

# AECA Update

Hello AECA members! Right now as I look out my window, it is beautiful in Arkansas! The trees are vibrant, the sun is out, and it is still quite warm outside--wonderful. For those of you who were able to attend the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual AECA Conference in Hot Springs, you know it was wonderful too. Nearly 775 professionals registered for the conference. I would like to give a quick thank you to the conference committee-Lindsey Sexton, Christi Johnson, Traci Johnston, and Jennifer Spriggs. Also, thank you to each presenter and to every volunteer. I look forward to our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2011!

There is some important business in this issue of the newsletter. First off, I would like to mention that accompanying the newsletter you will find a ballot for the 2011 election of board members. I know that choosing between such excellent candidates will be challenging, but your vote is so very important. Please take a few moments to fill out the ballot, stamp it, and stick it in the mail. We will announce the elections as soon as we can. Good luck candidates!

As a special addition to your membership, the AECA board has voted to partner with the Invest Early in Education Coalition to give you up-to-date information concerning the upcoming 2011 Arkansas legislative session. By now you have likely received an e-mail update with more information concerning the partnership. If you have not received an e-mail, please contact Lindsey Sexton, AECA Association Manager, at [aeca1@aol.com](mailto:aeca1@aol.com). She can update your e-mail address in our membership database to include you in the AECA e-mail list-serve.

Throughout my message, I have addressed the AECA Association Manger as Lindsey Sexton. Lindsey has a new last name because she recently married on November 20, 2010. Congratulations Lindsey and Matt Sexton!

Last, but not least, I would like to thank you for allowing me to serve as your AECA President. I will be representing AECA in January at the SECA conference in Savannah, Georgia. I hope to see many Arkansas faces there joining me.

Sincerely,

*Robin Jones*

Robin Jones  
AECA President

**2010  
Executive Board**

**President**

Robin Jones  
Fayetteville

**President-Elect**

**Immediate Past President**

Barbara Gilkey  
Little Rock

**Secretary**

Jamie Morrison  
Greenbrier

**Treasurer**

Dawn Jeffrey - Southside

**Historian**

Joy Smith - Batesville

**1<sup>ST</sup> VP Publications**

Jennie Gates  
Beebe

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP Membership**

Kate Runder - Little Rock

**Members-at-Large**

**District #1**

Kathy Pillow-Price  
Batesville

**District #2**

Evelyn Bass  
North Little Rock

**District #3**

Michelle Wynn -  
Springdale

**District #4**

Angela Vann - Magnolia

**SECA Representative**

Joanna Grymes  
Jonesboro

**AECA Conference Chair Position Available**

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

**First Year:** The individual shadows and assists the current conference chair.

**Second Year:** The individuals are responsible for coordinating the conference on their own.

**Third Year:** The individual will have someone shadowing/assisting them with the conference chair 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 chair position. The deadline to submit your resume is January 10, 2011. If you have questions about the position or would like more information, please contact Robin Jones, current AECA President at [rgcaudl@gmail.com](mailto:rgcaudl@gmail.com).

**Come Help Us Plan For Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

As many of you know, next year will be our 50<sup>th</sup> AECA Conference. We are hoping to make it a fun and exciting time for everyone and we want your input! If you have ideas or would like to help with the planning, please contact Robin Jones at [rgcaudl@gmail.com](mailto:rgcaudl@gmail.com). Also, if you have any photos or memorabilia that you would be willing to allow us to use during the conference, please let us know!

Want to volunteer to help  
during next year's conference?

Email Christi Johnson at  
[christijohnson@conwaycorp.net](mailto:christijohnson@conwaycorp.net)

Mark your calendars  
and come join us to  
celebrate **50 years**—

**October 13-15, 2011**  
**Hot Springs**

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

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Mardi Crandall for being the recipient of the AECA Outstanding Member Award! She has done so much for AECA and the field of early childhood development and education. Join us in congratulating her on this wonderful achievement!

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Congratulations to Jennie Gates for receiving the Helen Harley Conference Scholarship from SECA. She will be using the scholarship to attend the 2011 SECA Conference in Georgia!

## Congratulations continued...

We also want to extend big congratulations to the 2010 Arkansas Outstanding Early Childhood Professionals!

Tonya Russell recognized the following award winners at our AECA Conference luncheon on Friday. Congratulations to

Laura Lantz  
Jana Gifford Bays  
Elaine Davis  
Sherrie Gillespie

## 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the Southern Early Childhood Association MOVING & PLAYING

KEEPING SOUTHERN CHILDREN HEALTHY AND HAPPY



### Featuring Keynotes By:

- Dr. David T. Taylor of the American Academy of Pediatrics
- Don Monopoli of The Learning Station
- Rae Pica of Moving and Learning
- 2011 Director's Seminar with Holly Elissa Bruno of Holly Elissa Bruno Keynotes and Teambuilding
- 2011 Public Policy Luncheon with Dr. Joe Thompson of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center to Prevent Childhood Obesity

January 27-29, 2011  
Hyatt Regency Savannah  
Savannah, GA

Online registration begins September 2010  
Go to [www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org](http://www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org) for more information



## Service Project Update

Thanks to everyone who raised money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation!! We enjoyed partnering with them this year to help raise money for research to help the children of Arkansas who have been diagnosed or will be diagnosed with diabetes! Once again the members of AECA came through and we appreciate you! We also want to give a special thanks to Christi Johnson for coordinating our service project this year!!

## Calendar of Events

December 13, 2010 –Election Ballots Due

January 10, 2011 –Conference Chair Applications Due

January 27-29, 2011 –SECA Conference

February 7, 2011 –Winter Update Articles Due



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Dear Member,

Wow! There are just so many exciting things coming up in the next year! We hope you will participate! You can first participate by sending back your ballot included in this newsletter! We would LOVE you to play an active part in deciding who will be serving you on our AECA Board next year! Also, notice you have the option to receive the newsletter by e-mail. This will start in 2011. We are excited because this will give us more funding to send out special publications throughout the year!

Also, please make plans to attend the SECA Conference in January! I know it will be so informative and such a great time to network with other early childhood education professionals!

If you would like to contribute to the next Update, please submit your entry no later than February 7, 2011. Remember, you can submit as little or as much as you like. Send contributions to Jennie Gates at [jkgates@asub.edu](mailto: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

