

THE MARYLAND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
A Partner of the Sherman Center for Early Learning in Urban Communities at UMBC

Leadership Development Opportunity

The Maryland Early Childhood Leadership Program (MECLP) is now accepting applications for its inaugural Fellows cohort. MECLP Fellows will participate in the *Leading for Change in Early Childhood Education* Curriculum, designed for a diverse range (ethnic, geographic, affiliation) of early childhood professionals across Maryland.

I. MECLP

MECLP is a program of the Sherman Center for Early Learning in Urban Communities at UMBC designed to accelerate leadership development in the field of early childhood. MECLP believes that developing and supporting strong leaders will catalyze positive change and significantly improve school readiness and related outcomes for early learners, particularly disadvantaged and vulnerable children and their families.

Guided by its Advisory Committee of Maryland and national early childhood leaders, the goals of MECLP are to:

- Improve/enhance leadership in early childhood education (ECE) and associated fields.
- Increase the diversity of ECE leaders across the state.
- Position Maryland as a leader in developing strong ECE systems leaders.
- Expand early childhood course work in higher education to institutionalize leadership skills.

II. Curriculum Design

MECLP contracted with the Institute for Early Education Leadership and Innovation (IEELI) at UMass Boston to adapt and deliver its innovative, research-based curriculum. The adapted curriculum, *Leading for Change in Early Childhood Education*, will be a joint, co-branded course offered through MECLP and the IEELI to the inaugural cohort of 14 MECLP Fellows.

Leading for Change in Early Childhood Education is a 12 month, hybrid (face-to-face sessions and online readings and activities) curriculum designed to build the leadership skills, knowledge, and dispositions of early childhood professionals. The curriculum includes:

- In person, daylong learning sessions: Fellows will discuss and reflect on new content and work together to develop testable solutions for critical problems of practice and policy in early childhood.
- Beginning with the orientation and throughout the course, cohort Fellows will engage with guest presenters and the Advisory Committee to build leadership networks.
- Asynchronous online sessions: Fellows will engage in discussions, homework/reading assignments, and video conferences/webinars, conducted through BlackBoard, a web-based learning platform.
- Individual and small group projects, as well as individual or group capstone projects.

III. Core Competencies:

The *Leading for Change in Early Childhood Education* curriculum is grounded in 7 core competencies:

- a. Vision (long-term view; ability to see the larger system; establish shared understanding of complex problems with others; leverage diversity)
- b. Personal leadership skills & values (strong ethics; communications skills; commitment to diversity; continuous learning; resilience; adaptive behavior; political savvy)
- c. People management/leadership (build teams/workforce; set direction; lead change; nurture growth and professional development; identify stakeholders including families, educators, funders, legislators, etc.; manage performance, build and nurture broad networks of working relationships)
- d. Organizational capacity (effective use of data and research to inform decisions and areas of focus; lead others through change; conflict management skills; obtain and maintain critical resources)
- e. Results/outcomes (establish achievement goals; plan & execute; create & model accountability; measure and evaluate progress)

- f. Creativity/innovation (develop new insights that include resourcefulness, a spirit of inquiry, entrepreneurship, collaboration)
- g. Public policy knowledge (understand policy and legislative environment, at local, state and national levels)

IV. Fellows Selection Criteria and Requirements:

Cohort participants will:

- Have a Bachelor’s Degree.
- Represent different ethnicities and different jurisdictions/regions in Maryland.
- Represent a variety of settings, including but not limited to public schools Head Start, Child Care, Early Childhood Advisory Councils (ECACs), Judy Centers, non-profits, 4 year higher education institutions, Health Departments, advocacy groups, foundations and other settings that support the development of young children.
- Secure the approval of their supervisor to participate in this program.
- Attend all in-person sessions per the calendar below.

2019-20 Calendar:

- **Half-Day Orientation Session - Saturday, December 7th, 2019**
- **Six (6) full day (9:00 am to 3:00 pm) Saturday sessions held at UMBC on the following:**
January 11, 2020
March 28, 2020
May 9, 2020
July 11, 2020
October 10, 2020
December 12, 2020

Mileage, parking, child care and, if traveling 2+ hours, overnight accommodations will be covered by MECLP if needed.

V. Course Credit and Fees:

MECLP has applied for CEUs and PAUs to be awarded through MSDE upon completion of the year-long course. It is also working with UMBC to secure 3-Post Baccalaureate credits to be awarded through the Sherman Center for Early Learning in Urban Communities. MECLP Fellows are not responsible for tuition costs (estimated at \$2,100) but will be expected to pay \$250 for program fees. (Scholarship opportunities available if needed.)

VI. The Application Process:

- Complete the Application and submit a current resume
 - Request official college transcripts to be sent to:
 Sherman Center for Early Learning in Urban Communities
 ATTN: MECLP
 Fine Arts Building, Suite 017
 1000 Hilltop Circle
 Baltimore, MD 21250
 - Forward the Reference Form to two References
- **Application and Resume Due - June 21st either submitted online at <https://shermancenter.umbc.edu/the-maryland-early-childhood-leadership-program-meclp/> or emailed to: meclp@umbc.edu.**