washington, D. C.



Dena Harward

Connie Redding Head Start

"I love working with young children!" Dena exclaims.

"I choose Early Childhood to continue to learn about children's development and understanding how to help children to be successful."

She knows the impact that working with young children now has throughout the rest of their lives. Enrolling at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro two years ago, she finished this spring with her Master of Education in Birth-Kindergarten Interdisciplinary Studies in Education and Development with a Concentration in Early Childhood Leadership and Program Administration. At Connie Redding Head Start, she works in the NC Pre-K classroom with 4 and 5-year-olds. She is grateful that her family can be part of this experience, having rallied around her while she was continuing her education and feels that it is their achievement as well. "I can be a positive example about the importance of learning and education. I now feel empowered to be an advocate for change. I feel that I can speak out now and have my voice heard." Her coursework involved a lot of reading materials and processing data related to early childhood, and she notes, "I was able to understand how important it is that we speak up and make sure that those making decisions have the information they need."



2020 Professional Development Committee

Angela Cox

Randolph Community College

Andee Edelson

Randolph Partnership for Children

Susan Helsabeck

Randolph Partnership for Children

Joy Johnson

Randolph Partnership for Children

Sabrina Lucas

The Kids of Hope

Melissa Lyda

First Steps Early Learning Center

Elizabeth McLeod

Randleman Enrichment Center

Alicia Cruz Ortega

Precious Memories Preschool

Jamie Perez

Teddy Bear Child Care Center

Shahmaen Raja

Connie Redding Head Start

Melissa Simmons

My Circle of Friends Enrichment Center

Kristy Umfleet

Randolph Partnership for Children

Scarlet Welborn

Randolph Partnership for Children

Thank You

Thank you to all of the businesses and individuals who contributed donations and door prizes to this year's Night of the Stars.

Special Thanks to Our Door Prize Donors.

Aloette (Jennifer Miller), Andee Edelson, Discount School Supply
Kaplan Early Learning Company, Lakeshore Learning, Melissa Simmons

*"You have an inner light,
a special glow that no one else has.
Let your inner light shine,
because you were born to shine!"*
- Jennifer Gayle



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www.randolphkids.org

Follow us:    

Randolph Partnership for Children is our community's lead organization for young children and their families.
Our purpose is to ensure all children in Randolph County enter school healthy and ready to succeed.

The Partnership for Children is a United Way of Randolph County and United Way of Greater High Point agency.

