

# Trends in Professional Development

## The Registry Movement

by Roger Neugebauer

Four years ago in my *Exchange* article, "Four Innovations that Give Me Hope," (September/October 2009), I identified these promising initiatives:

■ Quality rating systems

■ Shared services systems

■ Community development financial institutions

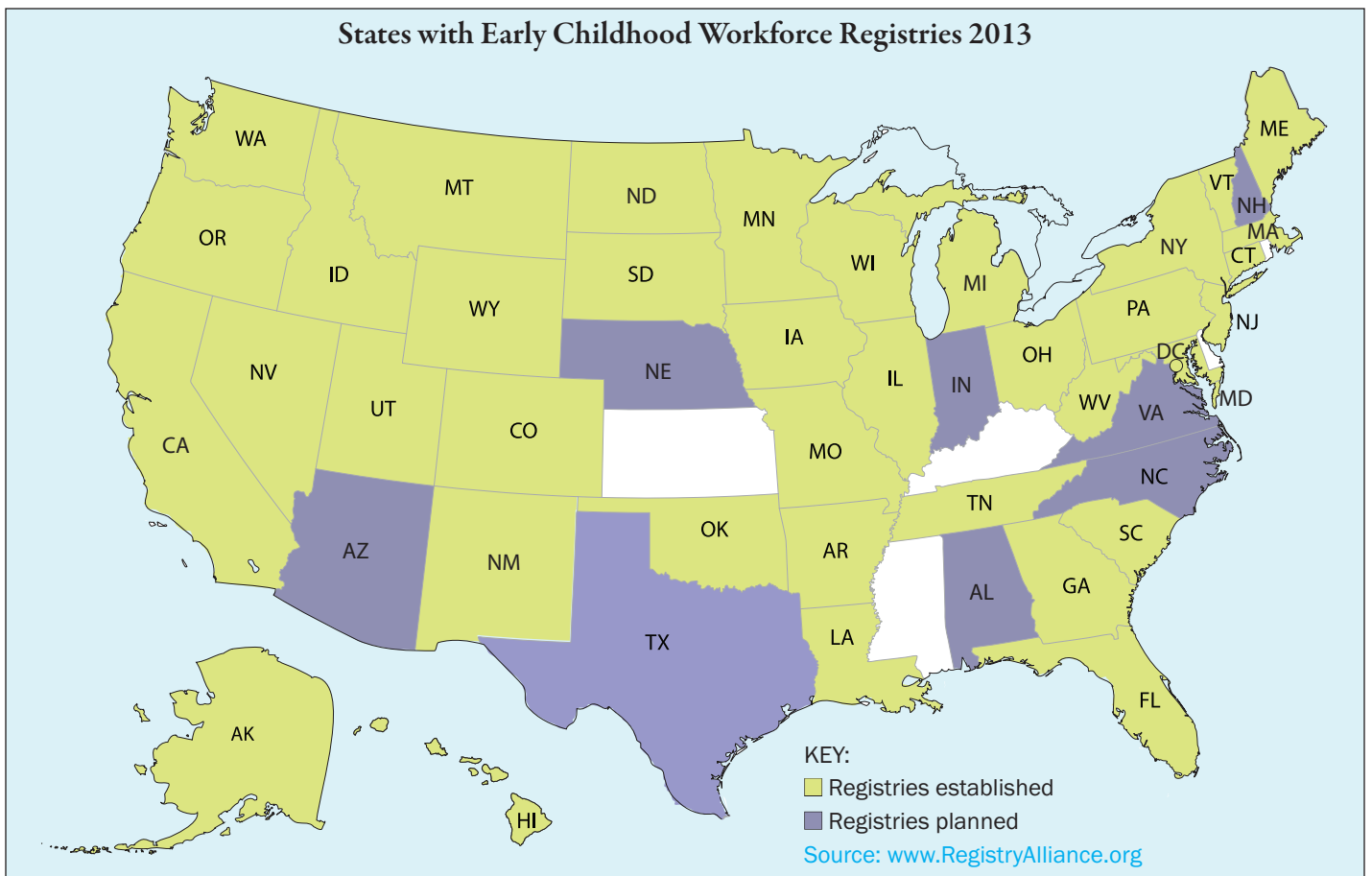
■ Comprehensive neighborhood centers.

Today I would like to add a fifth promising innovation:

■ Early childhood workforce registries!

State registries promote improving the quality in early childhood care and edu-

States with Early Childhood Workforce Registries 2013



cation by coordinating and documenting a well-trained, educated, and adequately compensated early childhood and school-age workforce. State registries strengthen early childhood systems by maintaining:

- practitioner registries that track and verify the ongoing professional development activities of administrators and teachers in early childhood centers and school-age programs.
- trainer registries that track and verify the qualifications of early childhood trainers.
- training registries that track and verify training opportunities (classes, workshops, courses) for early childhood professionals.

### History of Registries in the United States

The first registry, named appropriately Delaware First, was organized in 1990. State after state soon followed in establishing registries.

In 2003, at the end of an informal gathering of registry representatives in Wisconsin, Wisconsin Registry founder Jere Walden asked, "Do you think we need to form a national alliance?" The answer was an enthusiastic yes! Thus was born The National Registry Alliance.

The registry leader from Montana, Libby Hancock, describing the impact of this tipping point meeting observed:

"We returned to our states feeling inspired and supported by new friends and colleagues who shared our vision and passion. A really strong sense of solidarity had been born."

### Current Status of Registries in the United States

Today the number of states with registries has skyrocketed to 38 (see map on page 24), with seven additional states in the planning phases of setting up registries.

Not all registries are alike. Here are some of the varied roles they play:

- 89% maintain registries of practitioners
- 78% maintain registries of trainers
- 85% maintain online public training calendars
- 60% require mandatory participation from practitioners
- 70% collect data on practitioner compensation
- 50% collect data on retention rates
- 85% have formal data partnerships with state licensing agencies
- 75% have formal data partnerships with quality rating systems
- 50% have formal data partnerships with child care resource and referral agencies.

### To Learn More

If you want to learn more about the registry movement in the United States, here are some options:

- Check out The National Registry Alliance web site
- Become a member of The National Registry Alliance

- Attend the 2013 Annual Conference on October 15-18, 2013, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

The National Registry Alliance  
PO Box 58190  
Washington, DC 20037-8190  
[www.registryalliance.org](http://www.registryalliance.org)

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