Tuesday, September 26, 2023

PRR Committee Colleagues,

We are starting our response to you with a photo of a former graduate of the Spanish ECE program, to help us all remember what this is all about, our students.

We were asked to elucidate how the ECE Spanish program will impact our current ECE ("CDF") course offerings in English.

- *Ability to staff sections:*

A concern was shared that the Spanish offerings might impact our ability as a department to offer the same number of sections in English.

The ECE discipline currently comprises of three full-time and ten part-time faculty, teaching ECE sections online at the main campus, Chico Center, and Glenn Center. Our most recent associate faculty hire is bilingual and has taught courses at Butte College in both English and Spanish.

When the Spanish cohort program was previously offered, each cohort enrolled in two ECE course sections per semester (Fall and Spring), with companion ESL352-A (ESL Workforce Training for Adult Education) sections. This scheduling pattern will allow the 12-unit certificate to be completed in one year and the 24-unit certificate of achievement to be completed in two years. With a 50% faculty release time, this is the equivalent of four new sections each semester (sections offered + release time).

Given that our associate faculty are teaching at 67% capacity, and eight additional sections per semester would bring all available associate faculty to full load, we can take staff more sections without hiring.

To be cautious, though, and to help promote work-life balance in our discipline that is often stretched thin, if the PRR committee does recommend the ECE Spanish program for Board

approval, we plan to interview over the 2023-24 school year to add to our English and Spanish associate faculty pool.

We were also asked to elaborate on what supports are in place now that weren't when the Spanish ECE cohort program was in place previously.

- *Bilingual course materials:*

The Curriculum Alignment Project, which we are aligned with at Butte, has translated OER course materials/ textbooks for the eight 3-unit core ECE courses.

- *Bilingual staff and whisper-system informed faculty:*

We have two bilingual instructional staff in our department (and one Latinx-identifying but sadly monolingual English-speaking faculty member with much experience teaching and presenting with Whisper systems).

Additionally, in terms of other staff:

- **Main campus:** We now have two full-time bilingual Spanish-speaking academic counselors and, sporadically, some student service staff in various departments.

- **Chico Center:** We have a bilingual Spanish-speaking CAS member and an evening library support staff. We sporadically have front-desk staff who speak Spanish. The Chico Center reports several open front desk positions, such as an Admissions & Records technician, but it is unknown if they will be recruiting for bilingual applicants.

- **Glenn Center:** Though it is still our recommendation that a cohort is offered at Chico Center, which is centrally located, we have a front-desk staff member who speaks Spanish at Glenn.

Alternatively, we have also lost two key ESL positions that were very supportive.

We once had an ESL Coordinator who supported students with program applications at the Glenn and Chico Center. We no longer have the ESL Support Specialist who was in the classroom and supported students while attending ECE classes.

Do we have any campus materials and forms in Spanish?

Having campus materials and forms in Spanish is exceptionally important. Some, but not all, college forms and materials are available in Spanish. There would need to be a concerted effort to locate these materials and/or fund the third-party translation of college forms and materials. (We specifically suggest third-party translation to avoid burning out our bilingual instructional and student service colleagues).

What will be the *likely* initial schedule of classes?

Our suggestion for the first implementation year is to offer one cohort of students who will enroll in two ECE course sections per semester (Fall and Spring), with companion ESL352-A (ESL Workforce Training for Adult Education) sections.

This scheduling pattern will allow the 12-unit certificate to be completed in one year and the 24-unit certificate of achievement to be completed in two years.

Though the goal is to offer the program in a cohort model, students outside of the cohort can also add a Spanish course. A range of situations require this added level of flexibility, such as a student being unable to attend two classes per semester or for those who might have completed specific courses in the sequence.

Do bilingual staff work evenings when classes are offered?

Our bilingual staff are sporadically located throughout our campus locations.

While we do have bilingual staff at Glenn Center, it is not centrally located, nor is there easy access to public transportation. Public transportation is even more important for a cohort of students with limited access to transportation and who tend to support each other with commuting with one another (another positive aspect of a cohort: internal support). This was the case at The National Hispanic University (where Dr. Chofla served on the faculty) and at Butte College, when we offered Spanish ECE classes.

We recognize there has been an emphasis on centrally located Spanish programming at Glenn, which might seem to make sense. Historically and experientially speaking, though, Chico Center has been a better location for Spanish ECE course offerings. Still, to make this successful, we would need to hire an evening Spanish-speaking front desk staff member at the Chico Center. A suggestion: We could have a window at the front desk with a sign that reads “Yo hablo español” next to a central location for forms in Spanish by this window.

Letters of support

Below, on the following pages, please also find a range of letters of support for this program from our community and students.

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Butte College Program Research & Recommendation Committee,

As members of the Butte and Glenn early childhood education system and related departments here at Butte College, we would like to voice our strong support for creating an Early Childhood Spanish program at Butte College.

We represent a range of institutions and systems that serve Latinx and Hispanic children and families throughout the college's service area.

We urge you to approve creating this profoundly needed program in our community.

With support,

Heather Aulabaugh, M.Ed.
Director, Department of Child and Family Services
Glenn County of Education

Anna Bauer, MS
Director, First 5 Butte County Children & Families Commission

Monica Brown
Student Equity and Achievement Director
Butte College

Kristy Cowell, MA
Founder, Sunny Garden Montessori

Dr. Cristina Dahl, Ph. D
English and Puente Instructor, Butte College

Brian Donnelly, MS
Interim Director
Career Services, Butte College

Molly Emmons, MA
Department Chair
English as a Second Language, Butte College

Erna Friedeberg, MPA
Executive Director, Northern Valley Catholic Social Service

Melinda Geiser
Child Development Consultant
Quality Counts California Higher Education Faculty Workgroup
First 5 California

Steven Hanson
Child Program Specialist
Child Development Center, Butte College

Jodie Keller
ECE Programs Director
E Center Head Start Programs

Dr. Holly Kralj, DNP, CNM, RN, PHN
Commissioner, First 5 Butte County Children and Families Commission
Professor of Maternal/Child Nursing, Chico State University

Michelle Mayfield
Early Learning Quality Specialist
Early Education Programs and Services, Butte County Office of Education

Kim Nelms, MA
Program Director
Early Education Program & Services, Butte County of Education

Sharon Nilsson, MA.Ed.
President, Oroville City Elementary School District
K-12 Strong Workforce Pathway Coordinator, North Far North Regional Consortium
Associate Faculty, Education, Butte College

Alison Saechao
Retention Specialist
TRIO Student Support Services, Butte College

Valerie Singleton, MA
Adjunct Faculty, Internship Coordinator, and Child Development Major Advisor
Child Development Department, Chico State University

Susan Toussaint, MA
Retired Director
Child Development Center, Chico State University

Dr. Gail Walton, PhD
Professor, Department Chair
Child Development Department, Chico State University

September 24, 2023

Dear Program Review and Recommendation Team,

As former instructor of ECE Courses in Spanish at Butte College, I reached out to several students previously enrolled in the Early Childhood Education Spanish Program to obtain statements about their experiences as a way for the PRR Committee members to “hear from them.”

Some of our former students’ testimonials are included below, *as written by the students*, which also shows the growth in their use of second language skills. Some comments include a simple statement while others are more detailed. Through this document, I am letting student comments talk about their overall experience.

“You learn best if you learn in your home language” Monica Carranza.

“Despite not coming from a country where Spanish is the primary language, in my region, 23 Mayan languages are spoken. Unfortunately, I didn't have the opportunity to receive formal education in my home country. My educational journey began when I arrived in the United States, when I started school, and as a result, all my academic education has taken place here in the USA. When I learned that Butte College was offering Early Childhood Education courses, I enrolled right away, knowing that this opportunity would change my life. Attending classes in Spanish was initially a challenge, but my professor, had great patience and professionalism, which made my learning experience much easier. Now, I feel very comfortable being trilingual in Mayan, English and Spanish. This has opened many doors for me. I completed my Early Childhood degree in 2023 and am deeply grateful for the ECE Spanish program offered by Butte College. This program has made a significant impact on my professional life.” Hermelinda Diaz.

“Personally, I loved the Spanish ECE Program. It makes me happy to know that other people could have the same opportunity as this is a program where you learn a lot. What a better way to do it with one of the most dedicated professors who transmits to you her love for teaching others. I earned my AA Degree in ECE at Butte College” Fidelfa Birrueta.

“The Early Childhood Education Spanish program helped me to take classes to be able to work in childcare, and to be able to do it with quality. At this time, I help children identified with special needs and based on the support they need for better development.” Rocio Montejano.

“I had a pleasant experience while taking my ECE classes in Spanish. It was my dream to study here in the USA. Although something I didn't like was that I needed to take the ESL class… and it did not count for units with a grade. Despite personal circumstances I was able to receive a certificate. It would be great to have as much support as possible for Hispanic students.” Rosa Morfin.

“The Spanish program gave me the opportunity to improve myself and achieve new goals, I wish more programs were offered in Spanish in different areas of education!” Hortencia Diaz.

“This program changed my life and took away my fear of being able to enroll in an educational system that I did not know. If the program in Spanish had not existed, I don't think I would have come to college. I earned my AA Degree in ECE during the pandemic, and I am currently working with GCOE.” Maria Pureco.

“Language should not be a barrier to continue growing; rather, it can be the door to learning another language. That was what happened to me in my experience with the ECE Program, the classes in Spanish opened the door for me to be able to continue taking classes in English.” Anahy Barrera.

“I have taken 24 units in Child-Development, all with the Spanish ECE Program. Additionally, I also took some general education classes in English and now I am thinking of transferring to Chico State. This program has enriched me cognitively and emotionally. The ECE Program was the pillar in my educational journey, thank you very much.” Jenny Valdivia.

“Thanks to Butte College for the Early Childhood Education Spanish program. It opened my mind and heart to realize that I could do more than I thought. Now I have more confidence in myself, and I know that I can still go beyond college. Thanks to my professor and to Butte College for letting me dream again of achieving a better education!” Celia Alejandre.

Fifty former students were contacted. Forty-six students responded back. All forty-six students are in support and hope that Butte College can bring back the ECE Spanish program "*so other students can have a similar or richer experience than the one they had*." The names of students who responded back are included below. Most of these students earned an ECE Certificate and a Certificate of Achievement while enrolled in the ECE Spanish Program. Students who, to the best of my knowledge, have been awarded with an AA Degree show thar degree next to their name on the next page.

Irma Gonzalez Cuadros
Faculty, ECFS Department
3536 Butte Campus Dr.
AHPS 104
Oroville, CA. 95965
Gonzalez-cuadrosir@butte.edu
(530) 895-2319

Below is a list of 46 students in support of bringing back the ECE Spanish Program

1. Celia Alejandre (ECE Degree)
2. Karen Arreguin
3. Lizeth Alvarez Dillanes
4. Anahy Barrera (ECE Degree)
5. Fidelfa Birrueta (ECE Degree)
6. Monica Carranza
7. Sonia Carrillo Betancourt.
8. Lucila Chavarria
9. Maria Chavez (ECE, CD Degree)
10. Alejandra Cervantes
11. Araceli Cisneros (ECE Degree)
12. Hermelinda Diaz
13. Hortencia Diaz
14. Irene Diaz (ECE Degree)
15. Cenis Escalante
16. Patricia Escalante
17. Gloria Natali Esparza
18. Maria G Esparza
19. Edith Espinoza (ECE Degree)
20. Imelda Gallegos
21. Barbara Gonzalez
22. Teresa Hurtado
23. Oyuki Irons
24. Ivon Linarez (ECE Degree)
25. Maria Luna

26. Gloria Martinez
27. Rafaela Mendoza
28. Maricela Morales
29. Rosa Morfin
30. Rocio Montejano
31. Maclovia Orozco
32. Maria Guadalupe Naranjo (ECE Degree)
33. Maria Padilla (ECE Degree)
34. Mary Palominos
35. Maria Elva Parra
36. Maria Pureco (ECE Degree)
37. Agripina Rodriguez
38. Claribel Rodriguez
39. Yasmin Romo
40. Rosa Rosales
41. Amalia Solano (ECE Degree)
42. Edith Torres Espinoza (ECE Degree)
43. Marisolina Trevino
44. Jenny Valdivia
45. Rosa Velazquez (ECE Degree)
46. Beatriz Viramontes (ECE Degree)

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Butte College Program Research & Recommendation Committee,

As *currently enrolled* students of Butte College pursuing certificates and degrees in child development, early childhood education, and education, we would like to voice our strong support for creating an Early Childhood Spanish program at Butte College.

We urge you to approve creating this profoundly needed program in our community.

With support,

Andrea Amezcua

Briana Chavez

Rosa Cordero Orozco

Alondra Gaona

Perla Herrera

Darien Heyl

Blanca Jimenez

Jeniffer Lippke-Calger

Crystal Magana

Mayra Maldonado

Ami Rincon

Maya Trenda

Some additional notes shared by students:

"*I support this program, especially because it will open new opportunities to other people including my mom, she could also take these classes."*

"*Having done my Early Field Experience at Hamilton Elementary School I had the pleasure of working with students in the ESL program a few times a week. It definitely opened my eyes to*

the importance of having certificated Spanish speaking staff. I currently work at a childcare center in Chico and can confidently say that there is a huge need for Spanish speaking caregivers as roughly a quarter of our children are primarily Spanish speakers. I support this program and hope it opens the door for many future ECE students! "

Students from previous Spanish Early Childhood Education cohort

General Agency Administration Office
1506 Starr Drive
Yuba City, CA 95993
Phone: (530) 634-1200
Fax: (530) 671-1042
ecenter@ecenter.org
www.ecenter.org

Women, Infants & Children Program Office
831 Bevins Street
Lakeport, CA 95453
Phone: (707) 263-5253
Fax: (707) 263-4183

Child Development Program Office
860 Plaza Way
Yuba City, CA 95991
Phone: (530) 741-2995
Toll Free: (866) 417-4255
Fax: (530) 822-9584

Head Start

Migrant Head Start

General Child and Development Services (CCTR)

September 25, 2023

Butte College Program Research & Recommendation Committee:
RE: Spanish ECE Cohort Opportunity

Dear committee members,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter in support of the new Spanish ECE cohort program that is being presented for vote on Monday, October 2, 2023.

E Center employees approximately 240 teaching staff across the 8 counties that we operate Head Start programs in. Many of our new and upcoming teachers come to us with the need for Spanish support when taking their ECE courses while they continue to strengthen their English-speaking abilities.

For our Migrant Seasonal Head Start Program the staff are required to speak the home language of the children specifically in the Infant and Toddler classes. This cohort would be instrumental in encouraging and supporting English language learners to become ECE professionals.

Thank you for your consideration in the proposal before you.

Sincerely,

Jodie Keller
ECE Programs Director
E Center Head Start Programs

GLENN COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Department of Child and Family Services

676 E. Walker St. Orland, CA 95963 - 530-865-1145 - Fax 530-865-4797
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Heather Aulabaugh, Director

Butte-Glenn Community College

3536 Butte Campus Drive

Oroville, CA 95965

September 25, 2023

On behalf of the Department of Family and Community Services,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Spanish Early Childhood courses offered by Butte-Glenn Community College. These courses have proven to be an invaluable resource for our community and have greatly contributed to the quality of education provided to our children. As the Glenn County Office of Education, Department of Child and Family Services, has a vested interest in the education and development of our youngest youth, I would like to emphasize the significant impact these courses have on our programs and our communities.

Our staff members have consistently benefited from the educational opportunities provided by the Spanish Early Childhood courses at the community college. The curriculum is well-designed, the instructors are highly qualified, and the courses are structured to meet the unique needs of educators working with young children from diverse backgrounds. These courses have equipped our staff with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively teach and nurture our students, many of whom come from Spanish-speaking households.

One of the most noteworthy aspects of these courses is the sense of community they foster among our educators. By building cohorts with shared cultural values and experiences, our staff members have formed strong bonds and developed a deeper understanding of the cultural nuances within our community. This, in turn, has had a positive impact on the classroom environment, creating a more inclusive and welcoming atmosphere for our students and their families.

At Child and Family Services, we are committed to providing educational opportunities that reflect the cultural and linguistic diversity of our community. It is essential that our programs are staffed by qualified teachers who represent the culture and languages of

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Heather Aulabaugh, Director

the communities we serve. The Spanish Early Childhood courses at Butte-Glenn Community College play a pivotal role in helping us achieve this goal. These courses provide our educators with the tools they need to effectively communicate with and support Spanish-speaking students and their families, fostering a stronger sense of trust and connection.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse the continuation and expansion of the Spanish Early Childhood Cohort. I kindly request that you consider this letter of support as you make decisions regarding the future of these courses. Your commitment to providing high-quality education that reflects the needs of our community is deeply appreciated, and I believe that the Spanish Early Childhood courses are an integral part of achieving that commitment.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any further information or assistance.

With children's best interest at heart,

Heather Aulabaugh

Ryan Bentz, Glenn County Superintendent of Schools