

The following priorities were established by the Statewide Advisory Team for Walking the Walk on February 8, 2002 as needed areas for change related to topics of diversity in preservice and inservice personnel preparation in early childhood.

### Top Priorities of the Statewide Advisory Team for Walking the Walk

1. Develop and coordinate the implementation of a statewide strategic plan to increase diversity awareness, provide training, support recruitment efforts, and demonstrate legislative advocacy. (27 votes)
2. Improve the preparation of early childhood teachers and service providers at pre-service and in-service levels through ongoing training in self-reflection, leadership skills, and communication and collaboration. (20 votes)
3. Improve recruitment and retention of diverse faculty and students at all levels of education by focusing on funding, social support, training, and mentorship. (16 votes)
4. Increase graduation rates among high school and community colleges (GED) for students with diverse backgrounds by providing mentoring, financial assistance and other supports. (11 votes)

### Additional Priorities of the Statewide Advisory Team for Walking the Walk

- Coordination of diversity efforts - Maximize funds, minimize duplication, build on each other's work at a state level, bringing the philanthropists and foundations to the table.
- Expose students in middle, junior, and high schools to early intervention/early childhood careers by providing practica experiences, developing a "credential" ladder, and developing specific scholarships to higher education for diverse students.
- Increase commitment among faculty and administration to infuse cultural/linguistic diversity into curriculum, including an increase in field practica that expose students to working with culturally diverse populations.
- Increase articulation agreements between colleges and university system.
- Increase scholarships and access to financial aid for diverse students.
- Increase salaries of practitioners to make fields more attractive to students of diverse backgrounds.