EDUCATION, SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES & HUMAN SERVICES

BRAYDON LEAKEY
Associate of Science in Early Education & Child Development
CCAC Class of 2015
Director, Valley Points Family YMCA Program
Acmeonia Primary School Location
In an increasingly complex and changing world, dedicated and knowledgeable professionals continue to be needed in the fields of education, social and behavioral sciences, and human services. Because individuals interested in these areas have numerous career paths from which to choose, CCAC offers 20 programs designed for those seeking to enter one of these fields as well as for individuals who want to advance their current careers.

Degree, certificate and diploma programs in education, social and behavioral sciences, and human services prepare students for immediate employment in child education and development programs, juvenile and adult rehabilitation centers and for careers in criminal justice, fire science and homeland security.

Certificate and diploma programs help students develop the skills and knowledge needed for entry-level positions, while graduates who wish to continue their studies at CCAC have the opportunity to complete the additional courses required for an associate degree. Associate degree programs not only prepare graduates for entry-level employment, they also provide the opportunity to transfer to a four-year college or university to pursue a bachelor’s degree.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE Certificate Program
This program provides an introduction to American Sign Language (ASL) and the diversity of Deaf culture. It is particularly useful for parents of deaf children and for students pursuing a career in allied health, nursing, early childhood education or teaching, where clients may be deaf. The program is designed to allow students to complete their degrees with an ASL certificate and serves as the language foundation and prerequisite for the associate degree in American Sign Language—English Interpreting.

Learn more about CCAC’s Education, Social & Behavioral Sciences & Human Services Programs:
412.237.3100 • admissions@ccac.edu

Note: To enroll in education programs, students must obtain the following clearances: Federal Criminal History Record (Act 114), Pennsylvania State Police Criminal History Check (Act 34), Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare Child Abuse History Record Check (Act 151) and meet the requirements of the placement site.
AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE — ENGLISH INTERPRETING
Associate of Science Degree Program
This comprehensive program prepares students for rewarding careers in interpreting, with an educational philosophy that centers on providing students with the superior language skills and ethical competencies needed by today’s interpreters. Students learn the skills necessary to become proficient American Sign Language professionals through foundational interpreting courses, observations in the field and practicum placement. Graduates will be prepared to take the Pennsylvania Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment.

CHILD CARE
Diploma Program
This program prepares students for entry-level positions in the enriching field of child development. Through specialized courses on the physical, emotional, social and cognitive development of infants, toddlers and preschool-age children, students learn about the job responsibilities related to working in the field and suitable career opportunities. Coursework includes weekly field observations and experiences.

Employment opportunities exist in child care agencies and centers, preschool programs, before- and after-school programs and private homes. Graduates who find employment in a child development center and meet additional requirements are eligible to apply for the Child Development Associate credential through the Council for Professional Recognition.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT
Certificate Program
This program prepares students for rewarding careers working with infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school-age children. Students receive specialized training in the physical, emotional, social and cognitive development of children from birth to school age while learning about job responsibilities and identifying suitable employment opportunities. The coursework includes weekly field observations and experiences.

Graduates may seek employment as preschool teachers or early childhood education aides and may work in child care agencies, day care and pre-school programs, public and private schools, before- and after-school programs or private homes. Students may also apply the credits earned in the program toward the certificate or associate degree programs in Early Education and Child Development.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
Certificate Program
This program is designed primarily for individuals who are employed in the field and seeking specific skills for advancement or for those who work in community agencies that provide parent training, behavioral intervention and other types of support for families of children with special needs. Students gain the skills necessary for working with diverse groups of children through both classroom work and supervised practicum experiences.

The coursework includes weekly field observations and experiences. Graduates can apply their credits toward a certificate or associate degree in Early Education and Child Development.

Employment opportunities exist in agencies that provide services for children with special needs or in a family day care setting. Graduates may also seek employment as group home workers, child care workers, therapeutic support workers or respite care workers.
CRIMINAL JUSTICE & CRIMINOLOGY

Associate of Science Degree Program
This program prepares students to work in the dynamic fields of law enforcement and corrections. It also enables those already employed in these fields to gain advanced training. Students have the option of choosing one of the following career tracks: law enforcement, corrections or computer forensics.

The law enforcement option prepares students for careers as police officers working in municipal police departments, county sheriff departments or state highway patrol stations.

The corrections option prepares students to work as correctional officers or prison guards with the goal of maintaining the security of individuals who have been arrested and are awaiting trial or who have been convicted of a crime and sentenced to serve time in a jail, reformatory or penitentiary.

The computer forensics option offers the specialized and cross-disciplinary knowledge and skills necessary for work as computer forensic examiners/technicians, analysts and auditors in law enforcement agencies, or private environment security.

DRUG & ALCOHOL
Certificate Program
Designed for individuals who have a desire to help others overcome addiction issues, this program prepares students for entry-level positions as clinicians in a drug and/or alcohol treatment center. Training includes counseling, case management, prevention, intervention and rehabilitation techniques. Graduates may also seek employment in halfway houses, detox centers, missions, juvenile treatment facilities and methadone maintenance centers.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DIRECTOR CORE
Diploma Program
This program is designed for individuals who work in early childhood and child development and wish to apply for the Director Credential as identified by the PA Key to increase their knowledge and understanding of the role of the child care and school-age director. The program is also designed to meet the requirements of the Keystone STARS continuous quality assurance program at the STAR 3 level.

To begin this coursework, students must meet several requirements, including possession of an associate or bachelor’s degree in early childhood education, child development, special education, elementary education or the human services fields. The program can be completed in one, two or three semesters. Graduates may find employment as directors of early childhood, child development, infant/toddler or school-age programs.

After completion of these courses, candidates must submit a separate application to the PA Key and meet additional requirements for candidacy. (Visit pakeys.org for more information.)
EARLY EDUCATION & CHILD DEVELOPMENT
Associate of Science Degree & Certificate Programs
These programs prepare students for entry-level positions working with infants, children, adolescents and their families in a variety of settings. Students learn about best practices in direct care, education and diversity and learn techniques for working with children who have special needs. Through classes, weekly field observations and practicums, students gain skills and knowledge regarding human development, health, infant and child care agencies, family relationships, laws and regulations governing the welfare of children and their families and available community resources.

Completion of these programs enables students to work in child care centers, family child care homes, schools, agencies serving students with special needs or as in-home child care professionals. Graduates may seek employment in an early childhood setting as a lead teacher or assistant, paraprofessional or nanny. The degree program also prepares students for transfer to a four-year institution to pursue a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education with a Pre-K–4 teacher certification or in a related field.

EDUCATION PARAPROFESSIONAL
Associate of Arts Degree & Certificate Programs
These programs are optimal for individuals who like to work with children and want to help them be successful in school. Students learn the skills necessary to work as a classroom aide or teacher's assistant. Emphasis is placed on mastering reading, writing and mathematical skills along with techniques for assisting students with special needs. Graduates may seek employment as a teacher's aide in a regular classroom setting or as an educational specialist, education technician or recreational assistant in a public or private school.

ETHNIC & DIVERSITY STUDIES
Certificate Program
This program is designed to enable individuals to explore and understand differences based on age, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, or physical or mental ability. Coursework includes instruction on how to think and write critically about race, class and ethnicity in social and historical contexts. Students should choose from a list of electives based on employment or educational requirements.

As the country's workforce becomes increasingly diverse, employers are seeking employees who have a greater degree of cultural competency. This program is ideal for individuals who wish to increase their knowledge and awareness of issues surrounding the interdependent, global and multicultural workplace.
FIRE SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION

Associate of Science Degree & Certificate Programs
These programs, which follow the Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education and National Fire Academy models, prepare students to meet the challenges of preventing fires and reducing the loss of life and property. The degree program provides more in-depth learning and training opportunities and consequently enhances employment and advancement prospects.

Employment opportunities exist in public and private fire and emergency response rescue services. Graduates may also seek employment as fire safety specialists, industrial safety specialists, underwriters, code enforcement officers, insurance industry investigators, fire protection engineers or sales representatives for safety equipment companies. Graduates have the opportunity to enter careers with strong earning potential.

GLOBAL STUDIES

Certificate Program
Students enrolled in this program learn about global issues and the dynamics of the globalization process. This program, which is an enhancement to the credentials of students transferring to a four-year institution, is multidisciplinary, flexible and offers the opportunity for student self-design.

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Associate of Science Degree Program
Perfect for individuals who enjoy sports, physical fitness and being active, this program provides students with practical, skills-based knowledge about exercise physiology, sports medicine, health club management, cardiac rehabilitation, athletic administration, sports management, and health and physical education teaching. Upon earning their degree from CCAC, graduates may then pursue their studies at a four-year college or university in one of the following areas: fitness, sports and lifetime recreation; exercise and sports science; sports management; or health and physical education teacher certification.

CCAC counselors can help students design a program of studies to meet the requirements of a bachelor’s degree at their chosen four-year institution.

HOMELAND SECURITY

Associate of Science Degree & Certificate Programs
These programs are designed for individuals who desire to play a vital role in keeping the country safe and secure and preserving freedom. Students will explore risk management; systems integration; threat dynamics; and the legal, political and ethical issues associated with homeland security. The criminal justice system, perspectives on terrorism, cybersecurity and continuity of operations are also examined. The degree program, which includes coursework on federal policies and procedures, enhances employment and advancement prospects for graduates.

Graduates may seek employment as homeland security professionals in various capacities, including border, airport and seaport security as well as in the intelligence field, technology security and disaster or emergency response. Careers in homeland security offer the possibility of strong wages.
ABOUT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY
Since its founding in 1966, CCAC has flourished, becoming the educational powerhouse it is today—a nationally renowned two-year college dedicated to serving all members of the community. From groundbreaking student success initiatives to top-ranked academic and career-based programs, CCAC continues to be the college of choice for nearly one out of every three adults in the Greater Pittsburgh metropolitan region.

Every year, more than 25,000 students enroll at CCAC, taking advantage of nearly 160 degree, certificate, diploma and transfer programs while thousands more access noncredit and workforce development courses. Comprising four campuses and five neighborhood centers, as well as other off-site locations, CCAC is honored to have one of the largest veteran student populations in the state and takes pride in ranking among the nation’s top community colleges for the number of individuals graduating in nursing and other health-related professions.

CCAC graduates have transferred to the nation’s most prestigious colleges and universities, have obtained the most academically challenging and competitive degrees and can be found at leading companies, organizations and institutions throughout the country. CCAC alumni are actively engaged in every sector of society, providing leadership to scores of economic, scientific, civic and philanthropic entities both in the Pittsburgh region and around the world. Visit ccac.edu to learn more.

PSYCHOLOGY
Associate of Arts Degree Program
Ideal for individuals who are interested in the scientific study of the human mind and its functions, this program prepares students for transfer to a four-year institution by providing a broad college background and significant coursework in psychology. Graduates may go on to earn a bachelor’s degree or advanced degree in psychology or related fields. The program also provides a strong and diverse preparation in the liberal arts and sciences for those intending to transfer to a variety of programs at four-year institutions.

SOCIAL SCIENCES
Associate of Arts Degree Program
By providing students with a broad college background in the social sciences, this program prepares students for transfer to a four-year institution. Students can pursue an overall general degree or develop a concentration in sociology/anthropology, history or political science. Graduates may earn a bachelor's degree in geography, history or political science and prepare for study in several professions, including education and the law.

SOCIAL WORK FOUNDATION
Associate of Science Degree Program
An ideal profession for individuals who have a strong desire to help people, social workers offer a variety of professional services, such as providing support and resources to those faced with difficult life situations. Graduates may find employment as paraprofessionals in group homes, drug and alcohol treatment centers, and other community and social service agencies. This program prepares students for transfer to a four-year institution in a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program.

SOCIAL WORK: FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIAL WORK FOUNDATION
Certificate Program
This program is designed for individuals with a degree or for those in human services-related professions who have had little or no formal instruction in social work. Students learn social work terminology, core values, ethical principles and standards, theoretical perspectives and generalist social work practice at the introductory level.

Students are able to directly transfer credits to Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education institutions with statewide program-to-program articulation agreements in social work.

TEACHER EDUCATION: MIDDLE LEVEL & SECONDARY
Associate of Arts Degree Program
Designed for students who desire to become middle level or secondary school teachers, this program provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary for transfer to a four-year institution. Graduates achieving a minimum 3.0 GPA are eligible to transfer to a bachelor's degree program in Education, leading to Middle Level or Secondary Teacher certification in grades 4–8 or 7–12. Teacher certification candidates must successfully pass the required Pre-service Academic Performance Assessment (PAPA) or PRAXIS® Core Academics Skills for Educators tests.

Program courses are offered once a year, and students progress through the program as part of a cohort.
TAMEKA WILLIAMS has dreamed of becoming a police officer ever since she was a little girl and would see police cars racing down the street in response to an emergency. She admired the men and women in blue who worked so hard and were willing to put themselves in harm’s way to keep her community safe.

“I thought, maybe I can do that someday—keep criminals off the street and help protect the community,” said Williams. “That is exciting to me.”

Williams, a student at the Community College of Allegheny County, is on her way to turning her dream into reality. She is attending CCAC Boyce Campus where she is enrolled in the Criminal Justice Associate Degree program with the goal of attending the Pittsburgh Police Academy upon graduation. Eventually, she hopes to pursue her ultimate dream of becoming a Pennsylvania State Trooper.

After looking at other schools, Williams decided CCAC had everything she needed—small class sizes, individual attention and in-depth instruction, as well as affordability. She likes the fact that her professor is a retired police officer who can offer practical knowledge, valuable insight and vast experience from his days on the force.

“He breaks everything down and teaches us exactly what we need to know. All the professors are very knowledgeable and are really involved with the students.”

Through her participation in the CCAC Criminal Justice Club, Williams is able to go on interesting field trips that reinforce what she is learning in the classroom—lessons that she will one day put into practice to protect lives and property.

“Becoming a police officer is a big deal, and CCAC is making it all possible. I know, with CCAC’s help, I’ll be ready to meet the challenge.”