

# Edmonds Community College: 2009-10 Family Support Studies Annual Newsletter

## Parent Mentor students visit Familias Unidas in Everett and the Northshore Family Support Center.

The first cohort of students in our new I-BEST Parent Mentors program visited two family support centers as part of their Family Support Principles and Practices class last spring. These Natural Leaders from Edmonds, Northshore, Shoreline, Everett, and Mukilteo school districts learned how grass roots family support programs reach out to diverse families in our community.



"I can't believe how respectful the (Familias Unidas) workers are to these families. They understand their complex needs and find creative ways to meet them!" - Student

"I have driven past the Northshore center several times and had no idea of all the wonderful services they offer parents and families. Every neighborhood should have a center like this." - Student

## Want to learn more about our I-BEST Parent Mentors program for Natural Leaders in your school or community?

Download a flyer from our Web site:

[www.edcc.edu/familysupport](http://www.edcc.edu/familysupport)

Send one to your school district and community leaders now!

## Head Start Expansion Dollars! Jobs for parent service and support and family service workers in Washington state.

According to a news release from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,

"Grants totaling nearly \$220 million (nationwide) will allow current Head Start guarantees to serve 16,600 additional children and families. Grants worth nearly \$1.2 billion will support Early Head Start expansion and allow the program to serve 55,000 more pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and their families and nearly double the number of Early Head Start participants. The increased number of children and families served by these grants will create new jobs at Head Start and Early Head Start centers as more additional staff are hired to handle increased enrollment."

Both Head Start and Snohomish County Early Childhood Education and Assistance (ECEAP) programs have applied for Early Head Start funds to expand and develop new programs to serve more families in our county and state. EdCC's Family Support Studies program is ready to train more family support workers for these new positions in Washington.



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## How can we help?

Family Support Studies classes provide training for current and future family support workers in:

- Principles of family support (strength-based practice);
- Leadership skills to help parents advocate for their children;
- Partnership skills to help workers create viable partnerships with local community agencies to provide services and supports to families;
- Home visiting skills to bring services to the families;
- Group process skills to lead and support parent groups and policy councils; and
- A hands-on, practical field based internship at the family support program of your choice.

Do you want to learn, review, or enhance your skills? Enroll in classes now! All classes are available on campus and online. Complete a professional certificate in a year. Fall classes begin Sept. 21.

## Find out more

[www.edcc.edu/familysupport](http://www.edcc.edu/familysupport)

See the 2009-2010 calendar of classes and plan for your certificate now. Watch for special offerings this spring. We will launch a new series of one-credit classes to address and improve cultural competence.



## Reviving Family Support Washington!

Stay tuned Family Support Washington is planning to launch a virtual community of practice. Robin Russell, newly published

children's author, school teacher, and diehard family support advocate – with help from Ngoc Do from Campfire – is working on developing a Web site for family support workers, policy makers, and advocates in partnership with the Washington Children's Trust Foundation. EdCC's Family Support program has developed an online blog that will be featured at this new site. The blog will facilitate conversations amongst family support practitioners, researchers, and policy makers. The link to the blog will be up in the fall. Learn about Family Support Washington at: [www.familysupportwashington.camp7.org](http://www.familysupportwashington.camp7.org)

## EdCC Family Support Studies Advisory Committee Corner

A special thank you our college's Family Support Studies Advisory Committee. Several members worked together with the college's marketing and communications team to create a video featuring our program. Have you struggled to define what makes family support practice unique? See our new video as members from Child Welfare, Family Support Community and Youth Programs, U.S. Navy, and Early Care and Education specialists describe why they think professionals working with families can rely on our program for training and support. Thank you all for your constant support and advice.

## For more information

Helen Nissani, Chair Family Life Education Department/Family Support Studies

425.640.1163 | [familysupport@edcc.edu](mailto:familysupport@edcc.edu)