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Page: Basic Information
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<p>Letter of Introduction</p> <p>I have spent more than 17 years working in the early childhood field, beginning my career in a childcare center where I gained hands-on experience supporting young children and their families. Over time, I advanced through multiple roles within early childhood programs, developing a strong understanding of child development, classroom management, family engagement, and program operations. These experiences allowed me to see firsthand the critical role early childhood educators play in shaping children's development and supporting diverse families within their communities. My time working directly in early childhood programs gave me both practical knowledge of the field and a passion for preparing future educators to enter the profession with confidence and compassion.</p> <p>I currently serve as the Early Childhood Development instructor at Northeast Technology Center – Claremore Campus, where I prepare high school students for careers in early childhood education and human services. In this role, I have worked to build a program that connects classroom learning with meaningful real-world experiences. Students participate in job shadowing placements with local childcare providers, interact with industry professionals through guest speakers and networking opportunities, and engage in hands-on learning that reflects real classroom environments.</p> <p>Throughout my program, I emphasize the importance of inclusive and culturally responsive practices in early childhood education. Students learn how to design classroom materials, family engagement activities, and learning environments that reflect the diverse cultures, abilities, and family structures found in today's communities. By incorporating discussions about representation, family partnerships, and equitable learning environments, students gain a deeper understanding of how early childhood professionals can support every child and family they serve.</p> <p>In addition to my teaching responsibilities, I serve as an FCCLA advisor and encourage students to participate in leadership development, service learning, and professional growth opportunities. My goal is to help students develop the skills, confidence, and professional mindset necessary to become compassionate educators who create welcoming and inclusive environments for children and families.</p>

