SPOTLIGHT

An Unexpected Opportunity
By Sherry R. Fleischman

“You should be a kindergarten teacher; you have so much patience,” my late mother-in-law stated, as I ran after my one-year-old. Now, fifteen years later, the Institute of Excellence in Early Care & Education at Palm Beach State, along with the School District of Palm Beach County, made that statement come true. Earlier this year, I earned an A.S. degree in Early Childhood Education from Palm Beach State College.

I could not have made this five-year journey without the continuous help and support of the IEECE’s Erica Lam, my career advisor, and Laura McCadden, Education Center Manager, who answered all of my questions and concerns. Without their guidance, I would not have made it this far.

My time at Palm Beach State was filled with engaging classes and professors who wanted their students to succeed. Where else could you find a math professor willing to meet with you on a weekend morning just to make sure you understood the material? Or generous professors who are willing to share their materials to enhance your knowledge of the subject? The math and writing lab staff provided me with the skills and tools to improve my classwork.

I am so fortunate to have the opportunity to use the resources provided through my education while working at a Quality Counts program. Now, I am on my way to continuing my academic career with the financial support of SEEK Scholarship and the Institute of Excellence. I am truly grateful for this amazing opportunity. So with that, I would like to say thank you to the Institute of Excellence, Palm Beach State College and the School District of Palm Beach County for offering me this unexpected and rewarding opportunity.