

## Pima Community College Mission and Vision

The mission of Pima Community College is to develop our community through learning by providing access to learning without the limits of time, place or distance.

## Pima Community College Center for Early Childhood Studies

### Vision

*Every young child has access to high-quality experiences with well-educated adults.*

### Program Mission

*Developing the early childhood community through instruction, collaboration, and innovation.*



## Pima Community College Early Childhood Studies Conceptual Framework

The Pima Community College (PCC) Early Childhood Studies (ECS) Conceptual Framework guides our work in these three critical areas: Focusing as Educators, Working as Colleagues, and Developing our Community. Committed to our students, they are the focus of everything we do as we engage adult learners in preparing to lead as early childhood professionals.

One core belief forms the base for all our other guiding principles: *Respect for the inherent value of each person's unique perspective, culture, developmental stage and experience.* Mutual respect among all groups—the teacher and child; the faculty and college student; colleagues in the Early Childhood Studies department and the college; and the early education and care community in Pima County—creates the sense of belonging, trust and depth of relationship that we believe is essential to fulfill our mission in our work as educators, as a faculty, and as members of the early education and care community.

**Focusing as Educators:** *Students must have access to responsive instruction based on developmentally appropriate practices*

- Create relevant learning environments that meet the needs of children, families and community
- Respect students as full partners in the educational process
- Foster students' construction of knowledge by making connections of prior knowledge to recently learned material through realistic examples and situations
- Intentionally design classroom instruction to engage learners through discussion, group activities, dialogue in the classroom setting, and portfolios
- Provide students opportunities to share, experience and grow in a safe respectful environment
- Ensure each ECE student has opportunities to acquire and demonstrate knowledge, understanding and applications of best practice
- Provide a quality education by setting high expectations of teacher and student
- Create awareness of the department's philosophy of learning and teaching
- Offer students a variety of assessment modalities to demonstrate their understanding of course content
- Support students on a path that leads to a degree in a timely manner

**Working as Colleagues:** *Faculty and staff must create an atmosphere that supports innovative teaching, advising, and learning*

- Continuously revise courses to reflect current issues faced by the profession
- Consider the backgrounds, prior experiences, needs and strengths of the students, as professionals
- Guide instruction based upon the objectives embedded in each course
- Expect alignment of objectives and methods from one instructor to another
- Apply the most up-to-date research along with developmentally appropriate practices and strategies
- Ensure instruction is culturally responsive
- Offer a system of classes that together create a cohesive opportunity to learn about best practices

**Developing Our Community:** *Our early childhood studies program must be based on collaboration, communication, and awareness that it is an integral part of the early childhood education and care professional development system in order to best serve the diverse needs of the community.*

- Require student participation in diverse educational settings within our community where they are able to apply theory to practice
- Dialogue regularly with community, students, and faculty for input and review
- Appreciate that our students live and work in a diverse community
- Instill passion and an understanding of the importance of high-quality early education and care within our community
- Provide students opportunities to collaborate and engage in learning within the community