

AECA UPDATE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The *AECA website* is under construction. So there is a possibility the website could be down for a short period of time. Sorry for the inconvenience that this might cause but the results will be worth it in the long run.

AECA Conference photographs or Arkansas photos at SECA conference are needed for the creation of a digital scrapbook. You will receive recognition for your submissions. Send any photographs you have to Jessica Martin at 123jess@sbcglobal.net

Service Project Reminder! Donate a gently used suitcase, duffel bag or backpack to a foster child today! Contact your AECA Affiliate President or Member-at-large about where and when to donate these bags. Their contact information can be found on the AECA website at: www.arkansasearlychildhood.org.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Members:

Well, it is only March and it has already been a busy year. The year began by finalizing the AECA board election results. Your President-elect is Elaine Davis, First Vice President-Publications is Jane Barnhill, Treasurer Dawn Jeffery, Members-at-Large District #2 is Tamaya Walker, and Members-at-Large District #3 is Natasha Crosby. Help me welcome these ladies! Also, I'd like to show my gratitude to those ladies who ran for office, but did not win this year's election: Evelyn Bass, Penny Hitt, Margie Fillinger, and Michaela Schaper. Hopefully, they will help us out by running again; it was great to have so many highly qualified candidates. Your vote really counts so please vote when ballots come out this August. If you are interested in running yourself or nominating someone, please contact Robin Jones, Immediate Past President at (pastpresident@arkansasearlychildhood.org).

We said goodbye to an advocate and very dear friend to children and early childhood professionals, Kathy Stegall. She retired on January 13 after 38 years of service to the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education but she has not retired from early childhood. She assisted with the conference at the offices of Southern Early Childhood Association—she is gone, but not too far.

Next, AECA and Arkansas Invest Early Coalition joined with Arkansas Advocates to make recommendations to the Professional Licensure Standards Board (more information about this soon).

Then there was a road trip to San Antonio, Texas with my dear friends and colleagues for the SECA Conference. What a great city and conference! The 2013 SECA Conference will be February 28- March 2, 2013 in Mobile, Alabama— which is very drivable – so it looks like another road trip! YEAH! Elections for SECA President-elect will be held this summer. Please vote! (See SECA News).

AECA Conference planning is in full swing. This year's conference will be held at the Hot Springs Convention Center October 18-20, 2012. Note the Call for Proposals in this issue and on the AECA website www.arkansasearlychildhood.org. Please consider submitting a proposal. The Pre-Conference Flyer will come out soon so keep an eye on the website or your email. Our keynote speakers will be Dr. David Katz, Dr. Donna Beegle, and Shawn Brown. There will be a networking event on Friday evening sponsored by Lakeshore. The conference committee has planned a wonderful conference for everyone. I look forward to seeing you at the conference. Have a great year!!

Sincerely,

Deniece Honeycutt, President

SECA REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

BY JOANNA GRYMES

CONFERENCE

SECA 2012 Annual Conference was successful. Arkansas was well-represented. A student group from Lyon College was awarded a student scholarship to attend the conference. The conference had about 850 registered participants, which is at about the attendance level Executive Director Glenda Bean expects for the next few years. Glenda is trying to differentiate conference content from state conferences.

Next year's conference will be in Mobile, AL. We plan to continue with the Director's Seminar and Trainer Institute. There is consideration of adding a faith-based program institute. Decision will be made at the summer board meeting.

RESOURCES/MATERIALS

Dimensions is very likely to go digital sometime in the relatively near future, with a pay option to receive a hard copy of the journal.

Several online resources are new, including *Aula Infantil* which is Spanish language materials, and the *Dimensions Extra*, which is a members-only benefit.

FINANCES

SECA experienced a deficit this past year, largely because of Megan's maternity leave and because much of the 2012 conference was paid for in the 2011 budget. Moving to the July – June financial year will allow conference finances to not split financial years.

SECA continues to retain and even experience a small increase in membership, in an era when most professional organizations are losing membership.

FUTURE ISSUES

Election of SECA President-elect will be coming this summer. Candidates are Evelyn Wright-Moore (TX) and Kathy Attaway (KY).

NAEYC's potential changes in organization and affiliation could have a major impact on SECA. As a non-dual-affiliate state we are somewhat isolated from the discussion. Several states (FL & TX) have over the past several years had discussions within the state about continuing the SECA affiliation. There have been issues with NAEYC sending funds to both SECA and the states. The national association has lost a significant amount of membership over the past few years. SECA is often not afforded input into NAEYC decisions about membership even though SECA is impacted.

Executive Director's Policy Questions for Future

How will revenue be generated or expenses cut to balance the budget?

Is the annual conference meeting the needs of the SECA membership?

Will SECA continue to publish?

Can SECA communications with members and member recognition of benefits be enhanced?

As state and federal budgets continue to contract can we anticipate that this reduction will affect SECA's bottom line?

Arkansans at SECA Conference



SECA Report Continued

I hope you continue to be aware of and make the most of your SECA membership and the access it gives to such great resources. For those working with Spanish speaking staff, check out the materials available in Spanish right on the website (<http://www.southernearlychildhood.org/espanol.php>)! Present (and past!) issues of Dimensions are available online for member access. Read the newest articles, or that article from a year or so ago that you kept meaning to reread because it has good ideas for your current theme. The information available on Public Policy – through the Public Policy Notes and the Public Policy Briefs is excellent. In an election year where the children's agenda could be in peril due to budget constraints, use these resources to keep you (and your local legislators) in the know.

It's a year away, but save the date for SECA 2013, in Mobile, Alabama. It will be a little later next year – February 28 – March 2, right on the Mobile River. Keep your eyes open for more information about the conference! Arkansas always makes a great showing at the SECA Conference. Thank you for supporting SECA.

As always, I want to represent each of you and Arkansas to the best of my ability. If you have thoughts, questions, or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at grymesj@astate.edu.

Joanna

AECA BOARD ELECTIONS

We are seeking candidates for the 2013 AECA Board Election. The following positions are open:

President-Elect

2nd Vice President- Membership

Secretary

Historian

Member-at-large #1

Member-at-large #4



Nominations will be accepted through the first of July. Election ballots will be sent out the first of August and those elected will take office on January 2013.

If you are interested in running or nominating someone, please contact Robin Jones, Immediate Past President at: [pastpresident@arkansasearlychildhood](mailto:pastpresident@arkansasearlychildhood.org)



Arkansas Children’s Week

April 22—28, 2012

**The Theme this year is Meet Me
Under the Storytelling Tree!**

Last Day to order tee shirts is April 1st. The shirts are royal blue with the three color

Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education logo on the front.

CUTEST

KIDS

Photo

CONTEST



Send pictures of the kids in your child care program playing in developmentally appropriate ways. These pictures should be high-quality and will only be accepted with signed parental permission for AECA to use the photographs in productions for AECA (see photo release form on page 8). The winner of the contest will get their name announced in the AECA Update and receive a beautiful Lakeshore teacher tee shirt.

Send pictures to

president@arkansasearlychildhood.org

**ARKANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD ASSOCIATION
51st ANNUAL CONFERENCE
October 18–20, 2012, 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 child care 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 8 competency areas your proposed Interest Session may fall under.

COMPETENCY AREAS

1. Child Growth and Development
2. Learning Environment and Curriculum
3. Positive Interactions and Guidance
4. Family and Community
5. Child Observation and Assessment
6. Health, Safety, and Nutrition
7. Professional Development and Leadership
8. Program Planning and Management

TARGET AUDIENCE (specialty area of participants)

1. Infants and Toddlers (6 weeks-3 years)
2. Preschool (3-5 years)
3. Grades K-3
4. Kindergarten
5. School Age (5-13)
7. Mixed Ages
8. Administration
9. Trainers
10. Other-please specify

LEVEL OF TRAINING

1. Foundation- Limited to extended experience with limited professional development, initial 10-20 hours of training
2. Intermediate- Work experience or professional preparation sufficient to plan and implement curriculum an learning environments and support assistant teachers within the classroom
3. Advanced- Work experience or professional preparation sufficient to develop, implement, monitor, an evaluate policies and procedures based on current research and best practice/evidence based practices; develop, implement and evaluation curriculum and learning environments; and model for and supervise other staff

**For more information about the
2012 AECA conference visit:
www.arkansasearlychildhood.org**

EXPENSES

No AECA Funds are available for presenter expenses. All presenters must pre-register for the conference. LCD projectors and screens are available in the presentation rooms. AECA will not furnish additional 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. Brief professional bio. TAPP Registry Number (if needed, specialized trainers will be approved by the AECA Board)
 - C. Co-Presenter(s): Name, Address, Telephone numbers, Email address, Employer name. Brief professional bio(s)
 - D. Target audience (Choose from the left).
 - E. Competency area addressed (Choose from the left).
 - F. Level of Training (Choose from the left)
 - G. Whether you would repeat this session.
 - H. List of learning objectives and/or outline of session topic and format (200 words or less).
 - I. 20 – 30 word session description that will go in the conference program.
 - J. Other requests (if applicable)
2. Submit a copy of your proposal either electronically (preferred) to:

conf_pro_chair1@arkansasearlychildhood.org

or mail to:

Arkansas Early Childhood Association
ATTN: Conference Program Chair
PO Box 2898
Little Rock, AR 72203
3. Proposals must be received by April 1, 2012.
4. Letters of acceptance will be mailed by June 15, 2012.



Our Affiliates



AECA River Valley Meeting Schedule

April 2, 2012

Changes in the Minimum Licensing Requirements

Presented by Pam Mayo, DHS Licensing Specialist

June 11, 2012

Wonderful Resources For Early Childhood Educators

Presented by Robin Kelly

Youth Librarian Coordinator, Fort Smith Public Library

**For more information contact Michaela Schaper at
rveca@arkansasearlychildhood.org**



AECA Hot Springs Meeting Schedule

Meetings held at St. Michael's – 1125 Malvern Avenue, Hot Springs

Monday, March 19, 2012 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Tomorrow is Tuesday. Have you made plans for the children in your group?

Presented by Terri Helms

Monday, April 16, 2012 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

How to keep parents happy.

Strategies for developing family partnerships.

Presented by Shelli Henehan and Jane Barnhill

Arkansas Children's Week Festivities are planned contact

Dot Brown for more information at 501-525-4829





Our Affiliates



AECA Central Arkansas Meeting Schedule

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Meeting place to be announced

Saturday, April 28, 2012 from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Arkansas Children’s Week Play Day Event

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

Meeting place to be announced

Contact Traci Johnston for more information at ecaca@arkansasearlychildhood.org



AECA Northwest Meeting Schedule

Meetings held at childcare programs in Northwest Arkansas

April 12, 2012 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Take a Bite out of Biting

Rogers Early Learning Center, 2612 West Olive, Rogers, AR

May 10, 2012 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Help! My Kids are Driving me Crazy!

See ‘Um Smile Playhouse, 297 East Main, Farmington, AR

For more information contact Natasha Crosby at nwaeca@arkansasearlychildhood.org or see their website

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



Photo Release (print on program or photographer letterhead)

I hereby grant permission to Arkansas Early Childhood Association (AECA) to use my photograph or my child(ren)'s photograph without further consideration and without compensation to me, my heirs or assigns. All copies of the photo, digital or printed, are owned by AECA. AECA reserves the right to use the photos in any print or electronic publications published for the purpose of promoting AECA's general mission. AECA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

I hereby acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to the terms of this release.

Name (printed): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name of child(ren) or others who are identifiable in photograph:

Names (printed): _____

Witnessed by: _____

Date: _____

Please note that the form must be signed by the subject(s) of the photograph, or, if the subject is a minor, by a parent or guardian.

Please enclose your name, address, and telephone number so that we can contact you. If the photographer is someone other than you we will need their permission to use the photograph so we will need a photo release for them and their name, address, phone number, email address and copyright release.

Send them electronically to president@arkansasearlychildhood.org or by regular mail to Deniece Honeycutt, 2479 Surtees Place, Fayetteville, AR 72704.

2012

Executive Board

President

Deniece Honeycutt
Fayetteville

President-Elect

Elaine Davis-Pine Bluff

Immediate Past President

Robin Jones
Fayetteville

Secretary

Jamie Morrison
Greenbrier

Treasurer

Dawn Jeffrey - Southside

Historian

Jessica Martin-Little Rock

1ST VP Publications

Jane Barnhill - Fort Smith

2nd VP Membership

Shacuna Jones
Little Rock

Members-at-Large

District #1

Amy Pinkston- Batesville

District #2

Tamaya Walker
North Little Rock

District #3

Natasha Crosby
Springdale

District #4

Marilyn Bailey-Pine Bluff

SECA Representative

Joanna Grymes
Jonesboro



arkansas
**EARLY
CHILDHOOD**
association

AECA MISSION STATEMENT

*Enhancing the lives
of children, families
and early childhood
professionals in the
state of Arkansas*