

# Henderson County Schools

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Seniors Awarded Child Development Associate Credential



**Sara Mitchell**



**Jordan Ziegler**

**(Henderson, KY)**- Henderson County High School Seniors Sara Mitchell and Jordan Ziegler have been awarded the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential in recognition of outstanding work with young children. The Council for Professional Recognition in Washington, D.C. awards credentials to early childhood educators who demonstrate the ability to constructively work with young children in group settings.

"It takes special knowledge, skills, and expertise to be an effective teacher of young children," says Valora Washington, CEO of the Council. "It is a great honor to earn a CDA, and it shows a commitment to quality early childhood education."

The CDA is a nationally recognized credential for excellence in early childhood education. Each CDA candidate is observed while working with young children and is assessed on his/her ability to develop the physical, emotional, and intellectual capabilities of young children.

“Sara and Jordan are the first students from Henderson County High School to ever receive this award. Only six students in the state of Kentucky attempted to receive this award, and four of those students are from Henderson County High School. The others are waiting to hear from the council on their credential status,” said Emily Johnston, high school Family and Consumer Science teacher at the Thelma B. Johnson Early Learning Center.

In 2010 the CDA Council changed its requirements to allow high school students the opportunity to receive this credential. Not only does this help the student to become career ready, it also articulates nine college credit hours in the field of early childhood.

The CDA community nationwide is having a positive effect on the quality of early childhood education by helping preschools, day care centers, and family child care programs hire qualified and competent professionals who ensure the best care for our nation’s youngest.

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