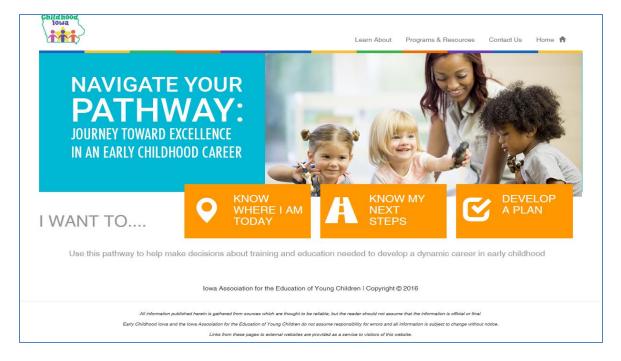
May 26. 2016 Contact:

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

Announce Launch of Early Care and Learning 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.

lowa 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. The early care and education workforce in lowa includes approximately 20,000 adults who earn among the lowest wages of any profession in lowa. 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 <u>www.ecieducationpathway.org</u> to learn more about a career in early care and education in Iowa. Contact <u>info@iowaaeyc.org</u> with questions.