

# Virginia DEClares

## Spring 2008



### 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).

### VA DEC 2008-2009 Officers

**President:**

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**President-Elect:** Yaoying Xu ([yxu2@vcu.edu](mailto:yxu2@vcu.edu))

**Vice President:** Vacant

**Past President:**

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**Membership:**

Jaye Harvey ([jharvey@rcps.info](mailto:jharvey@rcps.info))

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**Newsletter:**

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

**Student Representative:** Abigail Vo

([klassai@vcu.edu](mailto:klassai@vcu.edu))

Dear VA DEC Members and Friends:

### President's Message

I am happy to report that we have several new board members. Selina Flores, an Early Childhood Special Education Coordinator with the Training and Technical Assistance Center at Virginia Tech, is our new Exceptional Children's Week Chairperson. Abigail Vo, a former ECSE teacher, is our new student representative and Carole Ivey, an occupational therapist, our new webmaster. Both are Ph.D. candidates in Special Education & Disability Policy at VCU. We look forward to the perspectives and expertise they bring to the board!

Vacancies still remain for Vice President and Family Representative so please give careful consideration to serving in this capacity. The board meets four times throughout the year but it is possible to participate via conference call.

At the January Board meeting three goals were identified for 2008: (1) membership, (2) website development, and (3) collaboration with our early childhood colleagues. Share membership information with colleagues and family members. Encourage them to join CEC/DEC so

## President's Message (cont.)

they too can receive updated resources and support. All members should plan now to join us in July for a DEC meeting during the Shining Stars Conference in Virginia Beach!

In the next few months you will be able to access a newly designed VA DEC website. Not only will it have a new look but we plan to make it a useful and resourceful site for all viewers. Email Carole with your suggestions and ideas for making this a user friendly site.

As Virginia continues to unite around the issue of school readiness for our youngest children, DEC is committed to working collaboratively with the early childhood community to address the issues of quality care and education of all young children. . By focusing on membership and updating the website we hope to increase knowledge and encourage more involvement in our profession.

Together we *can* make a difference!

*Belinda Hooper, VA DEC President*

## DEC Spring Membership Drive

Are your colleagues DEC members? Encourage your co-workers to join DEC and CEC in April or May at a special discounted rate! From April 1 through May 31, 2008, new DEC/CEC members will receive a \$10 discount on CEC membership and a coupon for \$10 off of a DEC product. Check the DEC website for an application beginning April 1. For more information, contact VADEC Membership Chair Jaye Harvey at [jharvey@rcps.info](mailto:jharvey@rcps.info).

## Mark Your Calendars

**The 2008 CEC Convention and Expo** will be held in Boston from April 2-5 at the Hynes Convention Center. For more information go to CEC's web site: <http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ProfessionalDevelopment/ConventionExpo/default.htm>.

If you are attending the CEC Convention please join other Virginia DEC members at a gathering hosted by Yaoying Xu, VA DEC President Elect. The gathering will be on April 4<sup>th</sup> from 7-8 pm at the Sheraton Hotel. Look for a sign in the hotel lobby with specific location information. If possible, please contact Yaoying by email ([yxu2@vcu.edu](mailto:yxu2@vcu.edu)) or phone (804-828-5298) prior to the conference to let her know that you plan to attend this gathering.

**Virginia's Sixth Annual Infant and Toddler Connection Early Intervention Conference, Viewing the Future through the Windows of Opportunity**, will be held April 30<sup>th</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke, Va. For additional information about the conference go to: <http://www.infantva.org> and scroll down under "What's New" to 2008 Conference Registration Brochure.

**Virginia's Fifth Annual Early Childhood Conference, Shining Stars: Charting the Future for Today's Children**, is scheduled for July 14- 16, 2008 at the Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront Resort. The conference will focus on instructional strategies that promote positive outcomes in inclusive settings for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with and without disabilities. Featured speakers will include Dr. Kristie Pretti-

## State Updates

Frontczak from Kent State University and Michele Valeri and Ingrid Crepeau from Dino Rock Productions, Inc. 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 go to [www.ttaconline.org](http://www.ttaconline.org), click on your region, click on the events tab at the top and scroll to Shining Stars 2008.

**The 5th Annual Autism Spectrum Disorders Conference: Information Today, Strategies Tomorrow** is scheduled for April 3 - 4, 2008 at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, Abingdon, VA. Refer to the attached information postcard for additional information.

**The 2008 National Smart Start Conference** will be held from May 6<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> in Greensboro, NC. For more information and to register online, go to [www.ncsmartstart.org/conference](http://www.ncsmartstart.org/conference)

**The Eighth Annual Early Childhood Inclusion Institute** is scheduled for July 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> in Chapel Hill, NC. It is designed for those who work with children birth through age five with special needs in inclusive settings. Information is provided on a range of topics related to inclusion such as the latest research findings, the development of collaborative relationships and strategies to support inclusive services. Go to the following link for more information: <http://www.nectac.org/~meetings/inclusionmtg2008/splash.html>.

The *Inclusive Placement Opportunities for Preschoolers (IPOP): A Systems Approach to Preschool Inclusive Practices* document is now available. To introduce this document, the VDOE TTACs around the state held rollouts and introductory sessions this past fall. The publication and these sessions have been well received.

The document will also be available soon on the VDOE website. See the Early Childhood Special Education page (<http://141.104.22.210/VDOE/sped/earlychildhood.html>) for this and other information relating to preschoolers.

A fourth round of the Inclusive Preschool Opportunities for Preschoolers (IPOP) grant applications has been announced in a Supt.'s Inf. Memo #32 at the following link: [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/information\\_centers/superintendents\\_memos/2008/02\\_feb/inf032.html](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/information_centers/superintendents_memos/2008/02_feb/inf032.html)

Applications are now being accepted in each of the eight VDOE T/TAC regions for technical assistance for developing a division/community team to implement inclusive preschool opportunities. This is an ongoing statewide initiative to support a continuum of inclusive options for preschoolers with disabilities. The purpose of the initiative is to increase opportunities for children with disabilities to be included in settings with children without disabilities in the school divisions' preschool programs and in their community preschools.

Interested parties are invited to complete an application to their superintendent's regional T/TAC for consideration no later than June 30, 2008. Applications and a reviewer's scoring guide can be viewed and downloaded as pdf attachments from

Supt's memo # 32. For further information contact Phyllis Mondak, educational specialist, Office of Special Education Instructional Services at [Phyllis.Mondak@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Phyllis.Mondak@doe.virginia.gov) or 804-225-2675. You may also contact your regional T/TAC Early Childhood Special Education Coordinator.

*Submitted by Selina Flores, ECSE T/TAC Coordinator at Virginia Tech.*

## Draft Special Education Regulations

The draft special education regulations and additional information about the revision process can be found at: <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/duerpr/oc/regulationsCWD.html> Be sure to provide your input on this draft.

### Training Institutes and Webinars

#### Routines-Based Interview (RBI) Certification Institute

Dr. Robin McWilliam will conduct this institute from August 4<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. The institute is designed to train people who can also train others to conduct the routines-based interview process which has been shown to improve the functionality of IFSP outcomes on the IFSP as well as family satisfaction. For more information please visit <http://www.vanderbiltchildrens.com/rbi>.

**The National Training Institute on Young Children with Challenging Behavior** will be held from April 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> in Clearwater Beach, FL. Information about this institute is available on this website: [www.addressingchallengingbehavior.org](http://www.addressingchallengingbehavior.org)

**The Center for Early Education and Development (CEED) Online Courses**  
The CEED at the University of Minnesota offers a variety of online

courses that are self-paced with online discussion and participation guided by instructors. Each course is accompanied by its own interactive CD-ROM containing course content, video clips, course notes, and information on supplemental readings. For more details about the courses offered, including registration information, go to <http://cehd.umn.edu/ceed/coursesandtrainings/#courses>

**The Implementing Positive Behavior Supports Within Local Systems Webinar** with Lisa Fox and Linda Broyles sponsored by NECTAC, Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center and the Preschool LRE Community of Practice is available for viewing and dissemination. The prerecorded presentation and follow-up discussion are available at this link: <http://www.nectac.org/~calls/2008/sec619/call1.asp>. Additional resource materials are also provided.

### Resources of Interest

Partnerships for Inclusion has published a second edition of **QuickNotes: Inclusion Resources for Early Childhood Professionals**. This publication is organized into ten modules with information sheets on a variety of evidence-based practices related to high quality care of young children with and without disabilities in a variety of settings. Go to <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~pfi> and click on "products" for ordering information.

The **American Academy of Pediatrics** advocates for all children to be screened for autism by age 2. To support this effort the Academy has released a tool for pediatricians to use to conduct this screening. Additional information about this effort can be found by going to the group's website: <http://www.aap.org/>.

## Virginia ECSE Personnel Preparation News

### James Madison University Content Teaching Academy

JMU will hold a Content Teaching Academy on June 23-27, 2008. The PreK/ECSE Academy will include a teacher strand and a paraprofessional strand. Cheri Beverly and Cheryl Henderson are conference chairs. The Teacher Strand addresses Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning with an emphasis on content instruction for science, history and social science, and physical and motor development. Enrollment is limited to 35 participants.

The Paraprofessional Strand covers a variety of topics including an overview of disabilities, instruction in communication and language development, personal-social development and positive behavior supports, oral motor-feeding development, positioning and handling, and an overview of special education law and regulations. Enrollment for this strand is also limited to 35 participants. Information about the academy can be found at:

<http://www.jmu.edu/contentacademy/ecse.html>.

### ECSE Consortium of Radford University and Lynchburg College

For the second year the VDOE has supported this ECSE consortium by providing tuition assistance to students for four ECSE endorsement courses. The courses are offered each year, two per semester, via distance education (live instruction via video conferencing). Students attend in schools, in school office buildings, and at home as well as at the New College Institute, Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, the Roanoke Higher Education Center, Radford University and Lynchburg

College. The consortium has enrolled approximately 30 students per class and nearly half of the students will finish their endorsement this spring.

Information, links to other universities and contact information is available on the consortium's website: [www.radford.edu/ruecse](http://www.radford.edu/ruecse).

### Project Metro READY

Project Metro READY is an EI/ECSE personnel preparation grant at VCU that provides **tuition assistance** to beginning ECSE teachers with conditional licenses and to graduate students enrolled in the ECSE program. Additional information about this grant can be found at:

[www.vcu.edu/metready](http://www.vcu.edu/metready) or by contacting Belinda Hooper, project coordinator, at 804-827-2663 or [bbhooper@vcu.edu](mailto:bbhooper@vcu.edu).

## Nancy Fallen Award Nominations

The VA DEC is currently accepting nominations for the Nancy Fallen award for 2007/2008. Requirements for being considered for the award include:

- 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 by May 15, 2008 to Elaine Barker, Gatehouse Center, 8115 Gatehouse Rd., # 3419, Falls Church, VA 22042 or to [Elaine.Barker@fcps.edu](mailto:Elaine.Barker@fcps.edu).