



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

SPRING 2010 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dawn Mollenkopf



There is something special about new things. Something happens inside us when we pet a wiggly puppy, touch the first crocus in spring, or hold a baby in our arms. New things remind us of the hope that comes from "beginnings" and of opportunities to grow into something more than what we are now. New things are full of life and

when we interact with them, they often remind us of what is worth living for.

Strangely enough, it may be why we often make resolutions at the beginning of a new year. In looking back over the past year, most of us think about the different events that have happened to us, the memories we created, and the things we accomplished. We also see areas of our life that are less than what we want them to be. So we take advantage of the new year and set resolutions to remedy this. It may be to lose weight, exercise more, spend more time with family, finish a project, improve a hobby, or learn a new skill. The importance of these resolutions may not lie in the extent to which we actually achieve them. Rather, it may be that we have chosen to self assess what is worth living for and have taken advantage of the opportunity to make decisions toward continued growth.

In the NeAEC, we are once again experiencing a beginning. Steve Wilson, who has been our president for the past two years, will be moving into the role of past president, while I will take on the role of president for the next two-year term. I feel honored to be following in the footsteps of Steve, who has provided a wonderful service to the NeAEC, and I look forward to his continued contributions and support, as well as those from the other Board members, as we move forward to meet our goals and reach new achievements. In looking back over the past couple years, the NeAEC has made significant contributions to the field of early childhood in our state and these accomplishments have paved the way for us to continue to reach out and make a difference in the lives of young children and families in our state. These successes have been made possible because of the wonderful dedication and commitment each of you have made to helping young children and families.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Linda Zinke

OPPORTUNITY COST

At one time, I taught a class in which one of the key concepts was Opportunity Cost.

The basic meaning of this concept relates to choices. When you choose Option A, the Opportunity Cost is Option B. For instance, if a student decided to spend their evening in class, that is Option A. Option B may be different for each. It might be reading, spending time with their family, or watching CSI. It is whatever their second choice is. If I spend \$1,000 on a computer, the Opportunity Cost is what that money would have been spent on, had I not purchased the computer – my second choice. This concept applies to any resource – time, space, money, even energy.



As we are all trying to stretch both our time and our dollars, we continually need to evaluate our choices and consider our Opportunity Costs. We try to do the most we can with what we have, and make the best choices for ourselves and our organizations. Sometimes these are very difficult choices in these difficult times.

Hopefully, things will improve soon, and we can gather more resources for some of those Option B's we've had to give up.

"There are no seven wonders of the world in the eyes of a child. There are seven million!"

Walt Streightiff

.....from the President continued

May this new year and a new start encourage each of us to continue our commitment and renew our goal to make Nebraska a state that truly supports children and their families and provides them the best opportunities to grow. May we be continually reminded that this is a cause worth living for.

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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1-877-656-2005

BOARD OF DIRECTORS January 1, 2010 – December 31, 2010 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Dawn Mollenkopf, Ph.D., Kearney
University of Nebraska at Kearney Professor

Past President

Steve Wilson, Hooper
Logan View Superintendent of Schools

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 Kotchian, JD, Omaha
Building Bright Futures Early Childhood Coordinator

Members

Gina Battey, Omaha, St. Andrew's Child Enrichment Center Director

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

Linda Maslowski, Lincoln, Independent Consultant

Deb Ross, Hastings,
Child & Family Development Program 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

Nebraska AEYC

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BOARD NEWS

New Board Members

OMAHA AEYC REPRESENTATIVE

Gina Battey, Director of St. Andrew's Child Enrichment Center in Omaha will join Jen Haggart as OAEYC representatives to the NeAEYC Board. Gina has served on several boards/advisory committees including the Iowa AEYC, the American Business Women's Association, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, and the Red Cross.

Her education is from Southeast Community College, Lincoln, NE, and Peru State College, Peru, NE.



COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE

Linda Maslowski will begin her term on the board of directors serving as a community representative. Linda has worked in the field of early childhood services for 35 years. Her area of specialty began in parent education and involvement, and she is a champion of enhancing community collaborations to maximize resources and services. Through Maslowski Consulting, she has served as a Clinical Coordinator for an early childhood education research project, has worked with UNL coaching early childhood educators and home visitors to promote effective strategies for working with parents, and has developed a strategic planning tool kit for the Office for Victims of Crime. She has also developed a number of resources for Head Start, both for Region VII and nationally.



Linda earned her BA from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and her MSW from Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. She and her husband live in Lincoln.

Board Committees

FINANCE

Linda Sullivan, Chair
Kim Madsen
Jose Zapata

Steve Wilson
Dawn Mollenkopf

HUMAN RESOURCES

Sue Ellen Wall, Chair
Terrence Coleman
Linda Maslowski

Steve Wilson
Dawn Mollenkopf

ADVOCACY/PUBLIC AWARENESS

Sarah Ann Kotchian, Chair
Kim Chase
Deb Ross
Kathy Zadina

Steve Wilson
Dawn Mollenkopf

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Jen Haggart, Chair
Gina Battey
Karen Decker
Pat Enevoldsen
Amber McCants

Steve Wilson
Dawn Mollenkopf

EXECUTIVE/BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Dawn Mollenkopf, President
Steve Wilson, Past President
Pat Enevoldsen, Secretary
Linda Sullivan, Finance Chair
Sarah Ann Kotchian, Public Policy Chair
Ex-Officio member, Linda Zinke, Executive Director

To Donate

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™, Newborn Hearing Aid Loaner Bank, and Student groups.

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

Federal Funding Opportunities in 2010

Did you know that 85% of the core structure of the brain develops in the first three years of life, yet only 5% of public investments in children occur during these early years? As Nebraskans we are fully aware that as a state we are currently facing serious budget issues. And as an early childhood community, we know that providing high quality care and education also raises serious budget issues, especially to providers serving the highest numbers of children from families with the lowest incomes. However, as an early childhood community we know without question through science and research that investments made in the earliest years can have the highest returns on our future. To this end, it is of critical importance that we stay apprised of timely pending federal funding opportunities for states and work to position ourselves for funding options to expand high quality early care and learning programs.



*Sarah Ann Kotchian
Public Policy Chair*

One of the greatest potential federal funding opportunities for early childhood education exists in the Early Learning Challenge Grants. The Obama Administration and Congress announced \$8 billion in Challenge Grants (over 8 years) as part of the House's SAFRA (Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act) bill, which passed in September 2009. Currently, the Senate HELP Committee is developing a companion bill, which may be considered by the committee in early 2010. Here's more information straight from the U.S. Department of Education's website.

The Early Learning Challenge Fund will challenge Governors to develop new approaches to raising the bar across state early learning settings. States would compete to establish model systems of early learning that:

- ♥ Drive results-oriented, standards reform across programs, setting a high standard of quality for programs to strive toward, in order to better promote early learning, child development, and school readiness.
- ♥ Fund and implement pathways to improve existing early learning programs, with the goal of increasing the number of low-income young children who participate in higher-quality settings.
- ♥ Ensure that more children enter kindergarten ready, with the healthy cognitive, social, emotional, and physical skills and ability necessary for success.

The System

The Early Learning Challenge Fund would promote the following components of a model early learning system:

- ♥ Aligned early learning and development standards that lead to school readiness and are integrated with program quality to guide curriculum and program development.
- ♥ An evidence-based quality rating system structured with progressive levels of quality – which may be used across early learning settings and programs.
- ♥ An effective system of program review, monitoring, and improvement applied across all programs and settings.
- ♥ An evidence-based system of professional development to prepare an effective and well-qualified workforce of early educators, including appropriate levels of training, education, and credentials.
- ♥ Strategies for families and parents to better assess quality in their child's early learning program and better support their child's learning.
- ♥ Systems to facilitate screening and referrals for health, mental health, disability and family support.
- ♥ A coordinated zero to five data infrastructure to collect essential information on where young children spend their time and the effectiveness of programs that serve them.
- ♥ An age- and developmentally-appropriate curriculum and assessment system that is used to guide practice, improve programs, and inform kindergarten readiness.

The Awards

The Early Learning Challenge Fund would be administered as a collaboration between the U.S. Department of Education and the Administration for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The initiative incorporates two funding elements:

- ♥ Quality Pathways Grants, as awards to high-capacity States pursuing models of reform and excellence in early learning. Innovative plans would already reflect significant progress toward establishing the elements of a comprehensive, high-quality early learning system needed to improve quality and learning outcomes for children, and a desire to take such improvements to scale.
- ♥ Development Grants, as awards to a population of developing States that show promise for strengthening and expanding their early learning system, but who need additional assistance to launch a standards-based, outcomes-driven system.

<http://ffyf.org/>

NeAEYC ACTIVITIES

Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Coalition Partnership

Nebraska AEYC partnered with the Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition to develop four sets of activity bags for young children. These bags were created to be a resource for the local domestic violence shelters and offices for the advocates to use when working with a woman and her children.

The bags are split into four development levels: infants (0-9 months), toddlers (9-36 months), preschool age (3-5 years) and school age (6-8 years). Each bag includes a book as well as something soft for the children to hold. The toys are in mesh bags for easy storage and cleaning. Also included is a copy of the Bunny Book, a resource to help advocates talk with children about domestic violence.

Tracy Gordon of Nebraska AEYC developed the age-appropriate list of supplies for each of the bags.



Comments from advocates:

"These are great!!"

"The activity bags are a great idea. Thank you!"

"Very well thought out and organized, and they will definitely be of great benefit to our program."

"These will be a great resource for families visiting our program. We appreciate the time and energy you took preparing them for us."

Staff attend NAEYC National Conference in Washington, DC

Two staff members, Gina DeFreece and Tracy Gordon, attended the NAEYC annual national conference in Washington DC in November.

While at the conference, Gina focused her learning on student groups, family child care accreditation, and brushing up on the CDA requirements and the duties of a CDA Advisor.

Tracy concentrated on learning more about Accreditation and options for programs, and brushing up on the CDA requirements and what is needed to serve as a CDA Advisor.



Southeast Community College students and sponsors (Crystal Kozak and Pat Enevoldsen) at the National Conference.



naeyc[®]
National Association for the Education of Young Children
2009 Annual Conference & Expo
Washington, D.C. ✨ November 18 -21

"What would you attempt to do if you knew you could not fail?"

Dr. Robert Schuller

NAEYC UPDATES

Week of the Young Child, 2010

The Week of the Young Child is held each year to honor young children and thank teachers and all those who make a difference in young children's lives.

NAEYC encourages state and local Affiliates, early childhood programs, and organizations who work on behalf of young children to plan WOYC events that will bring your community together.

Examples could include:

- ♥ Raising Public Awareness
- ♥ Invite community members to visit high-quality programs
- ♥ Publicly recognize those who work with and for young children in your community
- ♥ Promote partnerships with business and community leaders

If your facility/organization hosts activities for WOYC, please submit these to Nebraska AEYC for inclusion in the next newsletter.

**Week of the
Young Child**

April 11-17, 2010

**Early Years Are
Learning Years'**



Dr. Jerlean Daniel Promoted to NAEYC Executive Director Designate



The National Association for the Education of Young Children is pleased to announce the promotion of **Jerlean Daniel, Ph.D.** to become Executive Director Designate of the Association. Daniel will replace outgoing Executive Director, Mark R. Ginsberg, Ph.D. on July 1, 2010. NAEYC welcomes Dr. Daniel as the next Executive Director of the Association. Currently, Dr. Daniel serves as a Deputy Executive Director of the Association and is also a distinguished elected past-president. Daniel has been an active NAYC member and Association leader for more than 30 years. She has been a staff member for five years, joining NAEYC after a 21 year career at the University of Pittsburgh where she served as a child care center director as well as a faculty member. Immediately prior to joining the national staff in 2005, she was Chair of the Department of Psychology in Education in the School of Education.

Dr. Mark Ginsberg will leave his position as the Association's Executive Director on June 30 to become Dean of the College of Education and Human Development at George Mason University. He has served as NAEYC Executive director since January, 1999. Under his leadership, among other accomplishments, the Association has nearly doubled in budget and in the size of the national staff; enhanced its capacity and influence as a policy advocate; significantly grown its professional development and publications portfolio; successfully reinvented the National academy for Early Childhood Program Accreditation and strengthened its higher education accreditation activities including developing an accreditation system for associate degree granting programs in early childhood education; and acquired a new headquarters facility. Dr. Ginsberg is originally from the Hastings, NE area.



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR NAEYC BOARD!!!!

*"Service is the rent we each pay for living.
It is not something to do in your spare time; it is the very purpose of life."*

Marian Wright Edelman, Founder, Children's Defense Fund.

Visit our website: www.NebraskaAEYC.org

ACCREDITATION

NAEYC TORCH is the online resource center headquarters to support program quality improvement through NAEYC accreditation of programs for young children. TORCH Resource Library includes options tools and resources to help you align your program to the NAYC Accreditation Criteria during Self-Study and official tools to assist you as you document your program's compliance with the NAEYC Accreditation Criteria during Self Assessment. To access TORCH:

- ♥ Go to www.naeyc.org/torch
- ♥ Enter Login ID: naeyc
- ♥ Enter Password: naeyc
- ♥ Click the triangle button beside the password box. You'll see "Welcome to TORCH".
- ♥ Select your time zone using the drop down box.
- ♥ Change your password.
- ♥ Enter your profile information.

Criteria Revision TORCH Discussion—NAEYC Wants Your Feedback

NAEYC launched the reinvented accreditation system in 2006 and now it's time to review the accreditation process and the criteria to assess what is working well and what can be improved. The goals of the revision are to:

- ♥ Streamline criteria and process
- ♥ Reflect current research and practice knowledge
- ♥ Continue as the mark of excellence
- ♥ Make the assessment more transparent
- ♥ Ensure the process is rigorous but not burdensome



Feedback from the field is imperative to this revision process, and we want to hear from you! Based on your experiences with NAEYC Accreditation, what do you feel is working well? What would you most like to see changed? Share your feedback through TORCH discussions by completed the following instructions.

1. Go to www.naeyc.org/torch and log in OR visit www.naeyc.org/torchinfo to learn more about registering for TORCH.
2. Click on Discussions on the left-hand side of the page.
3. Select the discussion topic to which you would like to contribute.
4. Click on the Contribute icon, type your thoughts and click Submit.
5. Don't forget to read the NAEYC TORCH Discussion Board Terms of Use and Community Rules before posting.

As an incentive, select individuals who participate in discussions will receive a surprise NAEYC resource in the mail.

Important note: If you have a general question about accreditation, please do not use the Discussions section in TORCH. Instead, please contact the Program Support Information Center via the TORCH Help Desk, by email at accreditation.information@naeyc.org or by phone at 1-800-424-2460, Option 3, Option 1.

In addition to the discussions, feedback about specific criteria may also be shared via TORCH. Please follow the instructions below:

- ♥ Log in to TORCH at www.naeyc.org/torch.
- ♥ Once you have accessed TORCH, click Criteria Feedback in the menu on the left.
- ♥ Click the "+" symbol next to the words Submit Feedback
- ♥ Fill out the feedback form in full.
- ♥ Click Submit.

SCHOOL SAFETY ALERT PROGRAM

Consumer Reports has partnered with the National PTA and the National School Board Association to form the School Safety Alert Program. The School Safety Alert Program will alert parents, school administrators, and educators immediately to imminent dangers and allow them to remove potentially dangerous, even lethal, products from their homes and schools. NAEYC urges you to include the following template in your program's communication with families and be aware of this helpful resource within your program.

Previously recalled products are one of the top hidden hazards in the home. Visit www.consumerreports.org/schoolsafety to use the School Safety Alert Program for vital safety alert and recall information to keep children safe.

Please note that this is an optional resource for programs pursuing and maintaining NAEYC Accreditation.

ACCREDITATION, continued....

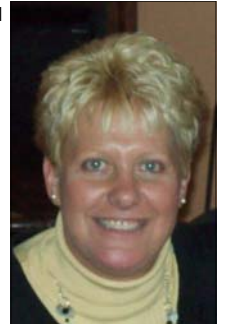
NeAEYC Accreditation Services

During the past few months, I have had the opportunity to work more closely with a few programs who are going through the Accreditation process. I have been reviewing their Program Portfolios and providing feedback to identify areas of strength and areas of need. I have been very impressed with their sources of evidence as well as with the wide variety of opportunities their programs offer for children and families. A few tips to pass along when preparing your Program Portfolios:

- ♥ All programs should now be using the 2008 Sources of Evidence
- ♥ When providing a program policy as a source of evidence, I suggest also including a source directly from the classroom that shows the policy in action (and when providing a classroom piece, also show a policy statement to show that it's expected program wide). Therefore, it's a solid source of evidence that shows a policy that is actually carried out in the classroom.
- ♥ Label your sources of evidence with the criterion number so your piece won't accidentally get lost.
- ♥ Be clear when using acronyms (ECERS, AEPS, etc), especially when it refers to your curriculum or something community based. Don't assume that your assessor, or the Academy, will know what you are talking about.

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

Tracy Gordon,
Special Projects
Coordinator



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO CHILDREN AWARD

It is again time to consider applications for the Distinguished Service to Children Award.

This award was developed in 1983 to recognize a member who has contributed outstanding service to the organization, its program of work, its development and its membership, or a Nebraskan who has done exemplary work to promote the rights, services, status and programs for/of children.

If you have a nominee, please send the name of the nominee and the reasons why you think they should be recognized. Include the name, current address, and current position of employments, as well as supporting narrative, providing information on the individual's background and services rendered to or in behalf of young children.

Recipients in 2009 were Dr. Carolyn Edwards, UNL; and Deb Nared, Nared's Pee Wee Palace.

Send nominations to:

Pat Hoffschneider, Office Manager
650 J. Street, Ste 23, Lincoln, NE 68508
phoff44@hotmail.com or fax: 402-476-5665

Pat Hoffschneider,
Office Manager



"I think, at a child's birth, if a mother could ask a fairy godmother to endow it with the most useful gift, that gift would be curiosity."

Eleanor Roosevelt

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA



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

Did You Know... T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA is currently over enrolled in all scholarship models. We continue to investigate fundraising opportunities and explore ways to be cost effective with scholarship dollars.



Brandee Lengel, T.E.A.C.H. Coordinator & Family

Average GPA of recipients for the most recently completed term:

Associate Degree Students: 3.5

Bachelor Degree Students: 3.9

Student Spotlight– AMY BROWN



Amy began participating with T.E.A.C.H. for the Summer 07 term. She attended classes for one year and then took a year off when her son was born. She returned to college, and T.E.A.C.H., for the Summer 09 term, and is currently attending classes. She has completed 27 credits at Metro Community College. Amy is a teacher at Child Savings Institute in Omaha and is currently working with Infants and Toddlers and will be moving to Multi-ages in February. She has worked there since April 2007.

Amy has a 20 month old son named Toryn and has been married for two years. In her spare time she enjoys shopping and most of all, spending time with her family.

Amy says:

"T.E.A.C.H. is helping reach my goal of becoming an Early Childhood Special Ed Preschool teacher by helping me with tuition/books. T.E.A.C.H. has given me the opportunity that I otherwise would not be able to afford. I am about half way to my associates degree and plan to continue my education with a bachelors degree."

"I have five brothers and I will be the first in my family to graduate college, including my parents. If it wasn't for the T.E.A.C.H. program I would not be able to make this huge accomplishment to graduate college."

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® NEBRASKA

Studies of quality early childhood care and education programs indicate the best programs are those where staff are well educated and turnover is low.

T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education And Compensation Helps) is designed to provide scholarship funds for those working with young children. The scholarships address three key issues facing those in the early care and education field: the educational level of the staff, high turnover rates, and low wages.

Scholarship Program

The scholarship provides:

80% of tuition & book costs, a travel stipend, \$350 bonus, partial reimbursement for release time or the cost of substitute care.

Qualified applicants must: Work in a licensed child care facility or otherwise qualifying program, working directly with children or supervising those working with children; work at least 30 hours a week; and earn less than \$15.00 per hour. **additional criteria may apply*

Associate and Bachelor degree scholarships available.

For more information on T.E.A.C.H.

Contact: **Brandee Lengel, T.E.A.C.H. Coordinator**
(402) 476-5658 or toll free 877-656-2005
teach@NebraskaAEYC.org

T.E.A.C.H. Advisory Committee Member PAULA THOMPSON!



Paula Thompson was honored with the **Administrator of the Year Award** at the Head Start Conference, in November.



Paula has been a member of the T.E.A.C.H. Advisory Committee since the inception of T.E.A.C.H. in Nebraska.

Paula has been employed at Central Nebraska Community Services Head Start since 1993. She began as a Teacher/Center Specialist in 1993 and became the Early Childhood Programs Assistant Director in 2003.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS SPOTLIGHT

Child Saving Institute, Omaha, Nebraska

Program Coordinator: Dahlia Lloyd

For over 100 years, Child Saving Institute has facilitated healing for children and families in crisis. At its core, CSI exists to help children and families. They provide emergency services to children and teens in crisis and offer therapy for physically and sexually abused children. Additionally, CSI is a community leader in preventive family education, preservation and child care. The child care program is accredited by NAEYC.

The facility serves over 90 children and employs 21 staff members.



CSI is a Nature Explore™ Certified Classroom.



"The earth laughs in flowers." e.e. cummings.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS SPOTLIGHT

Head Start Child & Family Development Program, Inc

Grand Island, NE
Program Coordinator: Gay DeMars



This site provides Head Start and Early Head Start services to over 90 children, 100% of which are from low income families. They employ 18 staff members.



"He who plants a tree plants a hope."

Lucy Larcom



QUALITY ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVES

Building Bright Futures Quality Enhancement Project

Nebraska AEYC is partnering with Building Bright Futures in a quality initiative to provide support to several family child care home providers in the Greater Omaha area. This project will provide a pre and post Environment Ratings Scale, joint development of a quality plan, funds for supplies, and on-going support.



This project is led by Gina DeFreece, Special Projects Coordinator.

WELCOME TO BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES STAFF

NeAEYC welcomes the new staff at Building Bright Futures:

- ♥ **Fawn Taylor**, Executive Director
- ♥ **Bridget Cannon-Hale**, Director of Health and Family Support Services
- ♥ **Sarah Ann Kotchian**, Early Childhood Coordinator
- ♥ **Julie Jones-Branch**, Director of Early Childhood Educational Network Services.



Woods Charitable Fund Quality Enhancement Project

NeAEYC is partnering with the Woods Charitable Fund to provide quality support to several centers in Lincoln. Each of these centers is serving a significant number of children from low income and/or minority families. The project provides a pre and post Environment Ratings Scale, joint development of a quality plan, funds for supplies and on-going support.

This project is led by Tracy Gordon, Special Projects Coordinator.

Early Head Start Infant-Toddler Quality Initiative: Sub-Contract with Lincoln Action Program

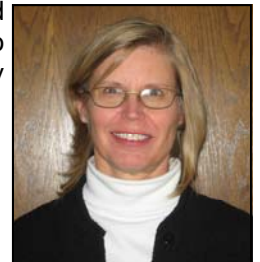
This initiative was developed to support Early Head Start and community child care partnerships to improve the quality and professionalism of infant and toddler care. This initiative has three options of intensity, with the most intense option requiring EHS programs to enter into agreements with local child care centers and family child care homes. Additional child care programs participate at the other two less intense options of involvement. These options include professional development opportunities to home-based and center-based partners. This project is led by Cindy Jennett, Special Projects Coordinator.

West Ed: Program for Infant/Toddler Caregivers

This training opportunity is currently being offered by NeAEYC in Lincoln at the Mill Towne Building. This program is a relationship-based curriculum that focuses on preparing teachers and the environment so infants and toddlers can learn and thrive. Teachers prepare by being "in tune" with the infants. This occurs by knowing child development, the family and its culture, and by knowing the child and providing individualized care to each child. Teaching is child-directed, not teacher-directed. The environment is prepared with safety in mind, with appropriate materials, and is culturally supportive.

February 23 & March 9, 6-10 p.m.: Module II
March 23 & April 6, 6-10 p.m.: Module III
April 20 and May 11, 6-10 p.m.: Module IV

Cindy Jennett
Special Projects
Coordinator



"Things may come to those who wait, but only things left by those who hustle."

Abraham Lincoln

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVES, continued

Community Services Initiative

The Human Services Federation is 26 years old. It has 120 nonprofit agency members dedicated to providing quality health and human services in Lincoln and Lancaster County.

In January 2005, the HSF began facilitation of the Community Services Initiatives project. The project has four areas of focus: Basic and Emergency Needs, Behavioral Health, Children and Youth, and Stop Abuse. Tracy Gordon, NeAEYC, coordinates the Early Childhood area.

The CSI (Child Development Coalition), in collaboration with the CSI Youth Coalition, works to implement a core set of activities which assist in achieving the following outcomes:

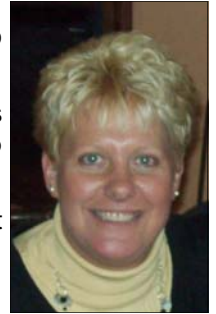
1. Increased access to quality programs and services,
2. Assessment of early childhood and youth needs and gaps in the community,
3. Increased coordination and collaboration among child and youth serving entities in the community.

Over the past few months, the Child Development Coalition has been gathering materials to create a resource packet for child care providers to use when one of their clients/customers is experiencing homelessness or near homelessness. This packet contains information from a variety of agencies and community resources which can provide support to families with young children who find themselves in this situation. Our coalition wanted to send a resource packet to the licensed child care programs in Lincoln and Lancaster County and with the help of the Lincoln Northeast High School ROTC chapter, we were able to mail over 700 packets!



Even if these resource packets can help just one family, then our project has been a success.

If you are interested in learning more about this project, feel free to contact Tracy Gordon at 402-476-5662 or tgordon@nebraskaAEYC.org.



Tracy Gordon,
Special Projects
Coordinator

Newborn Hearing Aid Loaner Bank

Nebraska AEYC continues to serve as the fiscal agent for the Hearing Aid Loaner Bank. This project provides hearing aid and supplies for young children with genetic hearing disorders. The hearing aids and supplies are funded through donations from manufacturers and private individuals.



PARTICIPATION ON COMMITTEES AND TEAMS

- ♥ Building Bright Futures
- ♥ Call of Action Task Force
- ♥ Central Community College Advisory Team
- ♥ Community Services Initiative/EC team
- ♥ Community Services Leadership Team
- ♥ Early Childhood Public Policy Team
- ♥ EC Interagency Coordinating Council
- ♥ Environment Ratings Scale Team
- ♥ Human Services Federation
- ♥ Kids Count Data Team
- ♥ Lincoln Public School Consumer Advisory Team
- ♥ Metro Community College Advisory Team

- ♥ Munroe Meyer Institute Advisory Team
- ♥ Nebraska Head Start Association
- ♥ Nebraska Nature Action Collaborative
- ♥ Nonprofit Association of the Midlands
- ♥ P-16 Committee and Goals 2 & 4
- ♥ Region VII Advisory Team
- ♥ Regional Training Project, Lincoln
- ♥ Regional Training Project, Omaha
- ♥ Southeast Community College Advisory Team
- ♥ Together for Kids and Families
- ♥ United Way School Readiness Team, Omaha
- ♥ United Way Team, Lincoln

"If everybody is thinking alike, then somebody isn't thinking."

George S. Patton

MEMBERSHIP

Attention Members!!

Help us 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

National AEYC

Website: www.NAEYC.org
Week of the Young Child activities—national
2 Annual National Conferences
Children's Champions, advocacy activities
Young Children Journal & professional resources
Early childhood national leadership
Professional Liability Insurance option

Nebraska AEYC

Website: www.NebraskaAEYC.org
Week of the Young Child activities—state and local
Local conference support
Legislative breakfast, advocacy activities
Quarterly newsletter
Early childhood state & local leadership
Annual Early Childhood Planning retreat
Chapter development & support

Take your pick!

As a member, you may select online access to the current issue of *Young Children* along with the print publication of your choice: *Young Children* or *Teaching Young Children*.

Members selecting *Young Children* will receive six issues per year.

Members selecting *Teaching Young Children* will receive five issues a year and a bonus spotlight book.

Welcome New Members 4th Quarter—2009

Jo Braun
Brittany Cambern
Heather Fox
Susie Goodro
Belle Ann Howell
Tammy Koupal
Carolyn Kuhnel

Mikenzi Molitor
Peggy Nelson
Peggy Jo Onwiler
Michelle Pawlak
Judy Priess
Heather Sullivan
Paula Szczepaniak
Carmen Voner

Need Some Help?

NeAEYC staff can serve as:

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

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

AFFILIATE AND CHAPTER INFORMATION

Lincoln AEYC

News and Activities:

Lincoln AEYC voted to extend the president term from one year to two years, to allow the president more time to accomplish goals.



*Amber McCants
Lincoln AEYC President*

Upcoming Events:

Changes will be made to the Early Childhood Celebration this year. The celebration will be held April 10th at the Lincoln Children's Museum. LAEYC is partnering with the Lincoln Children's Museum. Booths will be set up and activities will be provided at the booths to show easy ways to use things at home for fun and education. Families will be welcome. This will be held during the Week of the Young Child, April 11—April 17.



Lincoln AEYC will soon have their own website. It is still under development.

Kearney Chapter of the Nebraska AEYC

News and Activities:

The Kearney Chapter of the Nebraska Association for the Education of Young Children held their annual elections on Monday, January 18th. Newly elected officers will serve as leaders for the group for the next two years. They include:

- ♥ President: Judith Riddle
- ♥ Vice-President: Joy Kyhn
- ♥ Secretary/Treasurer: Sue Klein

Upcoming Events:

Dessert Night: This event will honor all Kearney Preschool teachers. Held at the French Café. Guest speaker for this event will be Pastor Scott Murrish from the Royal Family Kids Camp.

Spring Workshop: March 22, from 6:30—8:30 pm in the Nebraskan Student Union at UNK. The title is Personalities. Tim Peterson, a counselor with the Kearney Evangelical Free Church will speak on learning to value the differences in our personality styles.



*Karen Decker,
Kearney
Chapter*

JOB VACANCIES AND RESUMES

Filling in the Gaps.....

In our ongoing effort to fill in the gaps in the early childhood community, we've been considering providing an opportunity for the posting of early childhood job vacancies and resumes for early childhood professionals as a feature of our website.

Several people have asked about this possibility. Is this a feature that would be of interest to you? Considering the high cost of advertising in the newspaper, would organizations be willing to pay a small fee to post a position? Could it be considered a benefit for members? Keeping it current could become time consuming, so we'd like to find a way to generate at least a small amount of revenue.

If you have feedback or ideas about this concept, please email them to Pat Hoffschneider at phoff44@hotmail.com.

"Progress always involves risks. You can't steal second base and keep your foot on first."

Frederick B. Wilcox

CONFERENCES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- ♥ **February 21, 2010: Excellence in Early Childhood Conference**, Chadron State College. Contact Jennifer Baumann, PanhandleACSS@yahoo.com or 308-430-5447
- ♥ **February 23-25, 2010: ERS Training**, Omaha. Contact Penny Gildea, 402-557-6895, penny.gildea@nebraska.gov
- ♥ **February 27, 2010: Early Childhood Conference**, Holdrege. Contact Marcia or Mindy, 308-784-5050.
- ♥ **March 1-2, 2010: Infant Mental Health Conference**, LaVista. Contact carol.puffer@nebraska.gov
- ♥ **March 9, 2010: West Ed Training**, Mill Towne Building, Lincoln. Contact Cindy Jennett at 476-5653 or cjennett@nebraskaaeyc.org
- ♥ **March 9-13, 2010: National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies Conference**, Washington, DC. Contact conferences@naccrra.org
- ♥ **March 20, 2010: Early Childhood Conference**, West Point. Contact Susan Strahm, sstrahm@esu1.org
- ♥ **March 23-35, 2010: ERS Training**, Omaha. Contact Penny Gildea, 402-557-6895, penny.gildea@nebraska.gov
- ♥ **March 27, 2010: Kaleidoscope Conference**, Omaha. Contact Jen Haggart at jhaggart@esu3.org
- ♥ **March 27, 2010: McCook Caring for Children Conference**, McCook. Contact Lori Poppe at lpoppe@esu16.org
- ♥ **April 6, 2010: West Ed Training**, Mill Towne Building, Lincoln. Contact Cindy Jennett at 476-5653 or cjennett@nebraskaaeyc.org
- ♥ **April 11 - 17, 2010: Week of the Young Child**, For more information go to www.NAEYC.com
- ♥ **April 17, 2010: Peru State Early Childhood Conference**, Peru. Contact Cara Small at csmall@esu6.org
- ♥ **April 20-22, 2010: ERS Training**, Scottsbluff. Contact Penny Gildea, 402-557-6895, penny.gildea@nebraska.gov
- ♥ **April 23 & 24, 2010: Infant/Toddler Symposium**, Omaha. Contact Jen Haggart at jhaggart@esu3.org
- ♥ **April 24, 2010: Early Childhood Conference**, Columbus. Contact kvanness@esu7.org
- ♥ **May 3-8, 2010: National Head Start Conference**, Dallas, TX. Contact Lori Burke - (703) 739-7557
- ♥ **May 25-27, 2010: Region VII Head Start Conference**, Kansas City, MO. For more info: www.r7hsa.com
- ♥ **June 6-9, 2010: NAEYC Professional Development Conference**, Phoenix, AZ. Contact www.NAEYC.org
- ♥ **June 22-24, 2010: ERS Training**, Lincoln. Contact Penny Gildea, 402-557-6895, penny.gildea@nebraska.gov
- ♥ **July 14-15, 2010: Kindergarten Conference**, Kearney. Contact: marybeth.pistillo@nebraska.gov
- ♥ **July 20-22, 2010: ERS Training**, Omaha. Contact: penny.gildea@nebraska.gov
- ♥ **August 21-24, 2010: ASAE Conference**, Los Angeles, CA. For more info: www.ASAE.org
- ♥ **September 28-30, 2010: ERS Training**, Kearney. Contact penny.gildea@nebraska.gov
- ♥ **October 19-21, 2010: ERS Training**, Lincoln. Contact penny.gildea@nebraska.gov
- ♥ **November 3-6, 2010: NAEYC Annual Conference**, Anaheim, CA. For more info: www.NAEYC.org
- ♥ **November 30, Dec 1-2, 2010: ERS Training**, Omaha. Contact penny.gildea@nebraska.gov

Nebraska AEYC/Nebraska Head Start Association Legislative Breakfast

Due to the weather, the previously schedule legislative breakfast has been rescheduled for **Thursday, February 18**. NeAEYC and NeHSA will again be partnering to sponsor this legislative breakfast at the State Capitol building. 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 organization.

More information will be provided following the event.

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.

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

Pat Hoffschneider, Office Manager
650 J St, Suite 23, Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone: 402-476-2092

Fax: 402-476-5665

e-mail: phoff@NebraskaAEYC.org

Visit our website: www.NebraskaAEYC.org