PRINCIPLES OF THE WORTHY WAGE CAMPAIGN

Create a unified voice for the concerns of the early care and education work force at the national, state and local levels.

- Promote activities that empower child care teachers, providers, administrators and teacher educators to take a leadership role in the transformation of early care and education to an economically viable and socially respected profession.

- Give teachers and providers a voice in all aspects of the planning and delivery of the services they provide.

Increase the value and respect for those who provide early care and education through improving their wages, benefits, working conditions and training opportunities.

- Compensate early care and education staff at levels commensurate with the skill and value of the important work they perform without regard to age grouping or program setting.

- Develop accessible, affordable training opportunities to improve service and to ensure that the early care and education work force reflects the diverse linguistic and cultural population it serves.

Work collaboratively with others to promote the accessibility and affordability of high quality early care and education options that meet the diverse needs of children and families.

- Establish standards that reflect the best current knowledge regarding child development and developmentally appropriate education.

- Increase public funding with priority given to improving existing early care and education programs (for all age groups and a variety of settings including Head Start, family child care and center-based programs) over expanding the supply of the mediocre care.

- Recognize and incorporate the cultural linguistic and economic diversity of our communities in all early care and education options.