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## STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

## **DIVISION OF ECONOMIC & HOUSING STABILITY**

## BUREAU OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT & HEAD START COLLABORATION

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# Dear Early Childhood Professional,

It is difficult to believe that two long years have passed since we were able to gather for the Bureau's Annual Celebration of Early Childhood Professionals in honor of your dedication to the Early Childhood field. This year, we very much anticipated seeing you in person, with the expectation that the pandemic would abate and we could resume our pre-COVID activities. Unfortunately, this was not the case. At this time, the pandemic remains unpredictable and once again, prevents us from convening this large, in-person event.

We are pleased to announce, however, that the 2021-2022 Early Childhood Credential Challenge is going forward as planned. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to participate and submit your application by March 15, 2022. For more information about the Challenge, please click on the following link: <a href="https://doi.org/10.2021-2022-Credential-Challenge-Flyer.pdf">2021-2022-Credential-Challenge-Flyer.pdf</a> (nh-connections.org). As you would expect, the cancelation of the Celebration means there is now no requirement to attend in order to participate in the Challenge.

Lastly, the Bureau is considering hosting a virtual Celebration in the fall of 2022. We would greatly appreciate your input on this possibility. Please click on the following link to complete a *very brief* (less than 5 minutes) survey. BCDHSC Virtual Celebration Opinion Survey Based on your responses, we will determine if there is sufficient interest for us to explore this option.

Thank you for your hard work on behalf of children and families and for your perseverance during these challenging times.

Warmest Regards,

Debra Nelson, Bureau Chief