

Hello,

My name is Kiley and I am a Young Toddler teacher in the Early Childhood Program at Lund. Since the age of ten I knew that I wanted to work with children and families and have been blessed to work at Lund for the last six years. Although I am thoroughly dedicated to the families that we serve as well as the teachers that I work with, this does not mean that this job does not come without challenges. On a daily basis I give my all to eight young children who come from households that experience poverty, addiction as well as other traumatic experiences. I am also blessed to have two beautiful children, a husband and a home. Knowing what my children have in terms of love, support and stability in their lives helps drive me to provide the children in my care with the love and stability that they deserve. However, working at a five-star program means that we are responsible for extensive professional development as well as hosting family nights and other community events. All of this takes me away from my family and my hourly pay does not adequately reflect this. If it were not for my husband earning more than double my salary, I would not be able to stay in this job. I would have to leave like numerous other people who have graduated from college, worked with me for a period of time and then moved on to jobs that pay more money so they can pay back their student loans and maintain a comfortable lifestyle. This is one of the reasons I have not worked with a consistent co-teacher for the past two and a half years. Drive and dedication only go so far. At the end of the day people need to be able to provide for themselves and their families. I work with an incredibly dedicated group of professionals who positively affect the lives of young children every day and they should not have to go to a second job when they finish their day at Lund. There are solutions to these problems. We can ensure that the youth in this state is able to have access to qualified, educated teachers nurturing them and helping to teach them during the most important years of their lives by providing tax credits to teachers who are working in early care and learning programs. I thank you for your time.