

**Early Care & Education Youth Apprenticeship Awarded Grant
to Expand Apprenticeship Pathways for High School Youth
PRESS RELEASE**

Oakland, May 31, 2019 – Selected from a highly competitive pool of over 220 applicants from 49 states and Puerto Rico, the Oakland-based Early Care & Education (ECE) Youth Apprenticeship has been awarded one of nine grants from the Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeship (PAYA). The grants will support local employers, educators, community partners and policy leaders working together to build high-quality youth apprenticeship programs that promote inclusive economic development and create new opportunities for young people.

The ECE Youth Apprenticeship is a partnership between Castlemont High School, YMCA of the East Bay, ECE Pathways to Success (ECEPTS), Kidango Inc., and Berkeley City College. The groundbreaking program enables high school students to complete four college courses and on-the-job training in a community-based child care center. Apprenticeship graduates earn a California Child Development Associate Teacher Permit, qualifying them for widely available teaching positions when they turn 18 or upon high school graduation. They are also be eligible to expand their early childhood studies and on-the-job training by enrolling in ECE Apprenticeships once they enter college. ECE Apprenticeships help to recast entry level positions in ECE from being seen as "dead-end jobs" to being on-ramps and springboards to well-paid careers in ECE and related fields.

With grant support from the Healthcare Career Advancement Program (H-CAP), the Castlemont ECE Youth Apprenticeship cohort of 25 students will begin their apprenticeship in June. The PAYA grant funding will enable ongoing implementation and expansion of the program, including plans to expand to a second high school in 2020.

The ECE Youth Apprenticeship represents an expansion of Pathway programs already offered at Castlemont High School. According to William Chavarin, Principal at Castlemont High School, "Providing these kinds of innovative on-the-job training and learning experiences creates opportunities that can change the course of our students' academic and career trajectories. So we're thrilled to be selected by PAYA to expand this work."

"Youth apprenticeships are a significant and promising innovation in the workforce development space," says Randi Wolfe, Ph.D., President of ECEPTS. "But an ECE Youth Apprenticeship is uniquely significant since most youth apprentices will eventually become parents. And they will be better prepared for child-rearing because of knowledge and skills gained through the program. The ECE Youth Apprenticeship will benefit them as professionals in the near-term and as parents in the long-term."

Created by New America, PAYA is a multi-year, multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to assist innovative organizations around the country in developing robust youth apprenticeship programs that are scaled and replicated to serve students, employers and communities alike.

For more information about the ECE Youth Apprenticeship, contact: ECEPTS (randiwolfe@tikkunconsulting.com) or YMCA of the East Bay-Early Childhood Impact (pshaw@ymcaeastbay.org). Learn more about PAYA at: newamerica.org/paya.