Mission
To provide: quality care and early education for young children utilizing the best practices in the field of Early Childhood Education (ECE); an interactive, experiential learning opportunity for college students; a research site for faculty; and a summer school-age program. UCLC also strives to contribute to the vibrant and inclusive campus.

Points of Pride
• Accepted to participate in ND Bright and Early, Level 3, which is a quality enhancement project.
• Received National Certification for two Nature Explore Outdoor Classrooms. UCLC has 2 of the 3 Nationally Certified Outdoor Classrooms in ND.
• Increased base pay for starting teachers, allowing UCLC to be more competitive in hiring the most qualified candidates.
• Renovations created a more developmentally appropriate toddler classroom and allowed for the addition of a preschool classroom.
• Established a Parent Advisory Board, allowing greater parental insight in the decision-making process.

Departmental Strategic Plan Goals
• Collaborate with Teaching and Learning (T&L) to provide: opportunities for UND students to conduct observations, field experiences, and other teaching experiences.
• Utilization of Teaching Strategies (TS) Gold to document growth and development of enrolled young children.
• Successful completion of ND Bright and Early, Level 2.
• Continue to employ highly qualified early childhood educators.

Progress & Accomplishments
• Over 350 college students utilized UCLC to further their understanding of and practices in ECE.
• Developed a formal partnership between UCLC and T&L.
• Teachers have implemented TS Gold for documentation purposes for curriculum planning and creating progress reports.
• Completed ND Bright and Early, Level 2 and began Level 3 with completion expected in December.

Program Evaluation Results
The intent of the UCLC administrative team was to update an evaluation tool that would allow parents to voice their opinion regarding the quality of care and education their child(ren) receive at UCLC. The plan involved updating the tool, with the Parent Advisory Board, and then distributing it to all parents. However, due to unforeseen staffing changes, the tool was not updated. It is the intent of the administrative team to complete the update in the coming year.

Use of Results
Once collected, results will be analyzed by the Administrative Team and the Parent Advisory Board. Program changes will be considered as they align with the overall mission of UCLC. The information learned and resulting changes will then be communicated to parents.
Student Learning Outcomes

Assessment Results
Developed an evaluation tool given to UND students after completing an observation, field experience, or other type of learning experience at UCLC. This tool was piloted Spring 2016. However, due to the unforeseen changes in the administrative team, results were not analyzed as intended. The survey has been used again for Fall 2016 and will be given to students Spring 2017. The administrative team intends to analyze the results Summer 2017.

Use of Results
The goal of this evaluation tool is to gain insight into the UND student’s perceptions of their learning experiences while at UCLC. UCLC wishes to determine if a positive learning experience is being provided and if UND students find the experience to be a positive contribution to their education.

Challenges

- Maintaining a balanced budget, especially with the pending implementation of the MIRA Model.
- Balancing UCLC’s obligation to parents and students to provide a high quality learning environment by hiring highly qualified teachers with the shortage of ECE teachers.
- Be fiscally responsible in hiring the optimum number of student caregivers: determining the number of caregivers needed on a day-to-day basis for classroom ratios and the number needed to be able to cover when a teacher is on annual or health leave and balancing this without promising hours to caregivers that can’t be fulfilled or being fiscally irresponsible by being overstaffed.

Priorities for the Future

- Continue building the reputation of UCLC to create a preschool-age waiting list to minimize the numbers of open slots.
- Successfully achieve Bright and Early Level 3 and make significant strides toward accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children.
- Strengthen the partnership with T&L to continue to provide a high quality learning experience for UND students.