One of the best ways to make the world a better place is to help children achieve their potential, and you can do that by becoming a child care professional.

Toria Minns, department head for child and youth studies at Trident Technical College, has always had a passion and a desire to work with children. Although the path to her current job was not always clear, she never wavered in her dedication to her work with children and those who are learning how to do the same. Being able to see the joy that children have is infectious, and Minns says that she has always wanted to make a difference in the lives of others.

In her current role, Minns is responsible for overseeing academic and student services for the Child Care Career Center, which offers programs designed to prepare students to work with children from birth to age 8. The programs at the center offer a variety of career paths that specialize in different areas of early care and education: Child Care Professional, Child Care Management, School-Age Youth Development, Special Education, and Early Childhood Education.

Minns says that the demand for qualified early childhood educators has definitely increased, especially for individuals who are looking for at-home or small-group caregiving positions. “There is a great demand for qualified early childhood educators,” Minns says. “The outlook is very good for our students.”

Minns advises anyone interested in the child care field to visit Trident Technical College’s Career Center or call 1-843-715-5000 for more information about the programs available.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of child care professionals is expected to grow by about 14 percent during the current decade, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Parents will increasingly need assistance to care for their children during working hours. The number of child care workers is expected to grow by about 14 percent during the current decade, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Parents will increasingly need assistance to care for their children during working hours.

Successful child care professionals must have patience, possess a genuine concern for children and have a strong desire to help them learn and succeed. They must also have good communication and decision-making skills and be able to work well with people to develop good relationships with parents, children and colleagues.

By CHRISTINE RANDALL McGEE

LLC at lovetoworkorg@yahoo.com or 843/452-4121.

*Source/Note: Wage data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and SC Department of Employment and Workforce. Wage levels vary by skill level, tenure, and geographical areas. For more occupational information, contact Gary Crossley of LovetoWork.org, Preschool and Childcare Center/Program.