



MARYLAND EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Sherman Center for Early Learning in Urban Communities

The Maryland Early Childhood Leadership Program (MECLP), a program of the Sherman Center for Early Learning in Urban Communities at UMBC, is a workforce initiative designed to accelerate cross-sector leadership in 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. MECLP expects to position Maryland at the vanguard in developing transformative early childhood leaders in Maryland and nationally by accomplishing its results:

- Improve outcomes for young children, families and communities.
- Effect State level change in systems, policies and programs through cross sector early childhood leadership.
- Advocate for equitable high-quality early childhood care and education experiences for all children.
- Create a broad and diverse network of early childhood professionals recognized as transformative leaders in the field, creating a workforce pipeline.

MECLP is partnering with The Institute for Early Education Leadership and Innovation (IEELI) at the University of Massachusetts Boston to deliver a customized version of its research-based *Leadership in Early Childhood Education* course. The modified curriculum is tailored to the specific needs of Maryland's early childhood education community and will build the leadership skills, knowledge and dispositions of early childhood professionals.

MECLP's first course – *Leading for Change in Early Childhood Education* – is an innovative 3 credit post baccalaureate 12 month cohort based course that will build skill development in visioning, values, personnel and resource management, organizational capacity, data analysis, creativity, innovation and public policy.

The *Leading for Change* course will provide a mix of in-person, daylong learning sessions, guest presentations, asynchronous online learning sessions, individual and small group projects, and field trips. Each MECLP *fellow* will complete a capstone project focused on an issue specific to early childhood education in Maryland. A coaching component will support fellows post course completion. An annual evaluation will be conducted to ensure that MECLP is meeting its stated goals.

In the next five years, MECLP expects to:

- Graduate 100 fellows from a cross-sector, mixed delivery system of early childhood professionals who represent Maryland's ethnic, geographic and affiliation diversity.
- Support fellows through a robust coach/mentoring model that will sustain and continue to develop leaders once they complete the initial course.
- Build an online professional learning community that will be enriched with new course completers.
- Champion MECLP fellows as early childhood leaders in Maryland through an annual Leadership Institute.
- Increase the visibility and accomplishments of leaders poised to strengthen the early childhood workforce to effect stronger outcomes for young children, their families and communities.
- Build Maryland's capacity to sustain the Leading for Change course through MECLP.

Maryland Early Childhood Leadership Program

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