

# AECA Update

Dear Members,

Hello everyone! I look forward to an exciting and busy year for the Arkansas Early Childhood Association. I would like to welcome the new faces to the executive board and hope you all will have a chance to meet them. I would also like to thank the outgoing board members for their service and dedication to AECA and to the field of early childhood education.

I hope everyone had a chance to attend all or part of the Southern Early Childhood Association Conference held in Little Rock in January. It was a great conference filled with wonderful and informative speakers. My gratitude goes out to all the volunteers that helped make the conference such a success!

Again, I look forward to an outstanding year and hope to do my best to enhance your experience in the Arkansas Early Childhood Association.

Sincerely,

**Tina Ross**

Tina Ross, AECA President

**2010  
Executive Board**

**President**

Tina Ross  
Little Rock

**President-Elect**

Robin Jones - Fayetteville

**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 October 2010!!

It's time to start thinking about the upcoming AECA Conference in October! We'll be in Hot Springs again this year and look forward to another great conference. We are already working to make it a great experience for you! Be sure to check out our Call for Proposals! We would LOVE to have you as a presenter! Please plan to join us in October!!

Be sure to check out the website and our next newsletter for more information!

[www.arkansasearlychildhood.org](http://www.arkansasearlychildhood.org)



A very special thank you to Traci Johnston for leading efforts to collect travel sized items for the Family Packs for families at Arkansas Children's Hospital. Also, a HUGE thank you to those of you who donated items at the conference and to the board members who put together the bags at the winter board meeting. Plans are being made to deliver the packs to the hospital this month. What a great opportunity for us to give back!

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

**ARKANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION**  
**49th ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**October 14-16, 2010**  
**Hot Springs Civic and Convention Center**

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

The AECA Conference is an opportunity to interact and network with early care and education professionals around the state. Interest Sessions are for childcare providers and educators in the early childhood field. Interest Sessions are one hour in length and should focus on practices, trends and issues in early care and education, birth to age eight. There are 10 competency areas your proposed Interest Session may fall under.

**Competency Areas:**

1. **Child Growth and Development**
2. **Creating Caring Communities to Support Learning and Development**
3. **Supporting Learning and Development through Curriculum Planning and Implementation**
4. **Assessment and Evaluations**
5. **Family**
6. **Community**
7. **Professionalism**
8. **Program Management**
9. **Communication**
10. **General Knowledge**

Based on past evaluation responses, the following topics have been requested.

- **Nutrition**
- **Infants & Toddlers**
- **Special Needs**
- **Challenging behaviors**
- **CDA**
- **Themed curricula/Unit experiences**
- **Train the Trainers**– These sessions will be for trainers only and will address facilitating adult learning.

**For more information about the 2010  
 AECA conference visit:  
[www.arkansasearlychildhood.org](http://www.arkansasearlychildhood.org)**

**EXPENSES**

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

**PROCEDURE**

1. Proposals for presenting an interest session should include:
  - A. Title of presentation
  - B. Lead Presenter: Name, Address, Summer Address (if applicable), Telephone numbers, Email address, Employer name
  - C. Co-Presenter(s): Name, Address, Telephone numbers, Email address, Employer name
  - D. Target audience
  - E. Competency area addressed
  - F. Whether you would repeat this session
  - G. List of learning objectives and/or outline of session topic and format (200 words or less)
  - H. 20-30 word session description that will go in the conference program
2. Submit a copy of your proposal either electronically (preferred) to: **tjohnston@pulaskitech.edu** or mail to: Traci Johnston, AECA Program Chair  
 27 Shady Lane Drive  
 Conway, AR 72034
3. Proposals must be received by **April 19, 2010.**
4. Letters of acceptance will be mailed by **June 1, 2010.**

The focus of the 2010 conference will be professionalism. A conference theme will be announced soon.

✈ It was so great to see so many of you in Little Rock for the Annual SECA Conference! What a wonderful opportunity to have so many great presenters together right here in our own state! Check out our “Student Spotlight” section to hear from our student scholarship recipients about their SECA Conference experience! The 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual SECA Conference will be here before we know it. Start making plans to join us in Georgia! WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE! ✈



***Arkansas Children's Week April 18-25, 2010***  
***"Healthy Choices for Better Beginnings"***



Please join others around our state by celebrating Arkansas Children's Week! You can go to <http://www.arkansas.gov/childcare/acw> to access the "Planning Tool Kit" provided by the state. There are so many great ideas to help make your week a success! Be sure to send us pictures and/or a short write-up of what you did to celebrate this wonderful week and we will be sure to post them in our next newsletter!



**~Attention Northwest Arkansas AECA Members ~**

Check out the website for NW-AECA and find out the latest information on upcoming meetings!!

\*A link is on the AECA website as well\*

<http://sites.google.com/site/nwaeca>

## Congratulations to Shelly Nichols from Hot Springs Early Childhood Association

Shelly and Shelia enjoy time together at St. Michael's Catholic Child Care Center in Hot Spring



Photo of Shelly Nichols & child  
(Shelia)

Comments on the conference:

“I really enjoyed the conference! I think it's a great way to meet other teachers and professionals that share so many of the same things in common with you. You can never learn too much when it comes to working with kids and there is always room to grow when it comes to teaching.”

The Hot Springs Early Childhood Association congratulates Shelly Nichols who received a scholarship to the 61<sup>st</sup> annual Southern Early Childhood Association Conference in Little Rock. The scholarship was awarded at the recent Arkansas Early Childhood Conference in Hot Springs. At the SECA Conference, Shelly will have an opportunity to hear nationally acclaimed speakers, attend workshop sessions, visit exhibits, take an educational tour and stay at the Peabody Hotel with its famous ducks.

Shelly has been in the field of early care and education for eight years and is currently an ABC lead teacher at St. Michel's Catholic Child Care Center in Hot Springs. She has a CDA Credential, is completing her Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood and says her goal is “to complete a Master's Degree and continue in early childhood, which is where it all begins.”

As an active member of HSECA, Shelly serves as an officer, attends meetings and helps with meeting tasks. She is currently developing a scrapbook to document important HSECA events. For the 2009 Family Play Day in celebration of Arkansas Children's Week, Shelly wore several hats. She chaired the committee to acquire door prizes for the event, took photos and volunteered where she was needed. At the recent AECA Conference, Shelly volunteered to work in the Silent Auction booth, the activity that funds the SECA scholarships.

The Hot Springs Early Childhood Association is proud that Shelly Nichols received the SECA Scholarship because we feel she is an exemplary early childhood professional with true leadership potential.

### **Congratulations to Amanda Wheaton from the Northwest Arkansas Early Childhood Association**

The Northwest Arkansas Early Childhood Association congratulates Amanda Wheaton who received a scholarship to the 61<sup>st</sup> annual Southern Early Childhood Association Conference in Little Rock. Amanda was one of two recipients to receive this scholarship.

Amanda received her Bachelor of Science in Child Development from the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville and is currently working on her Master of Science in Child Development from the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville. She has worked with children of all ages for the past eight years and is currently a graduate assistant at the University of Arkansas Infant Development Center.

The Northwest Arkansas Early Childhood Association would like to say congratulations to Amanda for receiving this scholarship!



Photo of Amanda Wheaton

Comments on the conference:

“Attending the SECA conference was a wonderful experience, I am so thankful that I was able to attend. It was wonderful to see so many early childhood professionals that were excited about what they do and want the best for young children.”

**Congratulations again to our student scholarship winners!**



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Dear Member,

Hope this newsletter finds you doing well! Thank you again for making 2009 another great year for AECA! We're so glad to be starting off 2010 on a great note. Be looking for more information about our AECA Conference and our 2010 Community Service Project in the coming months! Our website is a great way to stay up-to-date as well!

If you would like to contribute to the next Update, please submit your entry no later than May 1, 2010. Remember, you can submit as little or as much as you like. Contributions can be sent 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

