

Staff Employee of the Week

Alexa Gardner

NAME: Alexa Gardner

JOB TITLE: Curriculum Coordinator

HOME DEPARTMENT: Virginia Tech Child Development Center for Learning and Research

COLLEGE OR VP AREA: College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

NOMINATED FOR: Staff Leadership Award



SUMMARY

As a Mentor Teacher with the Virginia Tech Child Development Center for Learning and Research (CDCLR), Alexa is committed to excellence in teaching, research, and service. She has played a leadership role at the center mentoring and supporting other teachers' professional development and pursuit of their teaching goals. Alexa also serves as a cooperating teacher at the CDCLR. She oversees the clinical experiences of undergraduates enrolled in field study and independent study. Alexa has worked collaboratively with faculty from diverse disciplines to support their research and teaching endeavors and is involved in teach research.

To Alexa, teaching is an ongoing journey to transform. In this respect, she seeks professional development opportunities for herself and other teachers. Alexa has successfully balance being a full-time employee while pursuing her master's degree in Educational Psychology.

Alexa is also a leader in the Virginia early childhood education community. She has presented, with fellow teachers, at state and national conferences and provides training to preschool teachers. She is a rater for the Virginia Star Quality Initiative (VSQI) to improve childcare. Alexa, as a co-principle investigator with Karen Gallagher, has successfully secured funding to support quality improvement in childcare centers in the New River Valley.