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March 25, 2015

Rebecca Pelton, Ed.D.
MACTE
108 Second Street S.W., Suite 7
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Dear Dr. Pelton,

Thank you for your letter of February 4, 2015, requesting a review of coursework associated with Montessori Accreditation Council of Teacher Education (MACTE) accredited Montessori Teacher Education Programs and to articulate Montessori Infant/Toddler and Early Childhood courses of study to the NH Early Childhood Professional Development System.

I am pleased to inform you that New Hampshire's Early Childhood Credential Task Force has concluded its research and made decisions regarding the inclusion of Credentials from MACTE accredited Teacher Education Programs. We appreciate your and your colleagues' time, research, advocacy, professionalism and patience as we have considered this matter. We have decided to include a completed credential from a MACTE accredited Teacher Education Program on the Teacher, Master Teacher, Administrator, Master Professional and Infant/Toddler Endorsement lattices of the Early Childhood Professional Development System, in much the way you have suggested.

In most cases, it is offered as an alternative to the required 24 credits in Early Childhood. We are not granting this as an equivalency of actual credits, but recognizing that a completed program of study at a MACTE accredited Teacher Preparation Program resulting in an Early Childhood or Infant/Toddler credential is a valid and valuable alternative in the field of Early Childhood Education. The MACTE alternative will be offered for completed MACTE credentials only.

NH Early Childhood Teacher Credential:

Level 4: High School Diploma and a Credential from a MACTE accredited Teacher Preparation Program

Level 5: Associate degree and a Credential from a MACTE accredited Teacher Preparation Program. The MACTE credential is also offered as an option to fulfilling the work requirement at this level.

Level 6: Bachelor degree and a Credential from a MACTE accredited Teacher Preparation Program

NH Early Childhood Master Teacher Credential:

Level 1: Associate degree and a Credential from a MACTE accredited Teacher Preparation Program

Level 2: Bachelor degree and a Credential from a MACTE accredited Teacher Preparation Program

Level 3: Master degree and a Credential from a MACTE accredited Teacher Preparation Program

NH Early Childhood Administrator Credential:

Level 1: Include the option of 60 post-secondary credits and a Credential from a MACTE accredited Teacher Preparation Program

Level 2: Associate degree and a Credential from a MACTE accredited Teacher Preparation Program

Level 3: Bachelor degree and a Credential from a MACTE accredited Teacher Preparation Program

In addition, the MACTE Administrator's credential may be substituted for 3 credits in administration and leadership.

One exception to our decisions and your suggestion is not to include the MACTE credentials at the Administrator Level 4, since the required credits in ECE are 30 and we are offering this as an option to the 24 credits.

NH Early Childhood Master Professional Credential: Though we did not include in our discussion with the Montessori community in New Hampshire, the inclusion of the MACTE credential on this lattice, we did consider comments and concerns that we have heard regarding the availability of trainers, mentors and consultants that would be specifically trained in Montessori philosophy. These credential will help facilitate that process.

Workshop Trainer: Bachelor degree and a Credential from a MACTE accredited Teacher Preparation Program

Individual Mentor: Associate degree and a Credential from a MACTE accredited Teacher Preparation Program

Program Consultant: Bachelor degree and a Credential from a MACTE accredited Teacher Preparation Program

We have not included the MACTE credential on the faculty lattice since this designation requires a Master's degree, and if someone holds a Master's degree in Montessori from a regionally accredited college or university, this would meet the qualifications for this credential.

NH Infant and Toddler Credential Endorsement: We have included the MACTE Infant/Toddler Credential at the first 3 levels of this endorsement.

Foundational Level 1: Infant/Toddler credential from a MACTE accredited Teacher Preparation Program

Foundational Level 2: Associate Degree and an Infant/Toddler credential from a MACTE accredited Teacher Preparation Program


Intermediate: Associate Degree and an Infant/Toddler credential from a MACTE accredited Teacher Preparation Program

The EC Credential Task Force has considered and will be implementing a number of changes to the credential in general. I think it is important to note that one of the changes is to remove the requirement of the degree being in a "related" field of study. This previously precluded those who may have come from very different backgrounds from obtaining a credential at any level higher than Teacher Level 4. We believe the research supports the fact that the broader knowledge base gained by earning a degree in any field has value to the educational development of the individual when education in Early Childhood is added to it.

Please find attached to this email the educational portions of the EC lattices including these changes. The lattices will be updated in full later this summer.

We will begin accepting applications and awarding credentials based on all of the changes to the Early Childhood credentials on October 1, 2015.

Thank you again for your time and advocacy on behalf of the Montessori community in New Hampshire. We look forward to welcoming many of these individuals into the NH Early Childhood Professional Development System.

Sincerely,

Kristin Booth,
CCDF Program Specialist