

# Virginia DEClares

## Spring 2007

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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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### President's Message

Dear VA DEC Members and Friends:  
Shortly after you receive this newsletter, my two-year term as your President will end. It has been exciting – from giving testimony to the US Department of Education on the proposed Part B regulations to representing Virginia at International CEC in Portland to seeing Jaye Harvey receive the Nancy Fallen Award in 2006 to seeing and talking with many of you at Shining Stars and other conferences around the state.

Please take time to review the proposed Part C regulations – the links are located on page 2 of this newsletter – and submit your comments either in writing or in person stating what you like in the regs as well as what you don't like. If you don't like or agree with a portion, state why and give your recommendation for change.

Continue to retrain yourself and expand your horizons. Listed in the newsletter are a variety of opportunities! Attend Shining Stars July 11 – 13; participate in Radford University's Institute for teachers of children who are deaf or hard of hearing; participate in local or regional trainings; take an on-line course or take advantage of the wonderful offerings of your T/TAC. Keep yourself "ahead of the curve". But most of all continue to provide high-quality services to the children and families of Virginia.

Thanks for my opportunity to serve you, the members of VA DEC!

Linda Bradford, Out-Going President

## Mark Your Calendars

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

The Shining Stars conference will be held July 11- 13, 2007 at the Wyndham Oceanfront Resort (formerly known as the Ramada Plaza Resort Oceanfront) in Virginia Beach, VA. The conference will focus on strategies for assessment and instruction that provide positive outcomes in inclusive settings for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with and without disabilities. Featured speakers will include Dr. Stephen Bagnato, Dr. Kristie Pretti-Frontczak, and Cyndi Pitonyak. 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. Refer to the attached brochure for more information or go to [www.ttaonline.org](http://www.ttaonline.org), click on your region, click on the events tab at the top and scroll to Shining Stars 2007.

### **National Early Childhood Inclusion Institute**

The 7th Annual National Early Childhood Inclusion Institute will be held July 31<sup>st</sup> through August 2<sup>nd</sup> in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The conference will focus on the latest research findings and resources to guide early childhood inclusion (e.g., policy development, strategies to build collaborative relationships and support inclusive services).

The Institute is sponsored by the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute and the National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center. It is designed for state and local administrators, teachers, early interventionists, allied health professionals, inclusion specialists, technical assistance providers, and parents.

For more information and to register go to: <http://www.nectac.org/~meetings/InclusionMtg2007/mtghomepage.asp>

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

The 49<sup>th</sup> annual Virginia CEC conference will be held on October 14-16, 2007 at the Doubletree Hotel in Charlottesville, VA. The theme for the conference is "*Evidence for Excellence*". Calls for proposals are due on June 1, 2007 and can be downloaded at: [Http://www.virginiacec.org/proposal\\_forms.htm](http://www.virginiacec.org/proposal_forms.htm).

## Federal Updates

### **IDEA Part C Regulations**

The official proposed regulations for IDEA Part C are now available and can be downloaded from the Federal eRulemaking Portal at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Select "Department of Education" from the agency drop-down menu, then click "Submit." In the Docket ID column, select **ED\_FRDOC\_0001-0005**. Click on one of the "Views" icons for a pdf or html version of the Federal Register.

Public comments on these draft regulations can be made via this portal by clicking on the "Add Comments" icon. There is a **75-day public comment period**, which will **close on July 23, 2007**.

Written comments can also be made via mail, commercial, or hand delivery. Verbal comments can be provided during public meetings. The closest meeting for VA DEC members will be on June 14, 2007 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Washington, DC.

DEC is working with CEC and the Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA) to develop a side-by-side comparison and analysis of current IDEA Part C regulations and the proposed regulations. Visit the DEC policy page at [www.dec-sped.org/publicpolicy.html](http://www.dec-sped.org/publicpolicy.html) for additional information.

*Information received from: Bonnie Keilty and Diana J. LaRocco, DEC Governmental Relations Committee*

## State Updates

### Virginia's Alignment Project

Virginia's Alignment Project is a team initiative that involves many components focused on early childhood education. One component of this project, *Benchmarks for Smart Beginnings*, describes what children should be able to know and do from birth to kindergarten as well as ways adults can support children's learning. Another component of this project is the development of a quality rating system that can be used to assess early childhood program quality. A draft of this document will be available online soon. To learn more about these and other components and to view the draft rating system when it is available go to:

<http://www.smartbeginnings.org/alignment.htm>

### Governor's Early Childhood Summit

The Governor's Early Childhood Summit: *Aligning the Continuum of Early Childhood Development* will be held on June 1<sup>st</sup> in Richmond, Virginia. The summit will be held in the VCU Commonwealth Ballroom at 907 Floyd Ave. from 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

This summit will provide the opportunity for the launch of Virginia's new resources for early childhood professionals. The summit will feature The Honorable Thomas R. Morris, Secretary of Education, Delegate Phillip Hamilton, Virginia House of Representatives, and Dr. Robert Pianta, The Curry School, University of Virginia.

All Virginia DEC members are urged to attend to show your support for quality education for young children in Virginia.

### Foundation Blocks for Early Learning

Since its inception, *Virginia's Foundation Blocks* have been an evolving process in the development of comprehensive standards for what four-year-olds should know and should be able to do to succeed in kindergarten. The *Foundation Blocks* are now complete with the addition of the *Standards for Physical and Motor Development and Personal and Social Development*. The Physical and Motor Development standards address skilled

movement, movement principles and concepts, personal fitness, responsible behaviors, and physically active lifestyles. *The Foundation Blocks for Personal and Social Development* include self- concept and self-control, approaches to learning, interacting with others, and social problem-solving.

The *Foundation Blocks* now address all indicators that were established by the National School Readiness Initiative in 2005. They address physical and motor development, personal and social development, approaches to learning, language development, cognition, and general knowledge. While separate and distinct, these domains interact with and reinforce one another. The *Foundation Blocks* can be downloaded from the Virginia DOE's web site at:

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/Elem\\_M/early.html](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/Elem_M/early.html).

Source: Supts. Memo 71, April 6, 2007 at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/suptsmemos/2007/inf071.html>

### 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 a superintendent's memo soon about this opportunity. For more information contact Phyllis Mondak ([Phyllis.Mondak@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Phyllis.Mondak@doe.virginia.gov)) or your local Training and Technical Assistance Center (T/TAC).

### Integrated Training Collaborative Update

The Integrated Training Collaborative (ITC) will begin several new projects with the upcoming grant. In collaboration with the DOE Priority Projects in Early Childhood and Autism, a grant was written to develop Communities of Practice in Autism. A one-day session will feature an advanced level training for providers and family members 3 to learn about strategies for supports and

services in natural environments for very young children with autism and their families. For the next year, communities of practice will be developed around the state to enhance and share knowledge about autism.

A webshop or webcourse may also be developed about Virginia's supports and services approach to early intervention. This information would be a self-paced, self-guided tool that providers could use at times and places that were convenient for them.

The ITC will continue to provide Kaleidoscope: New Perspectives in Service Coordination, Levels I and II several times during the next year. These trainings are specifically designed for service coordinators during their first year on the job. Veteran service coordinators, however, often find that the trainings serve as a good refresher and an opportunity to share ideas with colleagues.

Personnel recruitment and retention will also continue to be a focus for the ITC. Members will provide trainings at various conferences, attend career fairs, publicity events, etc. The ITC website will continue to provide information about statewide events related to early intervention and early childhood activities.

If you would like additional information regarding the ITC, contact Cori Hill (corihill@ntelos.net) or go to: <http://www.infantva.org/wkg-ITC.htm>

*Submitted by Cori Hill. Training Specialist*

### Early Intervention Awards

We would like to congratulate the recipient's of this year's early intervention awards which were presented at the Fifth Annual Infant and Toddler Connection of Virginia Early Intervention Conference in Roanoke this past March. Jill Donaldson, the Coordinator for the Parent Education - Infant Development Program of the Rappahannock Area Community Services Board, received the Leadership Award.

Cara Coffman, a Part C infant educator with Infant and Child Development Services, a program of the Greater Richmond ARC, received the Early Interventionist of the Year Award. Rick Beaman, who is a family representative on the Interagency Coordinating Council of Prince William, Manassas, and Manassas Park, received the Early Intervention Family Member Award.

### Virginia Consortium for Teacher Training in ECSE

The Virginia Consortium for Teacher Training in ECSE is funded by the Virginia Department of Education to prepare qualified teachers to work in Virginia's public schools with children birth to age five with disabilities. The consortium, which includes Radford University and Lynchburg College, **currently only serves regions 5-8 in central and southwestern Virginia**. Four courses that are required for ECSE licensure (two courses per university fall and spring semester) are offered through distance education. These courses include: Medical Aspects, Curriculum and Instruction, Family-centered Programming and Assessment in ECSE. Tuition waivers that cover all or a portion of in-state tuition will be available to qualified applicants. Additional ECSE courses are available at each university but consortium-related tuition support is not available for other courses at this time. For more information contact Dr. Kathryn Hoover at Radford University ([kahoover@radford.edu](mailto:kahoover@radford.edu)) or Dr. Glen Buck at Lynchburg College ([buck@lynchburg.edu](mailto:buck@lynchburg.edu)).

### Summer Courses and Inservice Training Opportunities

#### JMU ECSE Content Academy

The ECSE Content Academy will be held June 25-29, 2007 on the campus of JMU. The academy is designed to provide information to individuals who provide services to preschoolers (ages 2-5) with disabilities. The academy will begin with a review of IDEA 2004 and the new accompanying regulations and a discussion

about effective advocacy led by Sharon Walsh, Government Relations Consultant for the International Division for Early Childhood/Council for Exceptional Children. Tuesday through Thursday will focus on pre-literacy, pre-numeracy, and social skills with instruction provided by professionals with expertise in each of these areas. On Friday participants will work together as teams to apply information to their own classrooms (e.g., developing implementation and data gathering/assessment plans, exploring resources and materials related to content instruction).

Registration is limited to the first 30 enrollees all of whom will be fully funded by a grant from the Virginia Department of Education. The deadline for registration is June 1, 2007 but the academy may close earlier if enrollment limits are met prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>. For more information about the academy contact Dr. Cheri Beverly (beverlcl@jmu.edu) or go to: <http://coe.jmu.edu/academy2007/ECESPED.htm>

### **Unlocking Opportunities, Unleashing Potential: Educating Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing through Communication, Literacy, Technology, and Transition**

This conference is designed for **teachers, education interpreters or other education professionals** who work with children who are deaf or hard of hearing in the Virginia public schools. The conference will be held on August 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel in Staunton, Virginia. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Sue Schwartz who is the editor of *Choices in deafness: A parent's guide to communication options*. The conference provides opportunities to learn strategies for effective instruction and connect with state resources. Conference sponsors include the Virginia Department of Education, The Partnership for People with Disabilities, and Virginia Commonwealth University. For more information about the conference you can contact Ann Hughes 804-828-1342 or [awhiughes@vcu.edu](mailto:awhiughes@vcu.edu). You may register online by going to: [www.vcu.edu/partnership](http://www.vcu.edu/partnership). Under Professionals and Providers click on

Calendar of Events, scroll to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education Conference, and click on register.

### **Radford University' Summer Institute for Professionals/Preservice Teachers Working with Children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing**

Radford University will offer a series of summer workshops designed for **professionals or preservice teachers** who work with children who are deaf or hearing-impaired. ***Implementing "See the Sound Visual Phonics" in Literacy Instruction*** will be offered on June 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. The presenter will be Linda Jones-Oleson, MS, CCC-SLP. Participants should have previously participated in at least a 1-day introductory training. This training will extend and refine participants' understanding of "See the Sound Visual Phonics" for use with students who are deaf or hard-of hearing.

***Training in the Development of an Auditory Function/A-V Techniques*** will be offered on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The presenter is Kathryn Wilson, M.A., CCC-SLP. Cert. AVT. The purpose of this training is to provide detailed information on hierarchies, strategies and techniques that facilitate auditory learning of spoken language by children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

***Training in Auditory-Verbal Therapy – Development of Spoken Language Module*** will be held on July 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. The presenters will be Kathryn Wilson and Megan Murray Katz, M.S.P., CCC-SLP, Cert. AVT. The training provides an outline of relevant topics and areas of instruction in the auditory learning of spoken language. This module covers normal sequence of development, assessment, teaching strategies and disorders in the broad domains of speech and language.

Online workshop registration is available at <https://www.123signup.com/event?id=xqfnv> or you can call RU Conference Services at 540- 831-5800. The workshops may be taken for university credit or participants 5 can receive a certificate of attendance. The

Virginia Department of Education has provided funding for a limited number of participants who wish to complete this institute for course credit. On a first come first serve basis, grant funding will cover partial registration fee, complete tuition, and lodging (for participants who live further than 50 miles from campus). For those seeking university credit, register for the option entitled "University Credit." For those not seeking university credit, register for the option entitled "Certificate of Completion." CEUs **will not** be provided for this institute.

### **Auditory Verbal Therapy Training**

Rehabilitation Associates, P.C., along with the Shenandoah Infant and Toddler Connection and James Madison University are offering training for **speech-language pathologists** in auditory - verbal therapy for children with cochlear implants. Three courses will be offered by Lori Bobsin, M.S.P., CCC-SLP, Cert. The first course, Development of Auditory Function/AV Techniques will be offered on June 1-2, 2007. The second course, Parent Guidance will be held October 5-6, 2007. The third course, Spoken Language Model is on February 1-2, 2008. For more information contact Tracy Miller at 757-490-3223 or [tmiller@rehabilitationassociates.com](mailto:tmiller@rehabilitationassociates.com).

### **Nancy Fallen Award**

The Virginia DEC is pleased to announce that the Nancy Fallen award for this year will be presented at the Shining Stars conference in July. Come to the conference to see who this year's recipient will be!

We are also accepting nominations for this award for next year. The award is presented annually to a current VA DEC member who excels in the field of early childhood special education or early intervention.

Requirements for being considered for the award are as follows:

- The nominee must be a current member of the Virginia DEC
- The nominee must be a professional currently involved with programs for young children with special needs, ages birth to five. She or he must have current or past direct service experience
- The nominee's name, address, telephone number, and a brief description (less than 50 words) of his or her early childhood background must be submitted to the selection committee.

Submit nominations to Elaine Barker, Belle Willard Administrative Center, 10310 Layton Hall Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030