**Wilkes University Offers Online Pathway to Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary and Early Childhood Education**

Early child care professionals with some college credits can now earn their bachelor’s degree online while working full time. Wilkes University’s online Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary and early childhood education prepares students for Pennsylvania pre-kindergarten through fourth grade certification. Scholarships are available for qualified early child care professionals who can advance their education for little or no cost.

In partnership with the Pennsylvania Child Care Association, the T.E.A.C.H Early Childhood Pennsylvania Scholarship offers financial assistance and support services that improve the education and compensation of child care workers. Early child care professionals, teachers and assistant teachers working in Keystone STARS facilities are eligible to apply to the scholarship program. They must have completed at least 55 credits in an accredited early childhood education or equivalent teacher-preparation program. Wilkes has worked to create articulation agreements with many area community colleges, so students can seamlessly transfer and not lose credits. Some child care employees may qualify for Rising STARS Tuition Assistance from The Pennsylvania Key.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that employment of preschool and elementary teachers will grow over the next 10 years due to the number of students enrolling in prekindergarten and elementary schools.

Prospective students can learn more by visiting [www.wilkes.edu/econline](http://www.wilkes.edu/econline) or by contacting Amy M. Hnasko at amy.hnasko@wilkes.edu.

The School of Education at Wilkes University is a leading provider of education programming in the state of Pennsylvania with a footprint that extends throughout the United States and abroad. In addition to a variety of undergraduate programs, Wilkes offers the doctor of education in educational leadership and more than two-dozen master's degrees and certificate programs.

**For more stories about Wilkes University and its students, faculty and staff, please visit** [**News@Wilkes**](https://news.wilkes.edu/)**.**

**About Wilkes University**:

Wilkes University is a private, independent, non-sectarian institution of higher education dedicated to academic and intellectual excellence through mentoring in the liberal arts, sciences and professional programs. Founded in 1933, the university is on a mission to create one of the nation’s finest small universities, offering all of the programs, activities and opportunities of a large university in the intimate, caring and mentoring environment of a small college, open to all who show promise. *The Economist* named Wilkes 25th in the nation for the value of its education for graduates. In addition to 47 majors, Wilkes offers 25 master’s degree programs and five doctoral/terminal degree programs, including the doctor of philosophy in nursing, doctor of nursing practice, doctor of education, doctor of pharmacy, and master of fine arts in creative writing. Learn more at [www.wilkes.edu](http://www.wilkes.edu).

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