

## Durham CCDC Priorities

### Top Priorities for Change and Improvement

- **Build strong collaboration and ongoing communication among key community stakeholders and leaders related to diversity and personnel preparation**
  - Link/coordinate all the different fragmented programs that already exist
  - Develop stronger (and ongoing) partnerships between community leaders and faculty
  - Bring the “top levels” (state and local) in to solve diversity challenges and listen to what’s happening
  - Create more flexibility in how professional development experiences are “counted” or evaluated for the North Carolina 5-star license
- **Increase the number of high quality early childhood practicum sites**
  - Create/identify unique practica sites (e.g., homework centers, after school programs, homeless programs) that meet the needs of campus and community
  - Explore with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) opportunities for flexibility in terms of requirements for practica for Birth through Kindergarten (B-K) licensure
  - Give students many opportunities for exposure to the “real world”

### Additional Priorities for Change and Improvement

- **Infuse diversity into all aspects of personnel preparation**
  - Infuse emphasis on exceptionality and early intervention (i.e., serving young children with special needs) into all personnel preparation experiences
  - Provide ongoing support and training resources on diversity for faculty
  - Promote the interest and enthusiasm of students in having diverse experiences
  - Provide students with cross-cultural experiences (i.e., “cultural plunge”)
- **Increase efforts to recruit, retain and support diverse students**
  - Generate interest and sustain links between high school students and early childhood careers through mentoring, community service and other strategies
  - Recruit “cohorts” of culturally and linguistically diverse students into early childhood personnel preparation programs in Durham
  - Provide mentoring for college students and beyond to deal with retention issues
  - Provide students who are diverse with learning opportunities so they are not surprised by racism and other challenges