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**Press Release - NC Child Care Health Consultant Certification**

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Chapel Hill, NC – Sue Russell, Board Chair of the North Carolina Institute for Child Development Professionals (Institute) announced that the Institute in collaboration with the Gillings School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, the North Carolina Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center, the NC Child Care Health Consultant Association, the NC Partnership for Children and Child Care Services Association, has received a $25,000 North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Ribbon Of Hope grant. The grant will design and launch the first-in-the nation certification endorsement process for Child Care Health Consultants (CCHCs). North Carolina has one of the largest populations of CCHCs in the country (n=73), which served more than 2,000 programs serving over 65,000 children in fiscal year 2013-14.

The Institute is very excited about receiving this award to create a consistent measure for supporting the quality of the workforce serving as Child Care Health Consultants in our state, states Russell, Board Chair of the Institute. The number of children served in formal early care and education settings in the United States has soared over the past several decades. This rapid rise in the use of formal early care and education programs has brought with it an increase in the need to protect children from illness and injury in group settings. Without these funds we would not be able to field-test and implement a model certification process to facilitate growing a qualified workforce which provides technical assistance and tools to support early educators in keeping children served in formal care settings healthy and safe.”

About The North Carolina Institute for Child Development Professionals

The [North Carolina Institute for Child Development Professionals](http://www.ncicdp.org) is a 501(C) 3 nonprofit organization that supports the implementation of a comprehensive professional development system and provides a voluntary certification and specialized endorsements for early educators working directly with or on behalf of young children served in NC early care and education settings. The Institute implemented the first-in-the-nation field wide certification process for early educators in North Carolina in 2008. Through collaborations with early childhood and business partners, the Institute provides over 13,000 NC early educators with a professional certification, work-life benefits, tools and referral services as well as professional development opportunities and resources.

About The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation

The [North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cjkotch%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5CMTUNW2BB%5CNCGSKFoundation.org) is an independent self-funding 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization supporting activities that help meet the educational and health needs of today's society and future generations. Since its creation in 1986, the Foundation has granted over $66.4 million to support North Carolina projects and programs that emphasize the understanding and application of health, science and education at all academic and professional levels. Established in 2007, the Ribbon of Hope grant program provides one-time $25,000 grants to nonprofits to establish or expand local programs in the areas of science, health and education.