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## Time to Think about Child Welfare Education for Leadership (CWEL) Applications!

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Submitted By: Laura Borish

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The CWEL Program is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year and to date, the program has over 1,500 graduates. Designed to prepare the next generation of leaders, the Child Welfare Education for Leadership (CWEL) Program is open to county and state public child welfare staff who are committed to a career in public child welfare. Administered by the University Of Pittsburgh School Of Social Work's Child Welfare Education and Research Programs, the CWEL Program provides funding for graduate Social Work education to those working in public child welfare in Pennsylvania.

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The CWEL Program provides an opportunity for agency Administrators and Managers to select and approve staff for the program who demonstrate emerging leadership skills. The CWEL Program will prepare employees to serve in both formal and informal leadership roles at their agency once their Master's level education is completed.

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Application criteria includes:

- Continuous employment in a Pennsylvania public child welfare agency for at least two years
- Satisfactory work performance evaluations
- Accepted for graduate study by one of the CWEL partner schools
- Approval from employer (educational leave granted for full-time students)
- Written statement describing the application of graduate study to future work



"Yesterday's the past,  
tomorrow's the future,  
but today is a gift.  
That's why it's called  
the present."

BIL KEANE  
woman's day

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Applicants must not be in default on any federal or state educational loans and must sign a legally binding agreement, which requires a work commitment at the sponsoring county/state child welfare agency following completion of the degree. **The deadline for most applicants is April 30, 2022.**

The twelve graduate programs approved in Pennsylvania are located at Bryn Mawr College, California University, Edinboro University, Kutztown University, Marywood University, Millersville University, Shippensburg University, Temple University, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Pittsburgh, West Chester University, and Widener University. Part-time online programs are also offered at Edinboro University, Temple University, and Widener University. Click this link to find comprehensive information about the CWEL Program and the online application:

<https://www.socialwork.pitt.edu/researchtraining/child-welfare-programs/child-welfare-education-leadership-cwel>

Please contact Laura Borish, Agency Coordinator, at (412) 648-2371 for more information about the CWEL Program.



## **Bridge Update**

Submitted by: Kari Giles

Here are some upgrades that are either new or coming soon to Bridge:

- The “**State ID**” field in the demographics screen will be renamed to “**Employee Number**”. In addition, we will be adding a tool tip (information that pops up when you hover over a field) to clarify what this number represents. The tool tip states: *The Employee Number acts as a unique, employee-specific identifier assigned upon employee hire and follows that employee regardless of the position they hold. This identifier should NOT be the name and/or social security number of the county employee or a position ID. This ID is reflected in the Needs Based Planned Budget Excel file submitted to OCYF (Personnel Summary tab). It is important to note, any number that is chosen cannot duplicate: there should be only one unique Employee Number for every county employee.*
- We will be relabeling the “**My Workshops**” screen to “**My Workshops and Certificates**”. To make the screens more consistent, we will also be changing the certificate icon in the “**My Workshops**” screen to the blue ribbon that is featured at the top of that page.
- We will be adding the ability to cancel multiple registrations at one time from the “**My Workshops**” screen.

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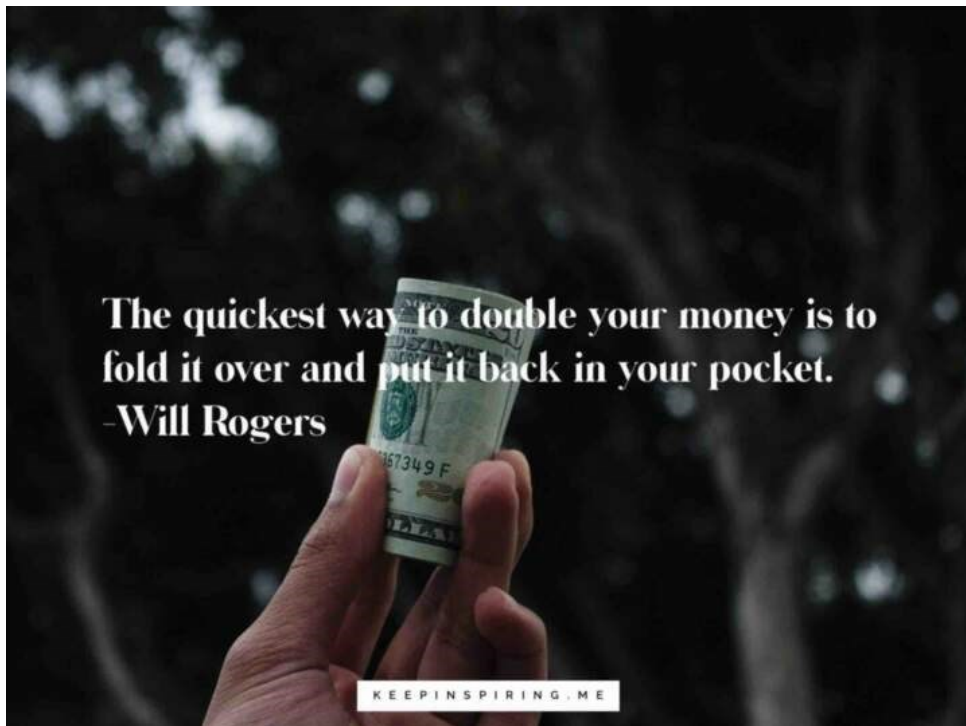
- As a reminder, when staff leave your agency, you now only need to enter the “**Termination Date**”:

Hire Date •  
8 / 16 / 2010

Effective Date of Current Position •  
8 / 16 / 2010

Termination Date  
MM / DD / YYYY

- Please make sure to check your approval queue on a regular basis. We continue to see large amounts of certifications awaiting approval in the approval queue. Even if the staff is no longer with your agency, we would still like to see their certification approved so these historical records are intact and accurate. If you have any questions, please contact our help desk at [BridgeHD@pitt.edu](mailto:BridgeHD@pitt.edu).
- For anyone who would like to set up a one-on-one Bridge training via Microsoft Teams, please contact [cwtpreg@pitt.edu](mailto:cwtpreg@pitt.edu). This training can be for new liaisons or for anyone who may need a refresher. We would also love to hear any feedback, suggestions, and ideas you may have about Bridge via our online form at <http://forms.cwrc.pitt.edu/BridgeFeedback/>. If you have any technical issues or questions, please email the Bridge team at [BridgeHD@pitt.edu](mailto:BridgeHD@pitt.edu).



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