



Winter 2006

Arkansas Early Childhood Association

President's Message

Greetings AECA Members,

After attending the Southern Early Childhood Association meeting in Nashville, I was reminded of the awesome professionals we have. The conference offered learning opportunities for different professional levels from practical classroom activities to the latest research. The conference had something for everyone.

No matter where I was at the conference, I kept hearing comments like, "this is the best conference that I have ever been to". There was such a variety of speakers, researchers, celebrities and teachers of the early childhood profession. It was truly a case of great planning and development on the part of SECA.

From the start, Dr. T. Berry Brazelton and his staff kicked off the conference with powerful enthusiasm and passion for children. It was a situation where, the minute you entered the room you knew you were at the right place. Other participants totally committed to the same goals in early childhood were everywhere. When Marlo Thomas accepted the "Friend of Children" award, no one could possibly have had a dry eye. She showed video of her work as nationwide effort to educate the public about the work being done every day at St Jude in Memphis, Tennessee.

On Friday, I attended the Public Policy Luncheon with The Honorable Bill Purcell. He is the fifth mayor of Nashville and Davidson County. He spoke on "Public Policy and Children: Where We Are Today". I know now why he is nationally recognized as a strong advocate for children. Now, he gets it! He really gets it! He has focused funding where it is needed for children and families.

Like other conference attendees, I came back energized and motivated to help others "get it", like the Honorable Bill Purcell. We all need to keep talking it up as they say. While serving as your president, I continue to be honored to represent you all. Arkansas early childhood education is truly setting an example for others in our nation. Several early childhood professionals at the conference would let me know that they are watching what we are doing in Arkansas as an example. I would say that is the best compliment of all.

Sincerely,

Ganet Perkins

President-AECA

It is time to make nominations for AECA Executive Board officers for the 2006-07 year. It is important for the members to have input into the nominations. You know who has interest and leadership potential in our state. **The nominees must be members of AECA, first and foremost.** The board positions that are up for re-election are:

President-elect, Vice-President for Membership/Leadership/Affiliate Services,
Secretary, and Members-at-Large for Districts 1 and 4.

Please forward all nominations to the AECA office by e-mail aecal@aol.com or by phone (501-771-1680). **Nominations must be received by March 27.** These people will be contacted and asked if they will serve if elected. Elections will occur in April/May. Thank you for your assistance in acquiring the best leadership for this organization at this time. When everyone takes part, we continue to grow and thrive.

AECA UPDATE

is a newsletter of the Arkansas Early Childhood Association, an affiliate of the Southern Early Childhood Association. Membership is open to those interested in the development of young children.

2005-2006 Executive Board**President**

Janet Perkins – Bentonville

President-Elect

Vicki Shelby – Paragould

Immediate Past President

Trude Puckett – Little Rock

First Vice President-Publications

Lindsey Underwood – Little Rock

Second Vice President-Membership

Barbara Gilkey – Little Rock

Secretary

Marilyn Chambers – Hamburg

Treasurer

Michelle Stephens – Bentonville

Historian

Mary Calcote – Bentonville

Members-at-Large**District #1**

Katrina Blevins – Paragould

District #2

Johnnie Bridges – Little Rock

District #3

Deb Kee – Bentonville

District #4

Dianna Larkin – El Dorado

SECA Representative

Diana Courson - Magnolia

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

AECA OFFICER NOMINATING FORM

This form is to be completed on the person whose name is being submitted to the Nominating Committee. A separate form is to be submitted for each person to be considered.

Name _____

Home Telephone _____ Work Telephone _____

Email Address _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Place of Employment _____

Job Position _____

Please list the qualifications of the nominee:

Has this person agreed that his/her name be submitted? __ Yes __ No

Check the office or offices nominated for:

- President-Elect Member-At-Large District #1
 Vice-President-Membership/
 Leadership/Affiliate Services Member-At-Large District #4
 Secretary

Note: All positions are 2-year terms except President-Elect, which is a 3-year term, one year as President-Elect, President and as Past-President.

- Vita and picture enclosed
 Vita and picture will be sent by individual to nominating committee by April 3, 2005.

 Signature Date

Nominations must be received by noon on Monday, **March 27, 2005**.
 Nominees must be in good standing and a current member of AECA.

Please return to:
 AECA Nominations
 PO Box 2898
 Little Rock, AR 72203

ARKANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION
45th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
October 19-21, 2006
Hot Springs Civic and Convention Center
- CALL FOR PROPOSALS -

Making Connections for Children

The AECA Conference is an opportunity to interact and network with early care and education professionals around the state. Conference sessions should be focused on issues related to "Making Connections for Children" relevant to those who directly work with young children and their families, as well as those who work directly with and support early care and education professionals. This includes children from birth through the primary grades, typically and atypically developing children, and children living in multi-cultural and/or multi-lingual contexts. We are also looking for sessions that are specifically for early childhood trainers.

COMPETENCY AREAS

Competency areas define what practitioners who work with young children and families need to know, and include content areas that define the knowledge, skills, and attributes desirable for early childhood practitioners.

1. **Child Growth and Development:** Knowledge and application of growth and development in all areas, including individual differences and cultural influences on development.
2. **Creating Caring Communities to Support Learning and Development:** Developing safe, healthy environments, which include age appropriate materials and equipment, using positive guidance and appropriate human relation skills.
3. **Supporting Learning and Development Through Curriculum Planning and Implementation:** Developing and implementing appropriate curriculum, including materials selection, daily planning and broader curriculum development.
4. **Assessment and Evaluation:** Methods of appropriately assessing children's development and progress through the curriculum, and methods to evaluate curriculum and programs.
5. **Family:** Understanding how families function and methods to work with and support families.
6. **Community:** Understanding how the community and program interact and how to access community resources.
7. **Professionalism:** Developing the dispositions of professionalism and life long learning, understanding and exhibiting professional behavior.
8. **Program Management:** Understanding the interactions among the different elements of early care and education programs and developing skills to effectively manage these programs.
9. **Communication:** Utilizing appropriate oral and written communication skills.

SESSION FORMATS

Sessions are one hour in length and should focus on practices, trends and issues in early care and education, birth to age eight.

EXPENSES

No AECA Funds are available for expenses. **All presenters must pre-register for the conference.** One presenter for each mini-session is provided complimentary registration. AECA does not furnish any audio-visual equipment.

PROCEDURES

1. Proposals for either of the two session formats are to include:
 - A. Name, address, (please include summer address), telephone numbers, email address, and professional title of individual making proposal.
 - B. Name, address, telephone numbers, email address and professional title of other presenters.
 - C. Title of presentation that clearly and concisely describes its content.
 - D. Competency area to be addressed in presentation. Please list one of the competency areas identified at the beginning of this Call for Proposals. Only one competency area per session.
 - E. Would you repeat this session?
 - F. Target audience (example: administrators, infant/toddler, school-age, all).
 - G. Outline and description of topic and format (less than 200 words).
 - H. A 20-30 word abstract of the proposal. This description will go in the conference program.
2. Submit a copy of the proposal either electronically to: tjohnston@uaex.edu or by mail to:
 Traci Johnston, PO Box 391
 Little Rock, AR 72203
3. Proposals must be received by **May 31, 2006.**
4. Notification of acceptance will be made by **July 10, 2006.**

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT

Traci Johnston at 501-671-2364 or
tjohnston@uaex.edu



P.O. Box 2898
Little Rock, AR 72203

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Arkansas continues to lead the nation in its support of early education.

- In 2003-04 the 50 states increased funding for early education by \$200 million. Arkansas accounted for \$40 million of that total.
- Arkansas was the only state to receive a perfect score of 10 when the National Institute for Early Education Research rated state Pre-K program standards

AECA is serving as the lead organization for the Invest Early in Education coalition to raise the quality of early education programs in Arkansas. The goal of Invest Early in Education is to increase funding for Arkansas Better Chance programs to include any provider who is willing to meet the ABC Core Quality Standards.

The ABC programs are currently serving 14,631 children in 70 counties. AECA and Invest Early in Education will be working to insure that the ABC programs receive full funding. The total state appropriation needed to reach all eligible three and four year old children who want to attend these quality programs is \$100 million per year.

Join us in this effort by calling Connie Whitfield at Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, 501-371-9678. For more information on ABC and ABC funding, go to the following Web sites:

<http://www.state.ar.us/childcare> (click Services A-Z)

<http://www.aradvocates.org>

<http://www.nieer.org>