

March | 2017

EDUCATION PAVED THE WAY TO DREAM POSITION

One of the first NZTC Master of Early Childhood Education graduates has landed the job of her dreams.



Studying online was an uplifting experience for the graduate as she felt supported and challenged by her lecturers, gaining insight and knowledge that she may have otherwise overlooked.

"I enjoyed every part of my learning journey, even when the pressure was on. The technical support alone was invaluable and the caring and understanding team of college administration was supportive and timely when needed."

Sacha has always had an affinity towards education, especially for Māori tamariki (children), and this desire to enter the early childhood education sector was strengthened when she had her own children.

"As my tamariki entered Te Kōhunga Reo, I saw how continued development and learning in these early years affected their growth towards further education in a wonderful way. I was often left in awe and I knew I had to have a more definitive role in these wonderful moments in time."

This is not the end of Sacha's NZTC journey as she is applying for the **Master of Education (Early Childhood Education)** qualification, which will take her one step closer to eventually completing a doctorate, her ultimate goal.

She gives this sage advice to anyone thinking about following in her footsteps and furthering their education.

"I would tell anyone wanting to further themselves in study to think about your objective first. Then discuss it with whanau as they are the ones who will have to tiaki (look after), manaaki (support) and give you aroha (love) when needed. Each journey is specific to those who take it, if you feel there is something out there that you have to share – grab it, run with it and look back with a learned lens."

Sacha shares her pepeha (introduction) in te reo Māori:

Ko Hikurangi te maunga

Ko Taumarere te awa

Ko Ngātokimatawhaorua te waka

Ko Ngāphui nui tonu te iwi

Ko Ngāti Hine raua ko Ngāti Manu ngā hapu

Ko Sacha Cherrington ahau

He tauira ahau no New Zealand Tertiary College

Sacha Cherrington has landed a highly sought after role at the Ministry of Education, being appointed as an Education Adviser in the Te Tai Tokerau region, where she is working to assist and empower communities to engage in early childhood education services.

The former New Zealand Tertiary College (NZTC) student is one of the first graduates of the **Master of Early Childhood Education** degree, making a positive difference by discussing early childhood needs with whanau (family), puna kōhungahunga (Māori language groups), playgroups and projects across Te Tai Tokerau and conveying those needs back to the services and the Ministry.

It was through education and making sensible career decisions that Sacha credits where she is today. She has newfound confidence within her role since completing her master's degree.

"It has enabled me to feel confident and competent in my role. I feel comfortable to challenge the status quo with research and relevant literature while being able to give advice and assistance to those who need it from an educational context."

March | 2017

MEDIA MENTORS IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Relationships are the foundation of our society. Everything in life revolves around them and it would be difficult to live without them.



Dr Chip Donohue

Dr Chip Donohue inspired many attendees at the NZTC Symposium held in January as he reflected on the importance of relationships and how this relates to his new book *Family Engagement in the Digital Age: Early Childhood Educators as Media Mentors*.

Early childhood educators, parents and adults alike have been asking themselves how to deal with this new digital age. Is it good, or is it bad? Exploring many facets of the new digital world, Donohue considered the positive and negative impacts on young children growing up today.

The symposium focused on how the needs of every family are different. Some parents want to receive school newsletters via email, while others prefer a hard copy handed to them when they pick up their child from day care. Technology is not simply good or bad, it's what we do with it.

Distracted parenting was a topic explored as people in this digital age are distracted by their smart phones or tablets, feeling that they always need to be available at the other end of a device for others. Donohue shared how children learn media habits from the adults in their lives and he therefore believes that

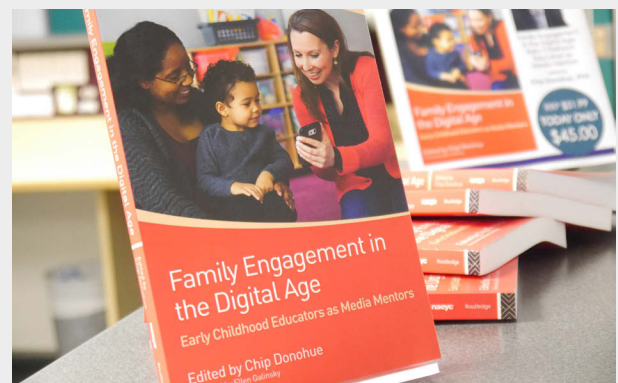
screen time is an adult behavioural issue first and foremost and early childhood educators must ask themselves, "How do I help parents to recognise that it's a choice?"

Donohue encouraged screen time for young children to be an interaction between adult and child. For example, viewing a video together or participating in an educational app. He shared, "Adults have the capability to become mindful media mentors for young children. Our goals for our children haven't changed over the centuries, only the ways we work towards them have."

As Dr Michael Rich has aptly shared, "We've gained connectivity but lost human connectedness."

A goal for most is a healthy balance between screens, active play and outdoor time. Unplugged times and spaces are also good for everyone as it's important to be present with presence. In this digital age it's an early childhood educators job to be a media mentor to parents so they can be media mentors to their children. "It is time to think in new ways," said Donohue.

Are you ready to be a media mentor?



BE IN TO WIN!

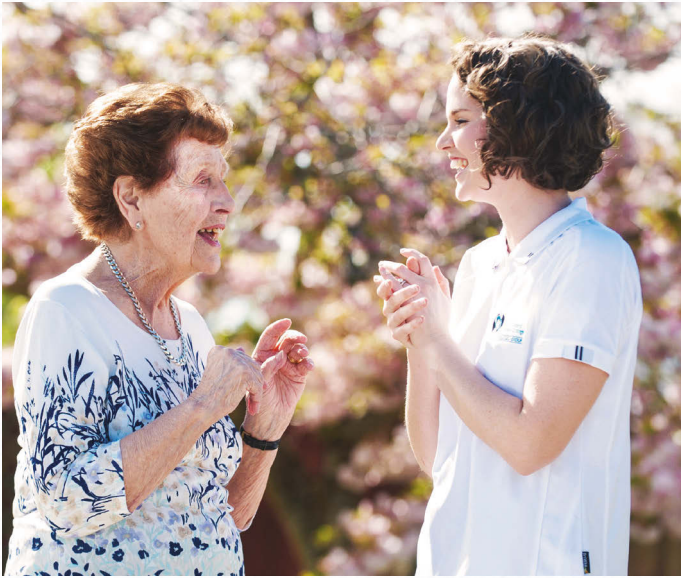
NZTC is gifting a copy of *Family Engagement in the Digital Age: Early Childhood Educators as Media Mentors* to a lucky alumni member!

To be considered for this opportunity, tell us how you are a media mentor for families providing guidance on best digital practices. We will share some of the tips in the next edition giving an insight into practices within the alumni community.

Enter by emailing alumni@nztertiarycollege.ac.nz with your response by 3 April.

March | 2017

NZTC LAUNCHES HEALTH AND WELLBEING QUALIFICATIONS



For the first time in 35 years, New Zealand Tertiary College (NZTC) is offering qualifications beyond early childhood teacher education. The college has launched health and wellbeing qualifications to support the health sector and communities both nationally and internationally with an additional training option for healthcare assistants.

The college will initially offer two New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) approved qualifications that feature a unique blend of theoretical and practical study that ensures students put their learning into practice.

The **New Zealand Certificate in Health and Wellbeing – Health Assistance Strand (Level 3)** began in March and a **New Zealand Certificate in Health and Wellbeing (Advanced Support) (Level 4)** will launch in July 2017 with plans to launch a Level 5 qualification later in the year.

With our global population ageing there has never been a time when educated, respectful carers have been more needed. The demand for healthcare assistants has increased with work opportunities available for those who care for aged and disabled people in residential facilities, hospitals or their homes in both the public and private sectors.

NZTC's qualifications will equip students with the skills needed to care for others on a professional or personal basis.

Offering a unique level of student support, NZTC has established systems in place which provide flexibility with online learning options, empowering students to balance their study with their work and life commitments.

NZTC Chief Executive Selena Fox explained, "After years of research and learning from the health and wellbeing community, NZTC is honoured to step in and support accessible, flexible, practical qualifications. The college is looking forward to welcoming students who have a heart to help others."

NZTC's Level 3 and Level 4 qualifications enable students to pathway into higher level study opportunities, including degree options within the health sector.

Click [HERE](#) to find out more.

INCREASE SKILLS IN TE REO MĀORI WITH HE TAONGA

NZTC's teaching and learning resource *Te Reo Māori: He taonga mō ā tātou mokopuna* (He Taonga) is designed especially for early childhood education.

Language basics such as numbers, sentence structure, shapes, and days of the week are presented in a colourful, clear and concise manner.

The resource was developed in-house at New Zealand Tertiary College to support students and the wider early childhood sector with practicing te reo Māori in the classroom.

Copies are available for purchase from **NZTC Books**.

