

# Your Views on a Director Credential

In the January issue of *Child Care Information Exchange*, we asked readers to give us their views on the concept of a credential for center directors. Nearly 400 of you took us up on our offer. Here is what you told us:

- **A director credential would be valuable.**

Two out of every three respondents agreed that a director credential would be “an extremely valuable mechanism for improving center quality.” One in two agreed it would be “a valuable mechanism for marketing a center to parents.”

- **A director credential should be voluntary.**

Two out of three respondents agreed that a credential should be “voluntary, designed to recognize directors with exceptional skills.” About one in two agreed that “a center with a credentialed director should be reimbursed at a higher rate.”

- **The earning of a director credential should be open-ended.**

Three out of four respondents agreed that a director credential should be “open-ended — you should be able to decide whether you will earn each component by participating in training or demonstrating your current skills.” Less than one in three wanted a credential to be totally performance based, and only one in four favored a totally training based approach.

- **There should be a national standard with state variations.**

Respondents' views were more divided when it came to standards. One in two recommended a system based on national standards with states free to develop their own credentialing systems. Less than one in five wanted each state to develop its own credentialing system without national standards or for directors to be free to choose from a variety of state and national systems operated by different organizations.

- **The credentialing system should be administered by a collaboration of national and state organizations.**

Views were also a bit mixed when it came to choosing a home for the credential. The federal government, a consortium of colleges, state directors' associations, and a new national organization created to oversee a credential were the choice of less than one in ten respondents. One in five tapped state licensing agencies, and one in three an existing national association. One in two recommended a collaboration of national and state directors' associations.

## Promising Directions in Director Development

NAEYC's Professional Development Conference

June 6, 1996 — Minneapolis, Minnesota

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The Directors' Credentialing Caucus is sponsoring a full day symposium on director performance and the director credential at NAEYC's Professional Development Conference. Attention will be focused on the skills required to be an effective director, training methods proven effective in improving director performance, and the role a credential would play in improving director performance. For details on the Professional Development Conference agenda and registration, call NAEYC at (800) 424-2460.