ALGONQUIN COLLEGE

PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Program Title:	Early Childhood Education Administration
Credential:	Ontario College Graduate Certificate
Program Length:	One Year
School:	Health and Community Studies
Dean:	Barbara Foulds
Proposed Start Date:	Fall 2012

PURPOSE

This 462 hour, two level Early Childhood Education Administration Ontario College Graduate Certificate program builds upon the education and work experience of the early childhood educator. The program's objective is to prepare early childhood educators for administrative and leadership roles in the Early Childhood Education (ECE) community. Graduates may find employment in supervisory and administrative positions across the full spectrum of programs and centres servicing the needs of children from birth to age twelve.

BACKGROUND

Currently the credential required to work in the field of ECE is the Early Childhood Education diploma program. It does not prepare students for administrative roles and as such, the ECE community has identified the need for training to support administrators.

This program is offered through OntarioLearn with the host Colleges being Seneca and Sheridan. The proposed program mirrors the existing OntarioLearn program offering, and will allow students the flexibility to take the courses online and/or in class. The program will be delivered part-time on a course by course basis.

CONSIDERATION

(i) **Evidence of Need**

The demand for early childhood educators in the province of Ontario is very high with the implementation of full day kindergarten. With new positions in the school boards being filled by seasoned early childhood educators, there is an increased need for early childhood educators in the Child Care and Community Resource/Family Centres to take on leadership and administrative roles. The current two year diploma in Early Childhood Education does not provide specialized training in this area. Additional education in the areas of administration, management and leadership is required to provide the job market with suitable candidates.

(ii) **Student Interest**

This Graduate Certificate program is currently offered through OntarioLearn on a part-time basis and as such no comparable OCAS data is available. Early Childhood Education programs across the Ontario College system are oversubscribed, consistently demonstrating high demand based on OCAS statistics dating back to 2008. On average, from 2008 to 2010, the ratio of applicants to enrolments is greater than 4:1. This indicates a strong demand for education in this sector. The graduates of the ECE two-year diploma program

are the potential students for this Ontario College Graduate Certificate program.

(iii) **Staffing**

Part-time instructors will be hired to deliver the program through the Centre for Continuing and Online Learning.

(iv) **Admissions Requirements**

Program Eligibility:

1. Early Childhood Education Diploma or Equivalency from the Association of Early Childhood Educators Ontario (AECEO).
2. One post-diploma year working with children in a licensed Ontario-based ECE program. Individual knowledge and experience will be considered in lieu of one year experience.

(v) **Advisory Committee Support**

This program proposal was first tabled at the ECE Advisory Committee meeting on October 5, 2011 at which time the program content was discussed and well received by the committee members and faculty present. The majority of Committee members endorsed the program. Members indicated that this program will meet the needs of the community and that the individual courses could act as professional development opportunities for those currently working in the field who wish to upgrade their skills in one specific area.

(vi) **Strategic Alignment**

The implementation of this program reflects the strategic directions of the College including the commitment to digital learning with both hybrid and 100% online, alternative delivery options, leveraging of our relationships with business and industry, and meeting the needs of students and the community.

Appendix 1: Program of Study

Appendix 2: Cash Flow Analysis – not applicable

Note: Programs delivered on a part-time basis have to meet minimum financial targets. This program will be delivered on a course by course basis. To mitigate financial risk, course delivery decisions will be predicated on sufficient registrations to meet financial targets.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Governors approve the Early Childhood Administration Ontario College Graduate Certificate program effective Fall 2012 and seek validation of the program title and outcomes from the Credentials Validation Service and approval for funding from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities.

Appendix 1: Program of Study

LEVEL 1 – 15 weeks

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	Hours					
		Theory		Lab		Field / Clinical	Total Hours
		In class	Online	In class	Online		
COM5601	Communication Strategies for Early Childhood Educators		42				42
EDU5602	ECE Curriculum Design and Implementation	42					42
EDU5603	Advocacy and Professionalism in Early Childhood Education	28	14				42
EDU5604	Early Childhood Education Supervisory Management, Leadership Skills & Staff Development	28	14				42
MKT5605	Service Marketing in ECE	28	14				42
EDU5606	Computer Application and Financial Planning in Early Childhood Education Administration			42			42
	TOTAL LEVEL HOURS	126	84	42			**252**

LEVEL 2 – 6 weeks

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	Hours					
		Theory		Lab		Field / Clinical	Total Hours
		In class	Online	In class	Online		
FLD5607	Early Childhood Education Administrators Program Fieldwork					210	210
	TOTAL LEVEL HOURS					210	**210**

Graduate Certificate Program Total Hours **462***

*** Total hours equivalent to existing OntarioLearn CVS approved Ontario College Graduate Certificate - grandfathered program with hours less than typical 600-700 hour credential range**

Appendix 2: Cash Flow Analysis

Note: Programs delivered on a part-time basis have to meet minimum financial targets. This program will be delivered on a course by course basis. To mitigate financial risk, course delivery decisions will be predicated on sufficient registrations to meet financial targets.