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## Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children and Early Childhood Iowa

### Announce Launch of Early Care and Learning Website

The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'NAVIGATE YOUR PATHWAY' website. At the top left is the 'Childhood Iowa' logo. The navigation menu includes 'Learn About', 'Programs & Resources', 'Contact Us', and 'Home'. The main header features a blue box with the text 'NAVIGATE YOUR PATHWAY: JOURNEY TOWARD EXCELLENCE IN AN EARLY CHILDHOOD CAREER' and a photograph of a teacher interacting with three young children. Below the header, there are three orange buttons: 'KNOW WHERE I AM TODAY' (with a location pin icon), 'KNOW MY NEXT STEPS' (with a large letter 'A' icon), and 'DEVELOP A PLAN' (with a checkmark icon). The text 'I WANT TO....' is positioned to the left of these buttons. Below the buttons, a line of text reads: 'Use this pathway to help make decisions about training and education needed to develop a dynamic career in early childhood'. At the bottom, there is a copyright notice: 'Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children | Copyright © 2016'. A small disclaimer at the very bottom states: 'All information published herein is gathered from sources which are thought to be reliable, but the reader should not assume that the information is official or final. Early Childhood Iowa and the Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children do not assume responsibility for errors and all information is subject to change without notice. Links from these pages to external websites are provided as a service to visitors of this website.'

DES MOINES - The Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children (Iowa AEYC) and Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) announce the launch of a unique career pathway website designed to assist the Iowa early care and education workforce to make decisions regarding training and formal education needed to develop a dynamic career.

As a result of a 48-hour hackathon event conducted by **dsmHack**, a local not-for-profit organization, five website developers, a website designer, and a database specialist joined together as a team to volunteer their time and expertise to develop the interactive website. **dsmHack** centers its work on the idea of "Build.Learn.Give" to elevate and strengthen the Des Moines community by building technology solutions and relationships, learning new skills and thought processes, and giving time and skills. Using a grant application process, they select non-profits who need, but cannot afford, necessary technology solutions for their agency and those the agency serves. Iowa AEYC was one of ten selected non-profits selected to benefit from this opportunity. To learn more, visit [www.dsmHack.org](http://www.dsmHack.org).

Iowa AEYC is a non-profit organization that represents over 1,100 members, works to improve teaching and learning, promotes leadership and professional development in early childhood education, supports accreditation and excellence in child care programs, and builds public awareness through advocacy and outreach. To learn more, visit [www.iowaaeyc.org](http://www.iowaaeyc.org). The early care and education workforce in Iowa includes approximately 20,000 adults who earn among the lowest wages of any profession in Iowa. Low pay is a widespread issue that increases turnover and decreases quality in child care and other early childhood programs. The new website provides the workforce with needed

information to move forward on a career pathway to increase their knowledge and skills, which can lead to increased wages.

Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) was founded on the premise that communities and state government can work together to improve the well-being of children ages birth - 5. ECI efforts unite agencies, organizations, and community partners to support, strengthen, and meet the needs of all young children and families in Iowa. Early Childhood Iowa Area Boards enable local citizens to lead collaborative efforts involving education, health, and human services programs. To learn more, visit <http://www.earlychildhoodiowa.org>.

Visit [www.ecieducationpathway.org](http://www.ecieducationpathway.org) to learn more about a career in early care and education in Iowa. Contact [info@iowaaec.org](mailto:info@iowaaec.org) with questions.