

## LOCAL BANK DONATES TO NECC CHILDCARE FUND



A \$7,500 donation from the TD BankNorth Charitable Foundation will help Northern Essex Community College to continue to offer childcare to low income parents who are studying at the college's Lawrence Campus in the evenings.

This evening childcare program is the only licensed childcare of its kind in the city. With fees based on the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Sliding Fee Scale, parents can pay as little as 50 cents for an evening of childcare. Donations from TD BankNorth and other private donors subsidize the students' cost allowing the service to continue.

"Without evening childcare, these parents of young children would not be able to continue their education," said Alison Cody, director, private sector fundraising, Northern Essex Community College. "Most of them are working low paying jobs during the day and are studying English or working

toward a certificate or associate degree in the evening."

Northern Essex has contracted with Community Day Care, Inc. to provide full-day, year-round, licensed childcare since 1991. The evening program was started four years ago in response to need. "Research has shown that the two greatest obstacles to adult learners with children are their inability to access childcare during the evening and the high cost of childcare. Thanks to the generosity of TD BankNorth, we're breaking down these obstacles," said Cody. Located at the college's Dimitry Building, 45 Franklin St., the center provides care for up to 20 children, Monday through Thursday, from 5 to 10 p.m.

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