

Celebrating San Francisco's family child care providers' educational achievements

By Eva Schiorring

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On Thursday, April 22nd, City College of San Francisco's Child Development and Family Studies Department (Child



Photo by Monica Davey

Pictured at the April 22 event are left to right are City College's Stephen Santos Rico, Kathleen White, Eva Schiorring and Sharon Donovan.

Development Department) hosted a reception to honor the educational achievements of San Francisco's licensed family child care providers. The event, which was part of the 4/17-4/24 Week of the Young Child, celebrated a landmark in the history of the Child Development Department's now five-year-old training program for San Francisco child care providers: This Spring, 1,000 San Francisco's family child care providers had participated in the program, completing a combined 2,500 units in Early Child Development and Education, or 30,000 hours of training. To place this achievement in perspective, imagine how you would feel at the end of the following day: The alarm goes off at 5 A.M. You rush to get ready for the first young clients who will arrive in half an hour. You spend the day tending to 8-9-10, or even 14 children, including a few infants who need constant attention. You teach, play, engage, change diapers, prepare meals, clean dishes, comfort those who need encouragement, and never run out

of energy. Around 4 P.M the first parents arrive for pick up. By 5:30 the house is finally quiet. What do you do? Fall into a comfortable chair? Not so....you run out of the house, get into the car and drive to a three-hour CDFSD class on

"Infant/Toddler Development."

The Training Program: Designed to Meet the Changing Needs of a Busy, Multi-Lingual Community of Professionals

At the April 22nd celebration, child care provider representatives spoke about their community's strong commitment to education. And while they congratulated their colleagues on what has been accomplished thus far, all speakers stressed the need for continued education. For this, the commu-

nity will continue to rely on CCSF's Child Development Department which delivers training in three different languages, in multiple locations, every day of the week, early in the day as well as late in the evening. "Our mission is to make high-quality training available to San Francisco's family child care providers," says **Stephen Santos Rico**, Chair of the Child Development Department. "Sometimes this means taking the training out to where the providers live and delivering it in their language. It also means that we work with the providers to stay on top of their training priorities. It is a lot of work, but the community's response makes it all worthwhile."

Dating back to the late nineties, CCSF's collaboration with San Francisco's provider community was originally part

of a national movement to improve the quality of child care and to help child care providers organize. With assistance from a High Quality Child Care Investment grant, CCSF hosted a series of community meetings that identified providers' training priorities and scheduling preferences. Classes began and immediately took off, and when the grant ended CCSF had positioned itself to take the work to scale. The ensuing expansion was supported by San Francisco's Department of Children, Youth & Their Families (DCYF) and encouraged by DCYF's vision and interest in developing for San Francisco a highly trained and well-organized provider community.

As the menu of courses expanded, the local child care advocacy groups grew in membership and strength. A DCYF grant helped launch the local networks that connect and organize providers by neighborhood and cultural affinity. At this



Photo by Monica Davey

Pictured at the event are (left to right) **Kathy Zetes**, Children's Council of San Francisco; **Mabel Ayeung**, CCSF Instructor; **A.A. Yajima**, Child Care Law Center; and **Gabriela Aranda**, Low Income Investment Fund. All have been involved in teaching, organizing, and promoting the courses.

time, 60% of San Francisco's providers belong to a network and three in four providers belong to The Family Child Care Association of San Francisco.

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Asian Coalition scholarship winners

The Asian Coalition of City College of San Francisco presented nine scholarships to CCSF students at its annual dinner held April 30.

Mei Ching Fong is passionate about mathematics, and describes it as “beautiful artwork” and “interesting puzzle.” Her ultimate goal is to obtain a Doctorate

in Applied Mathematics. She would like to share her passion as a mathematics professor. Meanwhile, she continues to tutor the subject at CCSF.

Zhuomei Yan is one of a select group of students who has mastered the probability theory and inferential statistics. She makes time to be a math/economics tutor

and peer advisor, while managing a part-time job in order to be self-sufficient. Her goal is to earn an MBA.

Nang Kit Wong, the recipient of the Fan King Lau Memorial Scholarship, shows every indication of becoming a nurse par excellence: her dedication to serving people and their needs in her myriad of volunteer work, as well as her persistent and consistent work in her academic studies.

Zaw Thet Oo is pursuing his childhood interest in chemistry, and will study for a Chemical Engineering degree at the University of California. Besides his grueling studies, he is dedicated to serving the community in several capacities. He is the founder and current President of the CCSF Myanmar Student Club.

Wai Phyo wants to work for an advanced degree in Electrical Engineering and has plans to return to his motherland, Myanmar, to establish an engineering school and technology library. He brought his legacy of community service from his homeland to CCSF, where he volunteers in a number of campus and off-campus organizations.

Marilyn Dugyaw has plans for dual studies in Nursing and social Work. Her zeal for service extends overseas, to the Philippines, where she specialized in working with street children. She is Vice President for the Inter Club Council of the Associated Students at CCSF.

Lice Wu has been granted the T.F. Tsao memorial Scholarship. She was to be a Pharmacy Technician, and ranks as an outstanding student in the program. Her community involvement focuses on a variety of services to seniors.

Yong Qing Tang has a record of extracurricular activities in his homeland, China. He is currently studying ESL and computer technology. He plans to become a Doctor.

Li Ying Huang, who was awarded the Franklin Chin Memorial Scholarship, balances her role as a full time Early Childhood Education teacher, mother, wife and student. She is particularly interested in working with special needs children.

San Francisco Family Child Care Providers

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Is There Anybody Whose Education Matters More to Us?

One of the reasons why CCSF’s Child Development Department has become a key provider of education for local child care providers is that the Department stays abreast of the changing educational needs of the local child care provider community. As an illustration, the Child Development Department recently collaborated with local providers to develop and conduct a comprehensive, city-wide survey of the training needs and priorities of San Francisco’s approximately 630 licensed providers. The survey, which achieved a remarkable 32% response rate, found that the child care providers want more short-term courses in computer applications and in advanced business development. They are also interested in training that prepares them to achieve high ratings on the Environmental Rating Scales, an initiative that is designed to improve and standardize the quality of infant/toddler care. The preferred time for the training is weekends, so, as **Sharon Donovan**, Director of CCSF’s Professional Development Project noted: “It is fortunate that we have in place a group of committed instructors.”

The survey also asked providers about their current level of education. The findings confirmed that San Francisco’s child care provider community is very well-educated. More than half of the respondents reported that they had completed education beyond high school, 10% hold AA or AS degrees, 19% hold BA or BS

degrees, and 6% have completed some graduate level work.

At the April 22 celebration, two things were clear. San Francisco’s child care providers have a special relationship with CCSF. More than 80 providers attended the event—rushing over after the last child was picked up. The other characteristic that struck an outsider was that this is a remarkably integrated community of professionals. It is not only that the provider community is more diverse than San Francisco itself, but also that there is a tremendous amount of interaction and collaboration between the different ethnic, linguistic and neighborhood-based groups. Because this is a highly organized community, many providers know each other even if they are working in different parts of the city. And it is clear from their interaction that they network among themselves to make the community stronger.

As the last provider left the Rosenberg Library Atrium that hosted the celebration, Stephen Santos Rico reflected on the CDFSD’s commitment to continue to serve this diverse community: “Is there anybody whose education should matter more to us than those who take care of our kids? Having a community of educated child care providers makes our city a better place to live. And from our perspective, going out there to Sunnysdale or to Chinatown to deliver training to these hard-working students—that’s what being a community college is all about.”