

AECA Update

The Arkansas Early Childhood Association Annual Conference has come and gone and based on comments and notes received many of you really enjoyed the new format. Your attendance and support were immensely appreciated. We were particularly impressed that our conference was able to be held since other conferences were being canceled due to low registrations.

Preliminary figures indicate that a little over 700 members of our professional association attended the conference participating in over 82 workshops and general sessions on a variety of topics. So, what happens when conference participants return home? We hope that knowledge gained at the conference is actually applied in your classroom, family daycare home or home visiting program to support the cognitive, physical and social-emotional development of young children. Application of knowledge acquired is critical and I am sure the conference planning committee is interested in knowing what they can do to make your conference experience an even better one.

Well, this is my last message to you as president of the Arkansas Early Childhood Association and I would like to especially thank the members of the board for their support. They attended meetings, responded to numerous requests for votes on issues to keep our organization on track for managing the fiscal and business affairs throughout the year. The board is committed and cares deeply about ensuring that AECA continues to be the organization that is contacted for guidance on matters related to preschool children.

As Immediate Past President, it becomes my responsibility to recruit new board members and I would like to invite you to call me at 501.364.3727, 501. 541.0656 or send an e-mail with your name and contact information to aeca1@aol.com if you are interested or know someone whom you think would make an excellent board member. We are seeking nominations for President-Elect to serve on the board beginning in January 2011.

I would like to challenge you to recruit at least one new member to join AECA during the next year and ,by all means, consider getting involved at the local level by lending your voice, your talent, skills and abilities to support this wonderful organization.

Best wishes as you continue to serve the precious children enrolled in preschool programs across our state.

Barbara Gilkey

Barbara Gilkey
AECA President

2009**Executive Board****President**

Barbara Gilkey
Little Rock

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Little Rock

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District #4
Angela Vann – Magnolia

SECA Representative

Joanna Grymes
Jonesboro

2009 AECA Conference Reflections

We want to extend a big thank you to Christi Johnson-Conference Co-Chair , Traci Johnston-Conference Program Co-Chair and Lindsey Smith- AECA Association Manager. These three ladies worked so hard to provide an amazing conference this year! THANK YOU!

This year more than 700 participants attended the 48th annual AECA Conference October 8-10 at the Hot Springs Convention Center. It was a huge success!

The two keynote speakers Madelyn Swift and Beth Butler (known as Boca Beth) kept us entertained and provided us with some great information to take back to our programs!

The AECA committee is already working on next year's conference. The 2010 AECA Annual Conference will be held at the Hot Springs Convention Center October 14-16, 2010. A call for proposals will be posted on the AECA website www.arkansasearlychildhood.org after the first of the year. Please consider submitting a proposal!

We look forward to seeing you at the
2010 AECA Conference!!!

AECA Conference Program Chair Position

The AECA Executive Board is looking for an individual to serve as our next conference program chair. The program chair position is a three-year commitment.

- First Year: The individual shadows and assists the current program chair
- Second Year: The individual is responsible for the program of the conference on their own
- Third Year: The individual will have someone shadowing/assisting them with the program responsibilities.

There is a stipend for this position. You must be a current member of the Arkansas Early Childhood Association. A cover letter and resume is requested to apply for the conference program chair position. The deadline to submit your resume is **January 8, 2010**. Please e-mail your documents to Traci Johnston at tjohnston@pulaskitech.edu. If you have questions about the position or would like more information, please contact Traci Johnston, current program chair, at 501-812-2817 or tjohnston@pulaskitech.edu

**AECA Mission Statement : Enhancing the lives of children, families
and early childhood professionals in the state of Arkansas.**

Upcoming NWAECA Trainings

February 4, 2010 – Resources for Infant Educators

March 4, 2010 – Parent Communication

April 1, 2010 – Mental Health of the Provider

◆Check out their website for more information at <http://sites.google.com/site/nwaeca/>

Congratulations!

The Northwest Arkansas Early Childhood Association (NWAECA) and the Hot Springs Early Childhood Association (HSECA) both won the 2009 Merit of Achievement Award at the 2009 AECA Conference.

Congratulations to Shelly Nichols (HSECA) and Amanda Wheaton (NWAECA), the recipients of the Maggie Reynolds/Deltha Sharp Scholarship! We will do a special feature on these two wonderful ladies in our winter update and will include their comments on the SECA Conference!!

Service Project Update

Traci Johnston, Past President

A special thank-you to everyone who donated items for our community service project, which will benefit Arkansas Children's Hospital. We are still collecting items (**travel size** items like shampoo, mouthwash, soap, deodorant, lotion, toothpaste, razor, comb, small sewing kit, small writing tablet, ink pen) through December. You can also mail your monetary donations to the AECA office. Please indicate that your funds are to go to the community service project. The kits will be put together in January and delivered to ACH. Thanks again for your continued support of AECA and Arkansas Children's Hospital. If you need additional information, please contact Traci Johnston at 501-812-2817 or tjohnston@pulaskitech.edu



UPDATE FROM SECA

Joanna Grymes, SECA Representative

Many great things are happening with SECA. Of course, the biggest at the moment is the SECA conference, right here in Little Rock, January 21- 23, 2010. Register online and save on your registration fee! www.southernearlychildhood.org. While you are registering, check out all the great items available on our web site, especially the information available to "Members Only!"

To make sure you are "in the know"; put these dates down on your calendars: SECA Conference in 2011 will be January 27 – 29 in Savannah, Georgia. The hotel and conference facility are right on the river. We'll be on the river again in 2012, when the SECA conference is in San Antonio February 2 – 4!

SECA is working to continue providing great professional development opportunities and resources for our members. SECA membership is a great value, especially during these more difficult economic times. Make sure you are getting all the value you can from SECA! If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at grymesj@astate.edu!

"Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see." ~ Mark Twain

In my Pre-K classroom, acts of kindness are rewarded by putting a "Kindness Flower" in a designated pot. Your recent donation to the AECA Silent Auction was an act of kindness. Please know that ALL of you who contributed to the success of the auction have received a "flower" for your act. Your kindness allows the Maggie Reynolds / Delta Sharp Scholarship Fund to continue to support early childhood advocates. Thank You SO much for your contribution!

Kate Runder
2nd Vice President
of Membership





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Calendar of Events

January 21-23, 2010 – SECA Conference

February 5, 2010 - Winter *Update* Articles
Due

April 10-17 – Arkansas Children’s Week

Dear Member,

Thanks for making 2009 such a great year for AECA! We would like to say a special thank you to Johnnie Bridges and Deb Kee for their great service as Members-at-Large!! We would also like to say a big thank you to Barbara Gilkey for serving as President this past year! She put a lot of time and work into making this year great for AECA! We know they will continue to support AECA in any way that they can. We also welcome the 2010 Board Members! I know 2010 is going to be another great year for AECA and we can start it off with a bang at the 2010 SECA Conference. Hope to see you there!

If you would like to contribute to the next *Update*, please submit your entry no later than February 5, 2010. Remember, you can submit as little or as much as you like. Send contributions to Jennie Gates at jkgates@asub.edu or PO Box 1000, Beebe, AR 72012.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Jennie Gates

Jennie Gates, First Vice President - Publications

