

New Jersey's Professional Development Hub for Early Childhood Leadership

Early Childhood Leadership Institute (ECLI)

Center for Access, Success, & Equity (CASE)

Rowan University

What is ECLI?

The Early Childhood Leadership Institute (ECLI) was created in January 2016 as part of the Center for Access, Success, and Equity (CASE) at Rowan University College of Education, to support the professional development needs of early childhood leaders taking part in New Jersey's Quality Rating and Improvement System with funding from and in partnership with New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development. With a focus of helping build leadership capacity for New Jersey's early childhood community, the institute is led by co-directors Dr. Kelley Perkins and Dr. Zeynep Isik-Ercan. Since its inception, the institute continues a successful partnership with DFD; also expanding its scope to include additional partners such as NJ Department of Education, NJ Department of Children & Families, The Nicholson Foundation, and The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation, working with leaders and programs in the region in evaluation, coaching, and training.

What is the Institute's conceptual model?

ECLI utilizes a conceptual model in developing customized professional development including meaningful learning experiences for participants with a focus on building capacity and promoting continuous professional growth in each of the pillar areas.



CONCEPTUAL MODEL FOR THE PROFESSIONAL GROWTH OF EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND DISPOSITIONS (PERKINS & ISIK-ERCAN, 2017)

Highlights of ECLI's professional development framework:

- Implements Needs Assessments to customize professional development
- Evaluates program impact through (Introductory/Baseline), post-Orientation and ongoing surveys utilizing state TAS Standards, in Addition to PD Feedback Forms, and focus groups.
- Utilizes Implementation Science within framework
- Provides Foundational Training (24 hours), as well as periodic practice-based role-specific training
 - 10 Hours (Two 5-hour in-person training days)
 - 10 Hours (Two 5-hour online modules)
 - 4 Hours (Two- 2 hour Reflective Sessions)
- Utilizes feedback loops
- Employs technology to provide access to training slides, resources & platform for collaboration
- Provides support in CoPs for sustainability and supporting implementation
- Supports leaders at all levels: state staff, Technical Assistance providers, Directors/Providers
- Offers coaching for more intense support in skill development
- Supports develop and emerges in response to the needs and direction of organization, as well as the cultural
- Spearheads research and conceptualization of leadership development in early childhood education
- Bridges training to higher education credentials. (Certificate of Graduate Studies in Early Childhood in Technical Assistance and Coaching)
- Training linked to higher ed. (Certificate of Graduate Studies)
- Responsive – changes every year and is based upon needs and direction of organization
- ECLI spearheaded unification of definitions of PD, Coaching, etc.

