



**CHILDREN . . . THE HEART OF THE MATTER**

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**Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children, Inc.**

*An affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children*



**WINTER 2009 NEWSLETTER**

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

**Steve Wilson**



It is hard to believe this will be my last newsletter article for NeAECY! I must admit there were times I thought this task to be a burden in a busy life schedule but it also provided an excellent avenue to present talking points that I am passionate about. I also thought by sharing my passions regarding children and families with all of you, it would somehow lead to

improving the lives of children and those who serve them.

As I transition into the Past-President seat of NeAECY, I will always hold close the many new friends I have encountered as President. Through this tenure, I have learned much more than I have most likely given to this organization. We have realized incredible growth in services and opportunity for children and families over the past few years. I cannot say enough about all the people who work tirelessly each and everyday to bring new opportunities to children and families at NeAECY. Linda, Pat, Tracy, Gina, Brandee, Cindy and Connie have all made considerable headway in expanding services for children and families since I have been part of the organization. I want to also thank Linda Zinke, Executive Director, and the Board of Directors for their consistent dedication to NeAECY. Their leadership and vision have strengthened and expanded the many roles this organization has played in the world of early childhood.

Just look at the size and scope of NeAECY! The projects have been numerous, everything from TEACH, Quality Enhancement, Nature Explore projects, to professional development opportunities, the Hearing Aid Loaner Bank, advocacy and accreditation, NeAECY has served our state's children well. Impressive at the very least! As members of this organization, you are part of a very special dynamic group of people who together make the lives of children better. Your participation makes all the difference in how the world views and accepts children by working and supporting these activities. Thanks for allowing me to passionately serve as president of such an outstanding organization.

## **FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Linda Zinke**



It is a time of change at Nebraska AECY. (Actually, it seems like it's always a time of change).

The first change is that Steve Wilson's tenure as president of the Board of Directors is coming to an end. Steve has been a dedicated and visionary leader of NeAECY, and, as first an Elementary Principal and now a Superintendent, he has brought a much needed perspective regarding the full scope of our target age group, birth through age eight. He was a member of NAEYC long before he began on our board, and has been a long-time supporter of high quality early care and education. Steve will remain on the board for another year in the role of Past President. I personally want to thank Steve for his leadership and support.

Taking Steve's place as President is Dawn Mollenkopf, tenured professor at the University of Kearney. In my interactions with Dawn, I've found a wonderful perspective about getting things done, and a focus on the vision and the big picture. I am looking forward to working with Dawn during her years as President.

Our other big change is one you're aware of, since you're reading our first electronic newsletter. This is a project we've considered for a couple of years, and we're still in the process of gathering all the email addresses of our members. Arnold Bennett, English novelist, said "Any change, even a change for the better, is always accompanied by drawbacks and discomforts." In our efforts to minimize the discomforts, we're preserving the previous "look" of the newsletter. Providing the newsletter online will give us an opportunity to include more pages and information, as well as to include photos. As we move through this change process, please let us know how it's working for you, and if you have ideas for improvements.

***Change is inevitable, except from vending machines.***  
**Robert C. Gallagher**

## Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children Mission Statement

The Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children, Inc. is committed to supporting high quality care and education for young children in the state of Nebraska.

The mission of the Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children, Inc. is to:

- ♥ promote professional development activities
- ♥ advocate for issues relating to children and families
- ♥ serve as a resource for local affiliates and for other agencies involved in working with and for children and families
- ♥ disseminate information supportive of quality services, education, and care for children and their families
- ♥ provide networking opportunities for early childhood professionals and families throughout the state.

**Strengthening and supporting Nebraska's early childhood community since 1976**

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The Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children newsletter is published four times yearly - Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. NeAEYC supports developmentally appropriate practices for the care and education of young children. It also promotes inclusiveness, cultural awareness, and gender equity through its publications and conferences.

Send articles, information, comments, suggestions, affiliate reports, and address changes to:

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### **President**

**Steve Wilson**, Hooper  
Logan View Public Schools Superintendent

### **President Elect**

**Dawn Mollenkopf, ED**, Kearney  
University of Nebraska at Kearney Professor

### **Secretary**

**Pat Enevoldsen**, Lincoln  
Southeast Community College Professor

### **Finance Chair**

**Linda Sullivan**, Lincoln  
Family Service Association of Lincoln Finance Director

### **Public Policy Chair**

**Sarah Ann Lewis, JD**, Omaha  
Building Bright Futures Early Childhood Coordinator

## Members

**Kim Chase**, Papillion, Family Child Care Provider

**Terrence Coleman**, Omaha, PayPal HR Coordinator

**Karen Decker**, Kearney, Sugar & Spice Center Director

**Jennifer Haggart**, Omaha  
Early Childhood Consortium of the Omaha Area

**Kim Madsen, ED**, Chadron,  
Chadron State College Professor

**Amber McCants**, Lincoln, Family Child Care Provider

**Deb Ross**, Hastings,  
Child & Family Development Corporation Director

**Sue Ellen Wall, JD**, Lincoln, Wall Law Office, Attorney

**José Zapata**, Loup City,  
Central Nebraska Community Services Executive Director

**Kathy Zadina**, Columbus, St. Bonaventure Center  
Director

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Brandee Lengel, T.E.A.C.H. Coordinator  
(402) 476-5658 - [TEACH@NebraskaAEYC.org](mailto:TEACH@NebraskaAEYC.org)

1-877-656-2005

## Public Policy Article – Kindergarten Entrance Age

When the Nebraska Unicameral convenes in January 2010 for the Regular Session you can likely expect to see legislation that will address the long-standing and rather controversial issue of the kindergarten entrance age.



This issue is not new on the radar of the Education Committee. In fact, 25 years ago the Nebraska State Board of Education Position Statement on Kindergarten addressed many of the same issues that remain unresolved today: “Parents often view the traditional activities of kindergarten as trivial and expect the school to “teach” the children content formerly reserved for later in the school program. But at the same time, many parents decide against entering their five-year-olds in kindergarten because they are afraid their children won’t be able to adjust to increased academic demands or to score well on standardized tests.” *Nebraska State Board of Education Position Statement on Kindergarten, Adopted October 1984.*

Under current law, children can enroll in kindergarten if they turn 5 by October 15 of the school year, and the child is of mandatory attendance age if he/she will reach 6 years of age prior to Jan 1 of the then-current school year. The law as currently written allows for up to a possible 25 month age range for children entering kindergarten and this inarguably has a largely negative impact on children from families of low income who do not have the financial freedom to delay kindergarten and the start of free public education. This is without question a very concerning age gap in a critical period of development in a child’s life. When the rubber meets the road, the starting line for the academic achievement gap we see today is never so clear as when the just turned five year old from a family of low income, who may or may not have had access to a quality preschool experience, meets the seven year old from a family who is financially able to afford the opportunity for their child to benefit from two more years of growth and a leg up in school on the first day of kindergarten.

After two well attended interim study public hearings this year, the Education Committee is proposing to roll back the kindergarten-eligibility date to July 31. The proposed changes would mean that children who turn 5 after July 31 would have to wait one year before entering kindergarten. Under the Committee’s proposal, children who turn 5 after July 31 and through October 31 could gain a waiver to enter kindergarten early, but only after an assessment showed they were ready for kindergarten.

The two year difference between kindergarteners in today’s schools results is the beginning of the achievement gap evidenced today, a not so narrow achievement gap. We know strong foundations in the earliest years lead to positive outcomes and greater economic returns in the later years, but to fully realize these positive outcomes and returns a policy prescription that aims to place all children entering public education at the same starting line will be required. To stay current on this possible legislation, visit [www.nebraskalegislature.gov](http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov) beginning in January 2010.

*Submitted by Sarah Ann Kotchian (Lewis), NeAEYC Public Policy Chair*

***The future is now—it’s just not evenly distributed. William Gibson***

## Legislative Bill 609

The following is information provided to the Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Council:

This bill recognizes the need for high quality child care in many communities in Nebraska for children from families of low income. LB 609 requires DHHS to enter into contracts with qualified licensed child care providers to provide a set payment to a licensed child care provider for at least one year.

It requires DHHS to spend not less than 20% of its general fund appropriation for child care subsidy programs on contracts for qualified child care providers. For 2010-2011 DHHS would spend not less than 50% of its general fund appropriation for child care subsidy on contracts for providers. For 2012-2013 100% of the general fund appropriated under child care subsidy programs would be under contracts to qualified licensed child care providers. Annual progress reports will be provided to the legislature and the Early Childhood Education Endowment fund Board of Trustees.

*Linda’s notes:* A key phrase is “qualified” and how that is to be determined. There have been numerous conversations around these criteria, but so far, no final resolution. At this time, the list of qualified providers includes NAEYC accredited centers, NFCCA Accredited family child care homes, and 6-Pence sites (0-3 Endowment funds). Possible additional quality indicators include Head Start programs, and sites in their second year of the Infant-Toddler Quality Initiative. This bill remains in committee.

## BOARD NEWS

### OUTGOING PRESIDENT

**Steve Wilson** has served as the President of Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children for the past three years. His term ends December 31, 2009.



We sincerely appreciate the leadership provided by Steve during his tenure. Steve will remain on the board for an additional year in the role of Past President.

Steve is currently serving as the Superintendent of Logan View Public Schools. He previously served as the Elementary Principal of Centura Public Schools, and was a teacher at Wilber/Clatonia Public Schools, all in Nebraska. He received his education at Doane College and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

In addition to his service on the NeAEYC board of Directors, he has been the president of the Nebraska Association of Elementary School Principals, Secretary for the Nebraska Association for the Supervision of Curriculum Development and the Federal Relations Coordinator for the Nebraska Association of Elementary School Principals.

### PRESIDENT ELECT

**Dawn Mollenkopf** has been selected to serve as the next President of Nebraska Association for the Education of Young children. Dawn has been a member of the board and in the role of President Elect for the past 2 years.



Dawn is currently an assistant professor at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Her previous employment experiences were at the University of Kansas at Lawrence, Walla Walla College in Washington, and at Tillamook elementary School in Oregon. She received her MS from the University of Oregon, and her PhD from the University of Kansas.

In addition to her service with NeAEYC, she has served on the Nebraska Early Childhood core Competencies Leadership Team, the Early Childhood Leadership Policy Study Team, and the Natural Allies Committee.

### COLUMBUS CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE

**Kathy Zadina** will be returning to the Nebraska AEYC, Inc. Board of Directors in January. Kathy was an instrumental part of this board during the restructuring that occurred in 2001-2002, and served for one year on the newly revised board in 2002.

She is the founder and director of St. Bonaventure Preschool and Child Care in Columbus. She also serves as a trainer and a practicum supervisor for Central Community College. Kathy received her education at Creighton University and the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

She is a past recipient of the Nebraska AEYC Distinguished Service to Children Award.



### OMAHA AEYC REPRESENTATIVE

**Gina Battey** of St. Andrew's Child Enrichment Center will join Jen Haggart as OAEYC representatives to the NeAEYC Board. We will have more information about Gina in the next newsletter.

*Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.*  
**Nelson Mandela**

# T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA



## Introducing the new T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA Logo

North Carolina has developed a new logo that all T.E.A.C.H. states must begin using and incorporate into existing materials over the next several years. The logo is personalized for each state.

*“The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® name is associated with quality and successful outcomes for children, teachers and communities. Using a consistent logo among all administering states will ensure even greater brand recognition as well as a coordinated, positive, professional image.”*

*T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA is a licensed program of Child Care Services Association.*



Brandee Lengel  
T.E.A.C.H.  
Coordinator

## Student Spotlights



Two T.E.A.C.H. scholarship recipients were recently honored with Head Start awards.

**Polly Bahns** received the “Teacher of the Year Award” from her sponsoring program, Central NE Community Services. Polly has been a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship recipient for 5 years. She began taking classes during the Fall 2002 term and earned her associate degree in Early Childhood Education during the summer of 2006. She continues to take classes to earn a Bachelor’s Degree in the Unified Endorsement in Early Childhood. Polly works with community agencies to help support the needs of all children through classroom experiences and health services.

**Tammy Classen** received the “Margaret M. Coughlin Memorial Award”. Tammy was honored from Central NE Community Services, as well as state and regional awards. Tammy has been a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship recipient for two years and is working toward a Bachelor’s Degree in the Unified Endorsement in Early Childhood. In the past 10 years, Tammy has been on the Disability Expertise Team for CNCS and has accomplished many things for the program’s disability needs for the classrooms and home-based families and staff. Many of her colleagues have called her the “go-to person” for any knowledge about disability needs.

**Did You Know...** Currently, 236 Nebraska students are utilizing a T.E.A.C.H. scholarship. 192 students are working on an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education. 44 students are working toward a Bachelor Degree in the Unified Endorsement in Early Childhood, Birth– Grade 3.

### T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® National Annual Report Data July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

#### Nebraska Highlights:

- 202 students participated on T.E.A.C.H.
- 1652 credits earned (*all credits converted to semester*)
- Average Credits Earned: 14 for AA and BA students (*9 credits minimum*)
- Average Increase in Salary for child care center teachers: 5%
- Turnover for students who did not honor commitment to sponsoring center: 4% (*Nebraska average 40%-70%*)

### 2009-2010 T.E.A.C.H. Advisory Committee

**Beth Brewer**  
Metro Community College

**Sue Jensen**  
Health and Human Services  
Children’s Services Licensing

**Crystal Kozak**  
Southeast Community College

**Diane Lewis**  
Health and Human Services

**Connie Shonka**  
James R. Russell Child  
Development Center

**Paula Thompson**  
Central NE Community Services

**Jeanne Webb**  
Central Community College

**Kelly Vanness**  
Platte Valley EC Training  
Coalition

**Roxanne Vipond**  
Child Care Solutions

**Brandee Lengel**  
T.E.A.C.H. Coordinator

**Linda Zinke**

Watch for more information about Advisory Members in upcoming newsletters

# OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS SPOTLIGHT



**CHADRON STATE COLLEGE**  
BUILDING FUTURES EVERY DAY



Chadron State College  
Contact Person: Kim Madsen  
Associate Professor &  
Child Development Ct Director  
kmadsen@csc.edu

Chadron State College is a four-year public college in the Nebraska State college System. The college is located in the northern part of the Nebraska Panhandle, in the Pine Ridge area. The college's theme is "A tradition of excellence in education and service."

The Chadron State College Child Development Laboratory has been in existence since 1972 on the Chadron State College campus. The Laboratory serves as an educational program for the purpose of 'educating educators' who care for and about young children. The Laboratory provides a high quality, developmentally appropriate, actively learning experiences for families with children between the ages of 2 and 9 of all ability levels.

The Laboratory is state licensed by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and is nationally accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood programs. It is also a certified Nature Explore™ classroom.



Before



Before



Work in Progress



Work in Progress



Nature Art Area

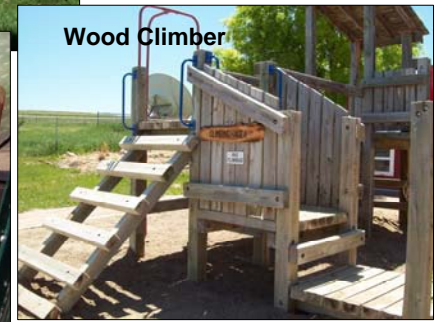
Welcome to  
Our Nature Explore Outdoor  
Learning Environment  
  
Chadron State College  
Child Development Center  
Chadron, NE



Messy Area Surrounded  
With Natural Plants



Inside the Greenhouse - Work Areas



Wood Climber



Thanks for Visiting!!!



Community Partners,  
Architect,  
Landscape Designer

# OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS SPOTLIGHT



**Gifford Farm Educational Center**  
 700 Camp Gifford Road  
 Bellevue, NE 68005  
 Program Administrator: Nancy Williams  
 402-597-4920  
<http://www.esu3.org/gifford/farm.html>  
 Approximate square footage: 15,300

Gifford Farm Education Center provides educational programs to area youth and the community, serving over 25,000 visitors annually. A working farm, this multifaceted education area has more than 400 acres of farmstead, pastures, crop land, woodlands and a small pond. Located along the Missouri River bottom just outside of Bellevue, NE, it is surrounded by 1,200 acres of woodlands known as Gifford Point, which has over 5 miles of river front.

Gifford Farm Education Center, a nonprofit under the umbrella of ESU 3, has offered outdoor education experiences to students in the greater Omaha and Council Bluffs area for over 30 years. Gifford Farm Education Center is committed to hands-on outdoor education programs that are curriculum based and meet many of the Nebraska State Education Standards for students, and offer a safe and fun experience to children and families. Gifford Farm is a Certified Nature Explore™ Classroom.



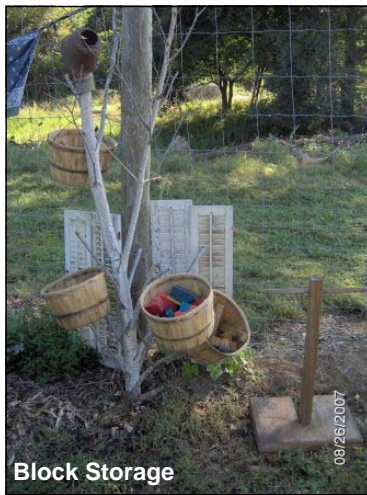
B  
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Nature Art Area



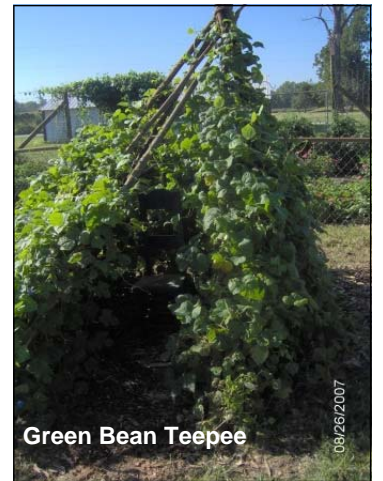
Digging Area



Block Storage



Path Through Plantings



Green Bean Teepee



Music Area



Messy Materials Area



Snapper, a 580 lb chain saw carving of a turtle.

# ACCREDITATION

In 1985, National Association for the Education of Young Children established a national, voluntary accreditation system to set professional standards for early childhood education programs, and to help families identify high-quality programs. NAEYC Accreditation is a system by which programs measure themselves against a national set of standards. There are now nearly 11,000 programs that have achieved NAEYC Accreditation. Within the past three years, the Accreditation standards have been revised to meet the growing demand and remain consistent with best practices.



Tracy Gordon,  
Special Projects  
Coordinator



The online resource center headquarters to support program quality improvement through NAEYC Accreditation of Early Childhood programs is called TORCH. The website is [www.NAEYC.org/TORCH](http://www.NAEYC.org/TORCH).

Nebraska AEYC is considered an Accreditation Facilitation Project. Staff at NeAEYC are available to provide support for Accreditation. This is available for on-site consultation. Costs are hourly, and include costs for travel time and expenses.

For more information, contact Tracy Gordon, Special Projects Coordinator, 402-476-5665 or [tgordon@NebraskaAEYC.org](mailto:tgordon@NebraskaAEYC.org)

## National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Preschool, Grand Island  
Blue River Child Development Center, Crete  
Candlewood KinderCare Learning Center #796, Omaha  
CEDARS Downtown Early Childhood Development Center, Lincoln  
Cedars Youth Services @ Northbridge Community Center, Lincoln  
Child Saving Institute, Omaha  
Children's Respite Care Center (North 88<sup>th</sup>), Omaha  
Clay County Head Start, Clay Center  
Clay County Learning Center for Children @ Fairfield, Fairfield  
Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska Head Start, Kearney  
Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska Head Start, McCook  
Community Action Partnerships of Western Nebraska, Gering  
Conestoga Public Schools Early Childhood Center, Murray  
CSC Child Development Center Laboratory, Chadron  
Educare Center of Omaha, Inc., Omaha  
Edward Zorinsky Child Development Center, Omaha  
Elgin Public Schools Early Learning Center, Elgin  
First National Child Development Center, Omaha  
Franklin County Head Start, Franklin  
Hamilton Heights Child Development Center, Omaha  
Head Start Child & Family Development Program – Hall County, Grand Island  
HTRS Early Childhood Education Center, Humboldt  
James R. Russell Child Development Center, Omaha  
Kearney Family YMCA Ron & Carol Cope Child Development Center, Kearney  
KinderCare Learning Center (Smith Road), Bellevue  
KinderCare Learning Center (Brentwood), La Vista  
KinderCare Learning Center (Highway 2), Lincoln  
KinderCare Learning Center (Huntington), Lincoln  
KinderCare Learning Center (Pioneer), Lincoln  
KinderCare Learning Center (North 121<sup>st</sup>), Omaha

KinderCare Learning Center (Elm), Omaha  
Kindernook Preschool, Omaha  
Knowledge Beginnings, Lincoln  
Lawrence Early Learning Center, Lawrence  
Lillie's House Intergenerational Child Development Center, Bellevue  
Lincoln Public Schools ExCITE @ Arnold Elementary, Lincoln  
Lincoln Public Schools ExCITE @ Brownell Elementary, Lincoln  
Lincoln Public Schools ExCITE @ Bryan Learning Center, Lincoln  
Lincoln Public Schools ExCITE @ Calvert Elementary, Lincoln  
Lincoln Public Schools ExCITE @ Clinton Elementary, Lincoln  
Lincoln Public Schools ExCITE @ Everett Elementary, Lincoln  
Lincoln Public Schools ExCITE @ First Presbyterian Church, Lincoln  
Lincoln Public Schools ExCITE @ Holmes Elementary, Lincoln  
Lincoln Public Schools ExCITE @ McPhee Elementary, Lincoln  
Lincoln Public Schools ExCITE @ Saratoga Elementary, Lincoln  
North Platte Community Day Care Center, Inc., North Platte  
Offutt Child Development Center, Bellevue  
Parent-Child Center, Falls City, NE  
Peace Lutheran Preschool, Grand Island  
Rockbrook Early Childhood Center, Omaha  
Ron and Carol Cope CDC, Family WMCA, Kearney  
Ruth Staples Child Development Lab, Lincoln  
Saint Bonaventure Child Care Center, Columbus  
Saint John Child Development Center, Seward  
University of Nebraska-Omaha Child Care Center, Omaha  
Volunteers of America Preschool, Lewellen  
Wazhingia Ti Zhingia Early Childhood Center, Walthill  
Webster County Early Learning Center @ Silver Lake, Bladen  
Webster County Early Learning Center @ Blue Hill, Blue Hill  
Webster County Early Learning Center @ Red Cloud, Red Cloud  
Western Nebraska Child Development Center, Scottsbluff  
Westminister Preschool, Lincoln

## National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)

Cheryl Drozd, Columbus  
JoAnn Fryman, Bellevue  
Cheryl Hammond, Bellevue  
Shawna Hand, Bellevue  
Analisa McMillan, Bellevue  
Cara Mercer, Papillion  
Sara Miller, Bellevue  
Lynn Mruz, Fremont  
Tiffany Ott, Papillion  
Brandi Rolley, Papillion  
Stacy Taylor, Columbus

## National After School Association (NAA)

Offutt Air Force Base Youth Center, Bellevue

Nebraska Department of Education provides support for accreditation through funds for partial payment of self-study, application, candidate and annual report fees.

Contact: Linda Meyers – 402-471-2980 or  
[linda.meyers@nebraska.gov](mailto:linda.meyers@nebraska.gov)

# NeAEYC ACTIVITIES

## Project Homeless Connect Lincoln

More than 225 homeless people found help and services on Friday, October 23 at Project Homeless Connect Lincoln, a first time event sponsored by the Lincoln/Lancaster Homeless Coalition. The event was held at the Center for People in Need.

Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children partnered with St. Monica's to provide child care services for the families participating in this event. Students volunteered their time. Information was distributed about child development for a variety of age groups and about how to select a good child care. The group provided care for more than 20 children.

If this event is held again next year and we participate, we'll solicit donations for diapers, snacks for the children, and maybe a book for each child/family. Gina DeFreece, Special Projects Coordinator, coordinated NeAEYC's support.



## Nonprofit Association of the Midlands—Wine and Shop Event

On November 4th, the Nonprofit Association of the Midlands hosted an opening reception for the Midlands Nonprofit Summit called "Wine and Shop".

Organizations were offered an opportunity to provide items for sale to benefit their group. Nebraska AEYC decided to sell baskets. The profits from the sale will go to provide support for the general operating budget.

Baskets (or money to develop baskets) were donated by the members of the Board of Directors, staff and others. A total of 23 baskets were donated.

A special thanks to Gina DeFreece for her creative wrapping and display skills.



NeAEYC staff at the event.  
Linda, Gina, Brandee, Pat

### THANKS TO:

- Karen Decker
- Gina DeFreece
- Dimensions Educational Research Foundation
- Pat Enevoldsen
- Pat Hoffschneider
- Brandee Lengel
- Sarah Ann Lewis
- Kim Madsen
- Deb Ross
- Sue Ellen Wall
- Steve Wilson
- A special thanks to Dawn Mollenkopf for her numerous donations.

## QUALITY ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVES

### Infant-Toddler Initiative, Sub-Contract with Lincoln Action Program

The Infant Toddler Quality Initiative is completing the 08-09 grant year.

**Option 1:** One family child care provider and nine center providers partnered with the Initiative in Option 1 to enhance the quality of care being provided. These providers began using the Creative Curriculum as a resource and the Environmental Rating Scale as a tool in planning goals. Each provider met with a mentor at least one time a month and completed at least 12 training hours with more than half completing 20 hours. These providers agreed to have an Environmental Rating scale completed twice. Materials were purchased to support goals. The scores were compared. The participants were able to increase the scores by minimum of .40 to maximum improvement of 1.84 on the Environmental Rating Scale. The scale has a scoring system of 1 thru 7.



*Cindy Jennett  
Special Projects  
Coordinator*

**Option 2:** Five Option 2 providers completed one Environmental Rating Scale, set goals, completed training and met with a mentor.

**Option 3:** Thirty home and center providers participated at an Option 3 level which is accessing trainings and lending library materials and accessing coordinator for information.

Feedback from this project: "What has been the greatest benefit you received from participating in the Infant/Toddler quality Initiative?"

*"New ideas and understanding"; "All of the learning about infants and toddlers—I learned a lot"; "Having Cindy to help bounce ideas off of and keep me accountable helped me push myself to get things in place fast"; "Cindy did a great job helping us learn and put our hard work to use!"; "This is a great program".*

## AFFILIATE AND CHAPTER INFORMATION

### Kearney Chapter of the Nebraska AEYC

#### News and Activities:

**September 28:** On September 28th, we sponsored a membership event which included a training session from Jan Harriott, a UNK Music professor on how to include music in your everyday curriculum. We had twenty two people attend and one new membership.

- **October 5:** On October 5th we sponsored a training for College Students working at Child Care facilities. Marcia Fritz and Mindy Young of FYI presented several great fall art activities to use with children. We had ten people attend.

#### Upcoming:

- **November 16:** Our next event is November 16th. Chris Wagoner from Kearney Public Schools Preschool will present on "Teaching our Preschoolers to be respectful, responsible, and safe".
- **January 18:** Looking ahead, we will be holding our annual business meeting on Monday, January 18th at 6:30 p.m. at the Chicken Coop. We will vote on next year's officers and start working on events for the next year at that time.
- **February 15:** This event will focus on honoring all area Preschool teachers with a dessert buffet at The French Cafe and having Pastor Scott Murrish of the Royal Family Kids camp speak.
- **March 22:** In March we will be holding our Spring workshop at the Nebraskan Student Union with Tim Petersen speaking on Leading In-differences.



*Karen Decker,  
Kearney  
Representative*

Affiliate and Chapter Information continued on the next 2 pages

***When we don't enjoy what we do, we only nick the surface of our potential. Dennis Wholey***

# AFFILIATE AND CHAPTER INFORMATION

## Columbus Chapter of Nebraska AEYC

### News and Activities:

- **September 28:** The chapter met to plan the year. The chapter will continue to sponsor the Preschool Networking Meetings, but will rename them the Early Childhood Networking Meetings to be inclusive of all providers who work with 3-5 year olds.
- **October 29:** Mary Beth Pistillo will come to present about writing in the early years at the first Networking Meeting at ESU 7. A survey about desired topics, sites and meeting times will be distributed before the meeting for input about future meetings.



*Kathy Zadina,  
Columbus Chapter*

The chapter decided to sponsor some kind of general recognition for providers during the Week of the Young Child in April. It will most likely be held as part of the early childhood conference at Central Community College. A meeting will be held for further planning after a date and keynote speaker are confirmed for the conference.



## LINCOLN AEYC

**Lincoln AEYC will soon have their own website. The address will be [www.lincolnAEYC.org](http://www.lincolnAEYC.org), so check it out after January 1, 2010.**

The LAEYC board will meet four times a year and will work on committee agendas in between. The meeting dates will be sent to the membership via email. All membership can communicate with the board at [lincolnaeyc@yahoo.com](mailto:lincolnaeyc@yahoo.com). LAEYC proposed a bylaw change that expands the term of the president to two years. It was presented to the membership, voted on and approved. Amber McCants will remain the president for 2010.

*Pat Enevoldsen,  
Lincoln AEYC*

LAEYC participated in the Family Matters event at the Children's Museum in November. The children were able to do a hands on activity and information was available for parents.

The board is exploring collaboration with the Children's Museum and representatives from United Way, Lincoln Public Schools and other community agencies in planning the Week of the Young Child and Early Childhood Celebration. **The celebration will be on April 10, 2010.**

## Southeast Community College Student Group activities:

**Fall Kick-Off:** The Southeast Community College student organization started the fall with a kick-off in October with the theme "Nacho-ly you want to be a part of NAEYC". The students enjoyed nachos with dips and spiced cider while they learned about the benefits of belonging to NAEYC. The student group officers shared their experiences and a power point. The students were invited to attend the Make it and Take it activity in November.

**Make and Take:** The Teacher Tote Bag make and take was held early in November. The students were busy networking while they worked on their bags. This event was a fundraiser to help sponsor other activities.

**Trip to NAEYC's National Conference:** Four student leaders in the SCC student AEYC are going to the National Conference in Washington, DC. They are excited to experience a national conference, and are looking forward to seeing the nation's capitol during the conference. During winter quarter, they will share what they learn with other students.

**Visit our website: [www.NebraskaAEYC.org](http://www.NebraskaAEYC.org)**

# AFFILIATE AND CHAPTER INFORMATION

## Omaha AEYC

### News and Activities:

- **September 1:** Omaha AEYC co-sponsored an Open House/after hours shopping spree at Playtime Schooltime on Tuesday, September 1. Around 50 people attended and three new members signed up that evening!
- **September 25:** Strategic Planning was held
- **September 26:** SW Iowa AEYC and Omaha AEYC offered the Hand in Hand conference. Over 200 people participated!
- **October 5:** Omaha AEYC held a Golden Gala to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Association on October 5th at the Omaha Children's Museum. The evening included "Come and Play Happy Hour" and a catered dinner with a program following focusing on the past, present and future of Omaha AEYC.



Jen Haggart,  
OAEYC President

### Upcoming:

- **December 4 & 5:** Aloha Accreditation! Will be held on Friday, December 4, 2009 for administrators, directors, and lead teaching staff and Saturday, December 5 for all staff in Omaha. Accreditation: Quality Matters Omaha is the new Accreditation Facilitation project for the Omaha area.
- **January 15:** Strategic planning scheduled. The board is developing an understanding of what it means to be a successful working board and updating the mission statement.
- **March 27:** Kaleidoscope 2010 will be Saturday, March 27 at Burke High School featuring Lisa Murphy, The Ooey Goey Lady!



### Board Development:

Elections were held and the following people will be joining the Omaha AEYC Board as of January 1, 2010 for two-year terms:

- Kathleen Feller, President Elect
- Amber Dierks, Chair of Board Development
- Michelle Kreikemeier, Chair of communication
- Tom Simons, Co-Chair of Member Outreach
- Renae VerMaas, Co-Chair of Professional Development
- Maegan Heimes, Co-Chair of Week of the Young Child

## Northeast and All Nations Chapters of Nebraska AEYC

### News and Activities:

- **August 8:** Conference in Norfolk
- **October 3:** Infant Mental Health Conference
- **November 2:** We are encouraging our membership to attend the Kindergarten Focus Group discussions via distance Learning on November 2nd from 4:15-5:30 PM at South Sioux City High School, ESU #1 in Wakefield, Bloomfield High School, and Norfolk Sr. High School. These sessions will be facilitated by NDE representatives and welcome Kindergarten & Pre-K Teachers, Administrators, and parents to join the discussion and information sharing. Pick up the full report at <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/ECH/ECH.html> ahead of time and read the report. You must pre-register by going to [www.esu1.org](http://www.esu1.org) and clicking on Event Registration.

Members often qualify for conference registration discounts.

Susan Strahm, Coordinator

Northeast Early Childhood Professional Development Partnerships

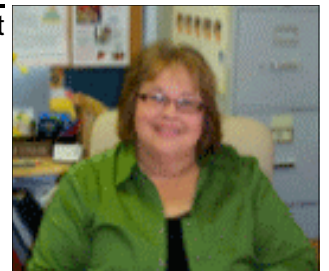
Educational Service Unit # 1

211 Tenth Street, Wakefield, NE 68784

[sstrahm@esu1.org](mailto:sstrahm@esu1.org)

402-287-2061 FAX 402-287-2065

[www.esu1.org](http://www.esu1.org)



Susan Strahm

# WEBSITE HIGHLIGHTS

Visit our website: [www.NebraskaAEYC.org](http://www.NebraskaAEYC.org)

## Nature Explore

Be sure to visit the Nature Explore page and “visit” the outdoor classroom sites. We update these regularly, and several have wonderful new photos and information. In addition to the two sites spotlighted in this newsletter, Child Savings Institute, Dimensions, and Head Start Child & Family Development/Grand Island have lots of fun photos. Check out Hand in Hand Child Care, a family child care provider site, for ideas on a nature classroom in your backyard.

## Need Some Help?

NeAEYC staff can serve as:

- ♥ Environment Ratings Scale (ERS) evaluators
- ♥ Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential advisors
- ♥ Accreditation coach
- ♥ Early childhood trainer
- CLASS assessors
- West Ed Trainer
- Safe With You trainer
- Nature Explore™ consultants

Information on this process and costs is available on the website.



Thanks to our members that joined the Nebraska AEYC Facebook Group. We would love to have more members join the Nebraska AEYC group and get some discussion going! Come on gang - hop on and let's get talking.

Just log in to Facebook - [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) - search for groups - type in NeAEYC - and join our group! Questions??? Call Pat at (402) 476-2092 or email: [phoff44@NebraskaAEYC.org](mailto:phoff44@NebraskaAEYC.org)

## **We are averaging 8,619 hits per month on our website.**

We plan to continually improve our website for our visitors.

If anyone has any suggestions of items that they would like to see on our website, please contact [phoff44@hotmail.com](mailto:phoff44@hotmail.com)

## Calendar

Check out the calendar feature of the website. This is easy to use and it's easy to locate the various conferences available in Nebraska (plus a few available nationally).

Contact information is included, and in a few cases, a flyer. If you have an event to add, just let us know.

## To Donate

This is the time of year when people are thinking about supporting their favorite projects. We hope you'll think about NeAEYC as you're making your decisions.

Visit the website (To Donate), and you can donate to NeAEYC and some of the projects, including T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood®, Nature Explore™, and Student groups.

You can donate with a credit card -we'll send you a letter for your taxes.

*The trouble with facts is that there are so many of them. Samuel McChord Crothers*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR BEING MEMBERS OF NeAEYC CONSECUTIVELY FOR AT LEAST 10 YEARS OR MORE!

Michelle Avilla, Omaha  
Alicia Baillie, Lincoln  
Helen Bartee, Omaha  
Barbara Beck, Hastings  
Jo Ellen Beil, Lincoln  
Karen Bluvas, Omaha  
Kerri Bockelman, Wisner  
Laurie Brasile, LaVista  
Sheila Braun, Norfolk  
Becky Brazau, Lincoln  
Valorie Buis, Omaha  
Phyllis Chandler, Malmo  
Ereline Clements-Stubbs, Wayne  
Becky Conway, Hastings  
Marcia Corr, Eagle  
Gina DeFreece, Omaha  
Elizabeth De Graw-Renna, Omaha  
Karen Deboer, Minnesota  
Karen Decker, Kearney  
Gay DeMars, Hastings  
Debra Doerr, Lincoln  
Pam Dolberg, Lincoln  
Susan Dolezal, Papillion  
Carolyn Edwards, Lincoln  
Roxanne Effle, Lincoln  
Rita Eichelberger, Wisner  
Patricia Enevoldsen, Lincoln  
Tyler Esch, McCook

Carol Fichter, Omaha  
Jackie Florendo, Crete  
Lillian Fripp, Bellevue  
Marsha Fuchs, Ainsworth  
Pam Glidewell, LaVista  
Susan Goodrich, Lincoln  
Tracy Gordon, Lincoln  
Shanna Harald, Omaha  
Pauline Harms, Superior  
Dawn Hove, Omaha  
Roxanne Humphrey, Morrill  
Jeanine Huntoon, Papillion  
Mary Huss, Omaha  
Rick Jacobsen, Omaha  
Terry Jenson, Omaha  
Julie Jones-Branch, Lincoln  
Deborah Killough, Omaha  
Eleanor Kirkland, Lincoln  
Susan Klein, Kearney  
Marjorie Kostelnik, Lincoln  
Crystal Kozak, Lincoln  
Jane Kreifels, Lincoln  
Cynthia Krittenbrink, Omaha  
Jo Lambrecht, Lincoln  
Brandee Lengel, Lincoln  
Deborah Mabry-Strong, Omaha  
Kim Madsen, Chadron

Christine Marvin, Lincoln  
Donna McGuire, Yutan  
Cheryl McMurtry, Lincoln  
Sandra Melilli, Omaha  
Linda Meyers, Lincoln  
Martha Munoz, Omaha  
Nancy Munson, Columbus  
Martha Nash, Omaha  
Sandra Nienkamp, Edgar  
Denise Olderbak, Arizona  
Margie Ory, Omaha  
Angie Osborn, Bellevue  
Ann Penn, Lincoln  
Lavonne Plambeck, Omaha  
Helen Raikes, Lincoln  
Tina Reeble, Lincoln  
Judy Ripke, Seward  
Rose Roberts, Omaha  
Patricia Roland, Lincoln  
Michelle Rupiper, Omaha  
Leah Serck, Seward  
Janell Shain, Omaha  
Avis Shaw, Superior  
Connie Shonka, Omaha  
Susan Sloup, Seward  
Cara Small, Hickman

Kenneth Smith, Omaha  
Lynn Snoza, Omaha  
Barbara Soukup, Morse Bluff  
Margaret Stander, Lincoln  
Joan Stearnes, Omaha  
Susan Strahm, Pender  
Kristin Swan, Omaha  
Effie Swinarski, Omaha  
Janis Thelen, Lincoln  
Judith Thietje, Lincoln  
Debra Thomas, Lincoln  
Sharyn Thomas, Norfolk  
Linda Thompson, Omaha  
Deanna Turner, Lincoln  
Jane Ulrich, Omaha  
Kelly Vanness, Columbus  
Alice Waller, Omaha  
Linda Walters, Omaha  
Anita Weber, Omaha  
Sheri Wiemann, Lincoln  
Steve Wilson, Hooper  
Kathryn Winkenwerder, Lincoln  
Judy Witte, Kearney  
Marcia Wythers, Lincoln  
Kathy Zadina, Columbus  
Linda Zinke, Omaha

### WELCOME

#### New members - 3rd Quarter—2009

Paula Andersen  
Amber L. Atkins  
Jenifer Bartels  
Carol Benson  
Michelle Brinkman  
Amber Dierks  
Constance Dischinger  
Diane Ellis  
Kathleen Feller  
Amy Fernau  
Barbara Frank  
Shirley Frey  
Katherine Kaiser  
Dawn Koenig

Barbara Mock  
Theresa Muhle  
Annette Oliver  
Nikki Pierce  
Debora Reiman  
Jane Reynoldson  
Barb Seier  
Thomas Simons  
Kimberly Suberlak  
Jessica Taylor  
Cyndi Thompson  
Heather Topil  
Rena VerMaas  
Camille Walker

### ATTENTION MEMBERS!!

Help us to increase our Nebraska AEYC membership. For each "NEW" member you recruit, (up to 3 per year) NeAEYC will send you a coupon for \$10.00 off of your next renewal.

All you need to do is have the "NEW" member that you recruit, fill out the application, write your name at the bottom of the application as the "**referred by person**" enclose a check and mail to:

**Nebraska AEYC, 650 J St., Ste. 23, Lincoln, NE 68508**

When you receive your renewal reminder, just attach your coupon to your membership renewal form, your renewal fee minus \$10.00, and mail it to our office. NeAEYC will attach a check for \$10.00, and we will mail it to the National Office!

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- ♥ **Young Children Journal** - 6 issues (\$50 value) OR
- ♥ **Teaching Young Children** - 5 issues plus bonus book *Spotlight on Teaching Young Children* OR
- ♥ **BOTH** for additional cost
- ♥ **Group Insurance Option**

- ♥ **Conference Discounts**
- ♥ **Access to Quarterly Newsletter**
- ♥ **Website: [NebraskaAEYC.org](http://NebraskaAEYC.org)**
- ♥ **Advocacy, Networking, Resources**

**Visit our website: [www.NebraskaAEYC.org](http://www.NebraskaAEYC.org)**

## CONFERENCES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▼ **November 18-21, 2009: NAEYC Annual Conference & Expo**, Washington, DC. Contact [www.NAEYC.org](http://www.NAEYC.org)
- ▼ **November 19-20, 2009: Nebraska Head Start Association Annual Conference**, Grand Island. Contact Cheryl Denner - (402) 729-2278
- ▼ **December 1-3, 2009: ERS Training**, Omaha. Contact Penny Gildea, (402) 557-6895 - [penny.gildea@nebraska.gov](mailto:penny.gildea@nebraska.gov)
- ▼ **December 4-6, 2009: Zero to Three National Training Institute**, Dallas Texas. Contact (402) 654-4499 or email: [mntiinfo@designingevents.com](mailto:mntiinfo@designingevents.com)
- ▼ **January 26-28, 2010: ERS Training**, Norfolk. Contact Penny Gildea, 402-557-6895, [penny.gildea@nebraska.gov](mailto:penny.gildea@nebraska.gov)
- ▼ **February 6, 2010: Early Childhood Educational Conference**, College Park, Grand Island. Contact Sue Jensen - 308-385-6163. [sue.jensen@nebraska.gov](mailto:sue.jensen@nebraska.gov)
- ▼ **February 23-25, 2010: ERS Training**, Omaha. Contact Penny Gildea, 402-557-6895, [penny.gildea@nebraska.gov](mailto:penny.gildea@nebraska.gov)
- ▼ **February 27, 2010: Early Childhood Conference**, Holdrege. Contact Marcia or Mindy, 308-784-5050.
- ▼ **March 9-13, 2010: National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies Conference**, Washington DC. Contact [conferences@naccrra.org](mailto:conferences@naccrra.org)
- ▼ **March 23-25, 2010: ERS Training**, Omaha. Contact Penny Gildea, 402-557-6895, [penny.gildea@nebraska.gov](mailto:penny.gildea@nebraska.gov)
- ▼ **March 27, 2010: Kaleidoscope Conference**, Omaha. Contact Jen Haggart at [jhaggart@esu3.org](mailto:jhaggart@esu3.org)
- ▼ **March 27, 2010: McCook Caring for Children Conference**, McCook. Contact Lori Poppe at [ipoppe@esu16.org](mailto:ipoppe@esu16.org)
- ▼ **April 17, 2010: Peru State Early Childhood Conference**, Peru. Contact Cara Small at [csmall@esu6.org](mailto:csmall@esu6.org)
- ▼ **April 20-22, 2010: ERS Training**, Scottsbluff. Contact Penny Gildea, 402-557-6895, [penny.gildea@nebraska.gov](mailto:penny.gildea@nebraska.gov)
- ▼ **April 23, 2010: Infant/Toddler Symposium**, Omaha. Contact Jen Haggart at [jhaggart@esu3.org](mailto:jhaggart@esu3.org)
- ▼ **June 6-9, 2010: NAEYC Professional Development Conference**, Phoenix, AZ. Contact [www.NAEYC.org](http://www.NAEYC.org)
- ▼ **June 22-24, 2010: ERS Training**, Lincoln. Contact Penny Gildea, 402-557-6895, [penny.gildea@nebraska.gov](mailto:penny.gildea@nebraska.gov)

### **Nebraska AEYC/Nebraska Head Start Association Legislative Breakfast**

NeAEYC and NeHSA will again be partnering to sponsor a legislative breakfast at the State Capitol building on **Friday, January 8, 2010**. This will be the second year for this partnership event. This provides us with an opportunity to help the legislators understand the importance of high quality early care and education and to become more aware of the value of the services provided by both sponsoring organizations. More information will be provided after the event.

Visit our website: [www.NebraskaAEYC.org](http://www.NebraskaAEYC.org)