

# Virginia DEClares

## Spring 2006

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### DEC– Who We Are

*The Division for Early Childhood (DEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is a national, non-profit organization of individuals who work with or on behalf of children with special needs, birth through age eight, and their families. Founded in 1973, DEC is dedicated to promoting policies and practices that support families and enhance the optimal development of children. Children with special needs are those who have disabilities, developmental delays, are gifted/talented or are at risk of future developmental problems. Additional information about DEC is available at [www.dec-sped.org](http://www.dec-sped.org), [dec@ceo.cudenver.edu](mailto:dec@ceo.cudenver.edu), or 303/556-3328.*

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### VA DEC 2005-2006 Officers

**President:**

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**Vice President:**

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**Treasurer:**

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**Membership:**

Jaye Harvey ([jfharvey@rcs.k12.va.us](mailto:jfharvey@rcs.k12.va.us)) &  
Mel Purcell ([melprucell@yahoo.com](mailto:melprucell@yahoo.com))

**Children's Advocacy Network:**

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**Exceptional Children's Week:**

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**Nancy Fallen Award:**

Elaine Barker ([Elaine.Barker@fcps.edu](mailto:Elaine.Barker@fcps.edu))

### President's Message

Dear VA DEC Members and Friends:

This is a great time to renew your Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and Division of Early Childhood (DEC) memberships as DEC is offering \$10.00 off the usual fee. See page 2 for details!

Pause and reflect on the following notions:

- Make plans – to attend Shining Stars, to encourage your peers to join DEC, to enroll in a Master's or Doctoral Program, to take a bit of time for yourself, and on and on but do MAKE PLANS!
- Take advantage of opportunities – to use the ECSE tuition assistance process, to attend state and national trainings.
- Become involved – in your child's education, in a community project, in your LEA's leadership mentoring program...
- You don't know what you can do until you try!
- Be a supporter, be a cheerleader – for early childhood education. Governor Kaine is leading this charge right now with the **Smart Beginnings Blitz**. Look at [www.SmartBeginnings.org](http://www.SmartBeginnings.org) for much more information.

Best regards to all,  
Linda Bradford  
VA DEC President

## DEC Membership Drive

DEC is conducting a spring membership recruitment drive between April 10 and May 31, 2006. New and renewing members in any category (e.g., professional, student) will receive \$10.00 off the total membership dues for the year and a \$5.00 coupon towards the purchase of DEC products.

In order to increase our membership in Virginia, we are asking each current DEC member to invite a colleague who is not a member to join DEC. Please share information about the advantages of being a DEC member, for example, receiving 4 different professional journals four times a year, receiving member discounts at conferences and training events, and having access to the latest public policy information through the Children's Action Network.

New and renewing members will need to use the attached special application form to receive the membership discount and submit their application by May 31, 2006.

## Mark Your Calendars

### **Shining Stars: Charting the Future for Today's Children Virginia's Third Annual Early Childhood Conference**

The Shining Stars conference will be held July 19- 21, 2006 at the Ramada Plaza Resort Oceanfront Hotel in Virginia Beach, VA. This conference is designed for early childhood special educators; early childhood educators; related service providers; paraprofessionals; Head Start, Title 1, and Even Start providers; early intervention providers, administrators and families. For more information and to register for the conference, go to:[www.ttaonline.org](http://www.ttaonline.org) and click on the Events tab.

### **Head Start's 8th National Research Conference**

This conference will be held June 26-28, 2006 in Washington, D.C. The conference theme is "Serving Children Through Partnership and Collaboration."

For more information regarding hotel reservations, travel, and the conference, call 703-821-6161 or go to:  
[www.headstartresearchconf.net](http://www.headstartresearchconf.net)

### **NAEYC's 2006 National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development**

This conference, designed for leaders who prepare and mentor early childhood professionals, will be held June 4-7, 2006 in San Antonio, Texas, with the theme "Connecting with Standards." For more information, or to register visit:  
<http://www.naeyc.org/conferences/institute/>  
New Standard of Excellence: What You Need to Know

### **George Washington University Community Forum: Practicing Preventative Mental Health: Meeting the Needs of Young Children.**

This forum, sponsored by the GW Infant and Early Childhood Programs Linking Research and Intervention Grant will be held on June 26, 2006 from 9:00 to 3:00 in the Media and Public Affairs Building, B07, 805 21<sup>ST</sup> St. NW, Washington D.C. The forum speaker will be Lesley Koplow, M.S., C.S.W., a psychotherapist and the Director of the Center for Emotionally Responsive Practice at Bank Street College of Education in New York City. She is the author of numerous books on child mental health. Contact Karin Spencer at [kspencer@gwu.edu](mailto:kspencer@gwu.edu) for information.

## Call for Proposals

### **The Virginia Federation of the Council for Exceptional Children**

The annual Virginia CEC conference will be held October 15-17, 2006 at the Doubletree Hotel in Charlottesville, VA. The theme for the conference is "Special Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Making a Difference in a Changing World". Proposals for presentations are due on June 1, 2006. Please consider submitting a proposal related to early childhood special education.

A proposal submission form is attached to this newsletter. For questions contact, Dr. Paige Pullen at [pullen@virginia.edu](mailto:pullen@virginia.edu).

## Summer Courses

### **SPED 220.BJ: Collaborative Approaches to Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health and Education.**

This 3 credit course offered by the George Washington University will build on Lesley Koplow's lecture at the GW Community Forum. The course will provide students with an understanding of a positive, proactive approach to integrating mental health and early childhood education. Major course themes and concepts will be introduced by a variety of guest lecturers including national, regional, and local experts. Students will develop a repertoire of relationship-based strategies to support children's healthy social-emotional development, to facilitate academic learning, and to work collaboratively with families and other professionals in the context of diverse cultural perspectives, beliefs and concerns. After the first day at the Foggy Bottom campus for Ms. Koplow's lecture, the Institute will be held at the GW Arlington campus, June 27-30, 2006. Because it is an off-campus class, tuition will be charged at \$372/credit hour. For additional information about the course, please contact Karin Spencer at [kspencer@gwu.edu](mailto:kspencer@gwu.edu) or 202-994-3724.

### **Early Childhood Special Education Content Teaching Academy at James Madison University**

This academy is designed for ECE or ECSE teachers seeking recertification points (not initial endorsement). It will be offered from June 26-30, 2006 and will focus on a variety of topics related to ECSE such as inclusion, collaboration, positive behavior support, and integrating literacy and Virginia's Foundation Blocks into thematic units. Thirty participants will be fully funded by a

grant from the Virginia Department of Education to attend the ECSE Content Teaching Academy at JMU. Basic registration, room, and board are covered by the grant. Participants must pay \$100.00 to hold a space and will be reimbursed at the end of the academy. Applications are due June 2, 2006. Contact Cheri Beverly ([beverlcl@jmu.edu](mailto:beverlcl@jmu.edu)) or go to: <http://coe.jmu.edu/academy2006/ECESPEDFunding.htm> for more information.

If participants are interested in college credit, they can register with JMU and pay \$250.00. Participants can request reimbursement through Pat Burgess at [www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/suptsmemos/2005/inf180.html](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/suptsmemos/2005/inf180.html).

## Federal Updates

The Division for Early Childhood (DEC) has posted letters on the DEC website that have been sent to the Congress and/or the Executive Branch in the last few months with DEC sign-on. DEC will continue to post such letters in the future. You may view the letters at: [www.dec-sped.org/publicpolicy.html](http://www.dec-sped.org/publicpolicy.html) Click on "Recent Policy/Advocacy Activities".

## State Updates

### **Inclusive Preschool Options for Preschoolers (IPOP) Long Term Technical Assistance**

The Virginia Department of Education will be accepting applications in May for IPOP long term technical assistance. The Virginia DOE invites teams from school divisions/ programs/agencies to apply for an Inclusive Preschool Options Long-Term Technical Assistance (LTTA) partnership. Applicants could receive technical assistance support from a T/TAC for 1-2 years while developing and implementing this initiative.

Look for the Superintendent's memo scheduled to be posted May 12, 2006 regarding this initiative. For more information contact Phyllis Mondak at the Virginia Department of Education at:

Phyllis.Mondak@doe.virginia.gov or your local Training and Technical Assistance Center (T/TAC). Applications will be due by June 30, 2006.

## **Transition Technical Assistance Document**

The Virginia DOE has developed a document related to the referral of children from Part C Infant and Toddler Connections services to Part B services. Refer to the attached chart for an overview of this process and for a link to a web site that includes more details.

### **Web Sites and Materials of Interest**

A recent study by the Yale Child Study Center found that children attending preschool are more likely to be expelled from school for problem behavior than students in the elementary, middle or high school grades (Gilliam, 2005). The study suggested the need for more training for preschool personnel in behavior management. The following web sites are excellent resources for training materials.

<http://csefel.uiuc.edu/modules.html>

#### **The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning**

is a project designed to strengthen the capacity of Head Start and child care programs to improve the social and emotional outcomes of young children. The Center has developed training and technical assistance materials that reflect evidence-based practices for promoting children's social and emotional development and preventing challenging behaviors. Training materials are available on the website including information on how to conduct functional behavior assessments and develop positive behavior support plans.

<http://challengingbehavior.fmhi.usf.edu/>

#### **The Center for Evidence-Based Practice: Young Children with Challenging Behavior**

This project is designed to share information about positive, evidence-based practices for addressing the challenging behavior of young children and to provide resources related to these practices. The web site provides links to resources and articles re PBS.

## **Creating Transition Tools for Young Children with Challenging Behavior**

These materials were developed by Lentini, Vaughn and Fox (2004) to assist teachers in supporting young children with challenging behavior. The materials include a CD-ROM and a manual that provide information about the potential function of problem behaviors during typical early childhood routines and suggestions for addressing these behaviors. The suggestions focus on ways to prevent the problem behavior, how to teach new skills to replace the problem behavior, and how to respond to the behavior when it occurs. For more information about these materials call 813-974-4612 or write to: Early Intervention Positive Behavior Support, The Division of Applied Research and Educational Support, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, 13301 Bruce B. Downs Blvd. MHC2113A, Tampa, FL 33612 and ask about the TTYC (Creating Transition Tools for Young Children with Challenging Behavior) materials.

### **Treasurer's Report**

There is a current balance of \$2,173.86 in the VA DEC account. This balance is invested in a CD that is due on June 6, 2006. The current rate for the CD is 3.44. Recent expenditures include \$265.27 for the fall newsletter and \$500.00 to support Virginia's early intervention conference.  
*Submitted by Linda Ingleson*

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

The Virginia DEC is seeking a web master to update and maintain the VA DEC web site. Please contact Linda Bradford if you are interested in this volunteer opportunity.

