

# AECA Update

Dear Members,

SPRING 2010

I am doing a guest appearance here in the Update spot! Our President, Board Members, Association Manager and especially our Program and Conference Chairs are working very hard to make sure the conference in October is one that offers you the opportunity to network with other early childhood professionals, as well as get valuable tools from the sessions that you can take back to your part of the state! Please make plans to attend and bring a friend! You won't regret it!

This is normally the newsletter where we introduce the nominees for upcoming open board positions. However, we have made some changes that we feel will help AECA as a whole. Please take time to look at Barbara Gilkey's update in this newsletter on our nomination changes. We hope you will agree that this is a great change!

Also, we would love to have more submissions from our local affiliates who are really doing some great things in their local communities. While we are working to get all affiliates active again, we would love the chance for those members to be inspired by what other affiliates are doing. If you have affiliate meetings scheduled for the 2010-2011 year, please email me those dates and I will be more than happy to include them in the next newsletter!

I would like to end by saying thanks to all of our members! Have a wonderful summer and we'll hope to see you in October!

Sincerely,

Jennie Gates

Jennie Gates  
AECA First Vice-President Publications

**2010  
Executive Board**

**President**

Tina Ross - Little Rock

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Robin Jones - Fayetteville

**Immediate Past President**

Barbara Gilkey  
Little Rock

**Secretary**

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Batesville

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Evelyn Bass  
North Little Rock

District #3  
Michelle Wynn -  
Springdale

District #4  
Angela Vann - Magnolia

**SECA Representative**

Joanna Grymes  
Jonesboro

**Please make plans to join us for the 49<sup>th</sup>  
Annual AECA Conference!!  
October 14-16, 2010  
Hot Springs Convention Center**

**Look for more details in our next newsletter!  
Registration materials are available online at  
[www.arkansasearlychildhood.org](http://www.arkansasearlychildhood.org)**

**We hope to see you in October!**

A few good people are needed to serve on the Arkansas Early Childhood Association Board in positions that will become open in 2011. The positions of President-Elect, Second Vice President for Membership, Secretary, Member-at-Large District 4 and SECA Board Representative will need to be filled and nominations are being solicited from the membership.

We plan to try something different by providing an opportunity for the membership to "Meet the Candidates" at a forum during our annual conference. Our goal is to make sure you are fully informed and know who you are voting for when making your decisions. Therefore, the voting will occur after the conference which is a change from years past.

If you are interested in serving in either of the capacities above or know anyone that you believe would make an excellent leader, please contact Barbara Gilkey at 501.541.0656 or you may send an e-mail to [gilkeybj@archildrens.org](mailto:gilkeybj@archildrens.org). Thanks for your support!

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

## Greetings from your Southern Early Childhood Association Representative! --Joanna Grymes

I hope you had the opportunity to benefit from the SECA conference that was in our own backyard this year! It was a terrific professional development opportunity. Keep in mind the next two conferences (not so close to us, but in great locations!): January 27 – 29, 2011 in Savannah, GA (right on the river); and February 2 – 4, 2012, in San Antonio, TX (on the River Walk!).

If you were not able to attend the 2010 conference, please let me share some of the resources provided by two keynote speakers. Ellen Galinsky presented on her work, *Mind in the Making*. This project will include a book, web site, videos and other media to assist teachers and families in understanding and supporting the development of young children.

Visit

<http://www.mindinthemaking.org/> to see the resources already available. *Mind in the Making* looks at seven “life skills” children need (focus and self control; perspective taking; communicating; making connections; taking on challenges; and self-directed, engaged learning), explains the research behind the skills, and then connects the findings to the day-to-day experiences of children, families and teachers.

A second keynote presentation was made by Linda Carson. She has been recognized by the Administration for Children and Families with the National Honor Award for Excellence in Partnering for an obesity-prevention initiation called *I Am Moving, I Am Learning* (<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/ecdh/Health/Nutrition/Nutrition%20Program%20Staff/IMIL>), a program that now reaches over 500 Head Start grantees. Dr. Carson has developed a program called “Choosy Kids: Be Choosy, Be Healthy” that is being used in early care programs and schools. You can access information about Choosy (the program mascot) and the program at <http://www.choosykids.com/CK2/>.

62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the Southern Early Childhood Association

**MOVING & PLAYING**

KEEPING SOUTHERN CHILDREN HEALTHY AND HAPPY

Featuring Rae Pica

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

SECA

**NW-AECA would like to say:**

“Thank you Jill Gunderman, NW-AECA 2009-2010 President, for a great membership year!”



**SAVE THE DATE!!!!**  
NW-AECA members save the date for the first meeting of the 2010-2011 membership year on **September 2, 2010!**



**Don't forget to mail those photos!!**

Joy Smith, our historian, would LOVE to have some more photos for our AECA Scrapbook! Please remember to include names and descriptions for each photo.

Please send photos to:  
Batesville School of 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
1900 Lyon Street  
Batesville, AR 72501

“Publicly supported, pre-kindergarten of quality is the one area where Southern states are in the vanguard of progressive reform in the nation...All our children deserve to have access to quality pre-kindergarten services and bright futures.” Source - Southern Education

### Children and Adults Enjoy Family Play Day

On April 17, more than 400 children and adults gathered in the Christian Life Center of First United Methodist Church in Hot Springs for Family Play Day in celebration of Arkansas Children's Week. For the ninth year, this event was sponsored by the Hot Springs Early Childhood Association with the support of area organizations, agencies, businesses and early care and education programs serving children and families.

Family Play Day activities featured thirteen fun learn and play stations and thirteen stations that provide community support and services to families. Many of the children in attendance received hearing, occupational, vision and dental screenings.

Each family received a gift bag with a children's book and passes and discount coupons to area family attractions. Door prizes for families, volunteers and childcare programs were donated by area merchants and individuals.

Volunteers, including students from the early childhood program at National Park Community College and the CDA class from ASU Childhood Services, were busy in the various stations and at registration desks.

In Hot Springs, Family Play Day is an annual event that brings together diverse segments of the community in support of children and their families. To quote one parent, "It's great to have something like this for families that is free."



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Dear Members,

**Please notice that your expiration date is located next to your name on the address label. Need to renew? If so, visit [www.arkansasearlychildhood.org/membership](http://www.arkansasearlychildhood.org/membership)!**

Also, remember you can view our current and past newsletters online as well. Go to [www.arkansasearlychildhood.org/news](http://www.arkansasearlychildhood.org/news)!

We would really LOVE to have more contributions to our newsletter from our members! That's YOU!! We would love for you to share great ideas that are you are using in your classrooms! Please submit all entries by August 1, 2010! You can submit as much or as little as you like. Please mail to Jennie Gates P.O. Box 1000 Beebe, AR 72012 or send by email to [jkgates@asub.edu](mailto:jkgates@asub.edu)! We appreciate you!

*Jennie Gates*

First Vice-President - Publications

