

Welfare
To
Work

Childcare
High
Performance
Bonus
Award

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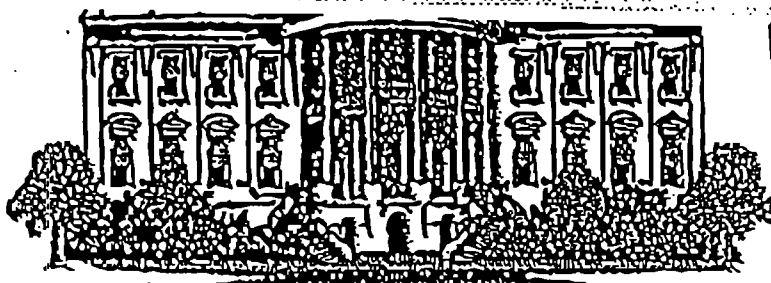
Welfare to work:

Child Care High Performance
Bonus Award



WELFARE TO WORK

CHILDCARE HIGH PERFORMANCE BONUS AWARD



File: welfare
Return
- child
care

THE WHITE HOUSE

Domestic Policy Council

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7/24

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2

COMMENTS:

7/12/00 From my ~~home~~ paper!
Sue Bee

CC: Mary, Ann Olam, Julie
From: Andrew
NEIGHBORS • Thursday, July 13, 2000 Northeast 3

Program bridges the welfare-to-work gap

By Carey Peterson

Neighbors Staff Writer

Shelburne Bee

DeAnna Bega, a single mother of three and a welfare recipient, used to make ends meet by jumping from one low-paying job to another.

Bega's life has changed because of the state-funded Child Care Provider Training pilot program.

Bega, a Carmichael resident, works 40 hours a week at the Children's World Learning Center, 5739 El Camino Ave. She is one of 19 students who graduated June 30 from the program held at Carmichael Presbyterian Church.

"I have always wanted to work with children," said Bega, 32. "I never wanted to be on welfare, and now I have the chance to stop receiving it."

The program was designed to train California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids recipients to become licensed family day-care providers. CalWORKs recipients face a 60-month lifetime limit in which to receive cash aid under welfare reform.

The two-year, \$136,000 pilot project is sponsored by the county Department of Human Assistance, the Los Rios Community College District and Child Action Inc., a nonprofit advocate for quality child care.

"This program has been very successful with personal growth for many of the students," said Billee Wilson, child care coordinator for the Department of Human Assistance. "This program has



given them a career ladder in early childhood development."

The funding paid for students' books, classes, supplies and transportation.

Wilson said the graduates have earned 12 units in early childhood development education. She said the graduates can be licensed to provide day care or work in child care centers.

Wilson said about 120 students have graduated from the program since January 1999. More than 85 percent of the graduates work in child care, attend community college or work in another field.

"This program got me off of the welfare system," said Arden-area resident RaeAnne Coleman-Becker, 37. "The classes were extremely difficult, but well worth

it."

Becker, a single mother of four teenagers, teaches at the Wild Kingdom Learning Center, 2925 Root Ave. Becker said she plans to teach for about five more years and then find administrative work.

Bega said she will continue to receive money from CalWORKs until she is able to earn more. Bega



DeAnna Bega, far left, plays with Josh Sigler, 2, at the Children's World Learning Center. Bega recently graduated from a training course designed to help welfare recipients become day-care providers. At left, she reads a story to Endilynn Hill, 2.

Neighbors
photographs
Lazelle Starling

earns \$6.50 per hour at the Children's World Learning Center. She plans to attend American River College in the fall and study early childhood development for two years.

The recent graduating class was the fifth and final class to graduate from the pilot project, Wilson said, although \$102,000 is available for retention services.

Wilson said the money will be used to assist family day-care providers who are CalWORKs recipients so they can stay in business. She said the money will help purchase items such as fire extinguishers and smoke alarms.

"Everything was paid for in the program," said Bega. "All we had to do was show up. This program has truly changed my life."