**Maryland EXCELS Participation Continues to Surge**
Currently, there are a total of 1,890 participating programs/providers and 289 have published their ratings on **www.MarylandExcels.org**. This means that nearly 20% of licensed child care centers and registered family providers are now participating in Maryland EXCELS statewide. Congratulations to all of these programs and providers for their commitment to excellence and continuous improvement!

**Welcome New Maryland EXCELS Staff!**
Please join us in welcoming **Takeisha Edmonds**, our new Maryland EXCELS Quality Measurement Specialist. She will coordinate the assessment project, using the Environment Rating Scales and CLASS in Maryland EXCELS programs.

Maryland EXCELS has also hired its final two Regional Quality Assurance Specialists for the state:

- **Sara R. Martin** (Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties) - **srmartin@msde.state.md.us**, and
- **Dianna C. Aguirre** (Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties) - **daguirre@msde.state.md.us**

**Bookmark Updated Maryland EXCELS Presentations**
Want to know where to find the most recent Maryland EXCELS participation data and information? Bookmark the overview presentation, which is updated monthly at **MarylandExcels.org**. Both the printable (**tinyurl.com/mdexcelsprintppt**) and downloadable (**tinyurl.com/mdexcelspresentation**) presentations are available to help provide an introduction to the system.

**Reminder: Child Care Subsidy Programs Must Participate by January 1, 2015**
Though Maryland EXCELS is a voluntary system, programs and providers accepting Child Care Subsidy must apply and publish their check level rating by 2015 in order to maintain Child Care Subsidy reimbursements. The deadline to register and apply is **January 1, 2015**. When a program is accepted in **Maryland EXCELS**, the program then has twelve (12) months to submit documentation to achieve and make public its initial check level rating on **www.MarylandExcels.org**.

**Revised Maryland EXCELS Standards Coming Soon**
Maryland EXCELS Standards have undergone revision and clarification based upon field test and stakeholder feedback and will be released in early 2014. Programs currently participating in Maryland EXCELS will have one year from the date of release to meet the new standards. Stay tuned!

**Find Out More About Maryland EXCELS at www.MarylandExcels.org**
Email: **support@marylandexcels.org | mdexcels@msde.state.md.us**