

AECA Update



One person **CAN** make a difference in the life of a foster child!!!

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 www.arkansasearlychildhood.org.

The 50th Annual Arkansas Early Childhood Association Conference has come and gone, and it was AMAZING! I'm still glowing about the successes and pure joyfulness of the event. A big thank you to all of those who presented, volunteered, and attended the conference-I really can't say thank you enough.

AECA had over 760 professionals attend the 50th annual conference to partake in 78 interest sessions, 3 keynote speakers, a 50th Anniversary birthday party (that included cake), a special video production, a silent auction and a professional luncheon (served 760) with a visit from Governor Beebe. Wow! We know how to celebrate in Arkansas! In fact, I received a kind message from Dr. Joe Frost, who has been nationally and internationally known for 40 years, saying that the AECA conference was one of the best he has attended in his whole career. And since I'm bragging on AECA, I would also like to mention that Governor Beebe's visit to our conference was featured on the front page of *The Sentinel-Record* on Saturday, October 15, 2011. What a great time for early childhood professionals in Arkansas!

Sadly, this is my last message to you as the president of the Arkansas Early Childhood Association. It has been wonderful serving in this position. I have gained so much knowledge from my experiences. I would like to take a moment to thank the AECA board members for their support during my tenure. The AECA board is truly dedicated to the children and families of Arkansas and the early childhood professionals across our beautiful state. Thank you. And best wishes to Deniece Honeycutt, AECA President-Elect.

Deniece and I will be attending the SECA conference in February (2-4, 2011). I hope you too are planning on attending the conference. It is an excellent professional experience. Please go to www.southernearlychildhood.org for more information on attending the conference in San Antonio, Texas.

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I have two requests of members for the upcoming year, first vote for your board member officers. Please take a few minutes to cast your vote, slap on a stamp, and put your ballot in the mail. Your vote counts! The second request is to become more involved with your local affiliate. During the last AECA board meeting several inactive affiliate representatives came to learn how to become more active in their communities, and the active affiliates continue to do an excellent job in reaching the local professionals in their communities. To find out more about *your* local affiliate please contact, info@arkansasearlychildhood.org.

Thank you for your work with children and families in Arkansas!

Sincerely,

Robin Jones

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

**2011
Executive Board**

President

Robin Jones
Fayetteville

President-Elect

Deniece Honeycutt
Fayetteville

Immediate Past President

Barbara Gilkey
Little Rock

Secretary

Jamie Morrison
Greenbrier

Treasurer

Dawn Jeffrey-Southside

Historian

Jessica Martin-Little Rock

1st VP Publications

Jennie Gates-Beebe

2nd VP Membership

Shacuna Jones
Little Rock

Members-at-Large

District #1

Amy Pinkston-Batesville

District #2

Evelyn Bass
North Little Rock

District #3

Michelle Wynn-Springdale

District #4

Marilyn Bailey-Pine Bluff

SECA Representative

Joanna Grymes
Jonesboro

Would you like a Red 50th Anniversary T-shirt?



We had such an overwhelming response for our Red Conference Committee t-shirts that we would like to offer our members the possibility of purchasing your own! In order to do so and keep the price of the t-shirt reasonable we need to know how many members would be interested in purchasing the red t-shirt. If you are interested in purchasing the red t-shirt, please email Maurena at info@arkansasearlychildhood.org ASAP!



We know that **MANY** of you took wonderful pictures at our 50th Conference! We would **LOVE** to have these photos to include in our scrapbook. Please email any photos you have to Jessica Martin, AECA Historian, at historian@arkansasearlychildhood.org

Featured Keynote Speakers:
Greg Johnson, Chef and Father
Dr. Michael H. Levine, Ph.D.
Sharon MacDonald
Dr. Pam Schiller
Representative Mike Villaresal

**63rd Annual
SECA
Conference**

**Hyatt Regency
San Antonio**

**February 2 - 4
2012**

**Laying
the
Foundation
for
Lifelong
Learning**

Featured Sessions by:
Dr. Debby Cryer, Ph.D.
and
Nature Explore

Find out more at:
www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org/seca_conference.php

SECA

SECA Conference
February 2-4
2012
DON'T
MISS OUT!!!!



AECA is seeking high quality photographs of infants/toddlers, preschoolers and school aged children to use in a slide show at the AECA conference in 2012. We are encouraging teachers, family members and all photographers to submit their best photos –of young children and the adults who care for them.

Before you make a photo...

- Seek out diverse groups of young children and caring adults.
- Make sure photo releases are available for everyone (see sample) and ask whether any children should not be photographed (possibly due to custody issues).
- Look for animated children's faces that light up with joy while they interact with others or concentrate on an activity. Candid shots look more natural.
- Make sure the activity is safe, interesting, and suitable for children's ages and abilities. Please do not send photos of children using worksheets, coloring books, flashcards, being harshly disciplined, or that otherwise depict outmoded practices.
- See that the subject and background have sufficient lighting. Choose well-lit indoor areas, or use flash. Take outdoor shots when the light is good. When you use flash, make sure it doesn't hurt children's eyes or frighten them. If children are busily engaged in an activity (rather than looking at the camera) you will not get red-eye in color photos. Spend some time letting children get used to the camera so they won't pose for you.
- Look around to make sure the photo includes only what you want, such as no plants on a windowsill that look like they are growing out of children's heads or cluttered shelves in the background.
- Position your camera on the child's eye level. Crawl or sit on the floor with infants, sit on a child-sized chair for older children.
- Fill the frame - get as close as possible to the action
- Make sure the subject and important surroundings are in sharp focus, steady the camera, and...Shoot!

Please keep these guidelines in mind when you select photographs to send. Photo releases must be available for all recognizable children and adults. Many programs require signed releases at enrollment and keep them on file so these may be copied or scanned and sent.

If you have photos that you'd like to send for us to consider, please note the following instructions:

- Photos should be submitted electronically to Presidetelect@arkansasearlychildhood.org
- Photos should be jpeg, tiff or pdf image files at least 300 dpi (no gif files)
- Photos files should be named with identifying information in the file name

Please provide the following information with you photo:

- Photographer's name
- Mailing address
- Telephone number
- Email address
- Number of photos submitted
- Identifying information for each photo (subject name, age, date taken)

General photo preferences: high-quality images featuring Arkansas children; a variety of ages; single or group shots; diversity is encouraged; adult caretakers in photos are welcome; backgrounds that showcase Arkansas are also desirable.

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 in photograph
(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.

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

AECA Update

AECA 2012 ELECTION-MEET THE CANDIDATES

President Elect Candidate– Evelyn Bass



Evelyn E. Bass is currently an advocate for children serving as a trainer for Project Score, Early Care Education Projects, CDA Advisor, Arkansas Early Childhood Comprehensive System (AECCS), a member of the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission. Evelyn received honors from Marquis Who's Who in American Education and Who's Who Among America's Teachers. She served as Member-at-large at District #2 for

the Arkansas Early Childhood Association (AECA).

Among prior significant positions, Evelyn has conducted research and workshops for parents, teachers, and children, in the field of early childhood, and served as Early Childhood Coordinator at Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN).

Evelyn is a highly motivated professional with over 30 years of

experience and service in promoting and empowering children, teachers, and families to achieve academic success. Evelyn earned her Bachelor's of Science degree in Education, her Master's of Science in Elementary Education, and completed graduate studies hours in early childhood education.

President Elect Candidate- Elaine Davis



Elaine Davis is the Program Director of Jefferson Comprehensive Care System, Inc. ChildCare LINKS Resource and Referral Agency; a trainer of many Arkansas early childhood curriculums, the Denver II, and the ASQ screening instruments. She is also the Arkansas Parents as Teachers State System Leader; providing technical assistance to parent educators across the state of Arkansas and coordinating a Parents as Teachers program within the Child Care Resource and Referral agency. She has been a Parents as Teachers Parent

Educator for 18 years, and a Parents as Teachers Program Coordinator for 14 years. She is a former member of the Parents as Teachers National Center Board of Directors and a Program Quality Consultant for the Parents as Teachers National Center.

She currently serves on the Arkansas HIPPIY Advisory Board, the Southeast Arkansas College Early Childhood Department Advisory Council, the Advisory Boards for HIPPIY and Parents as Teachers at the Arkansas River Education Service

Cooperative, as a member of the Parent Education/Family Support and the Social Emotional Work Groups of the Arkansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Initiative, a Regional Coordinator for Invest Early, a member of the Welcome the Children Cultural Harmony Network, and a member of the Pine Bluff Child Care Guidance Management and Services Advisory Committee. She continues to work on several state early childhood initiatives.

She is also very active in many capacities in her church.

First VP-Publications Candidate- Jane Barnhill



Jane Barnhill is currently a faculty member at the University of Arkansas Fort Smith and teaches courses leading to both associate and bachelor degrees in Early Childhood Education. Jane is also a trainer for the Preschool Education Program housed at the University of Arkansas Fort Smith. In this capacity she trains students in associate level courses in Pre-K Early Literacy Learning in Arkansas (Pre-K Ella), Pre-K Early Social-Emotional Learning (Pre-K SEL), and Child Care Orientation Training (CCOT).

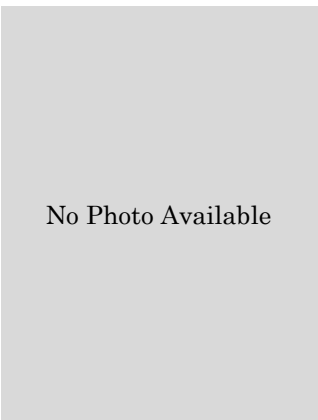
Jane holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and teacher licensure in

Early Childhood Education, a Master of Education degree in Elementary School Counseling, and a Doctor of Education degree in Higher Education. She has taught children and adults of all ages beginning with the preschool years and extending through the baccalaureate degree. Ten years of her career in education were spent as a school counselor serving children from Kindergarten through grade 4.

Jane attended her first AECA conference in 1985 and has been associated with early learning in Arkansas since that time. In addition to AECA, she holds a membership in the

Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA), and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and is currently working with a group to rebuild the River Valley Early Childhood association. Jane serves on several boards and planning committees throughout the state. She is currently president of the board of directors of a local childcare program serving children from very low-income families in the Fort Smith area. She is on the conference planning committee for the annual conference of the Arkansas Association for Infant Mental Health and also serves on the Policy Council for Head Start Child and Family Services, Inc.

First VP-Publications Candidate- Penny Hitt



Penny Hitt received a Master of Education degree with an emphasis on Child Development from Harding University and holds a teaching licensure from the Department of Education to teach P-12. For the past twenty years, she has worked at Harding Academy Pre-school, teaching ages 2-5. She believes that children are the future and those who teach need knowledge to help mold these young minds. In 2011, Penny

was awarded a Distinguished Service Award from Harding University. She is a TAPP trainer for PreK ELLA, PreK INDEX, PreK Frameworks, and PreK Social/Emotional Learning. On many occasions, Penny has presented at the AECA conference. Topics include: 'Many Senses of Play Dough' (senses), 'Jack and Jill went up the hill' (gender differences), and seasonal presentations. MidArk is

her local affiliate where she has held the office of Secretary/Treasurer, and President. She is married to John Hitt and they have 4 daughters. John is the minister at Banner Church of Christ, where Penny has also served as Bible teacher for several age groups. She enjoys reading, crafts and pinterest.

Treasurer Candidate— Dawn Jeffrey



Dawn Jeffrey holds a Bachelors Degree in Speech Therapy and a Masters degree in Early Childhood Special Education. She has been working with children and families for the past 27 years. Dawn has been married to Alan Jeffrey for 27 years and has two daughters. Shawna is a CPA for Hughes Welch and Milligan Accounting firm and Paige is a junior at the University of Central Arkansas majoring in

Occupational Therapy. They live in Concord Arkansas.

Dawn is the Early Childhood Director at Southside School District. She has worked there for 8 years. In the last 8 years their program has grown from 6 children to 150! Southside Preschool program has children enrolled from 18 months to 5 years of age. They

are a site for the School of The 21st Century with Yale University. The school district also has their own Early Childhood Special Education Program which serves 69 children.

Member at Large Area #2 Candidate—Tamaya Walker

No Photo Available

Tamaya Walker brings a wide-range of experience in providing services to young children at a local and state level as Regional Coordinator for Arkansas State University-Childhood Services. In her role as Regional Coordinator, Tamaya provides onsite technical assistance, coaching and consultation to private and public early care and education programs that also include state funded ABC Pre-K programs. Tamaya also serves as a state anchor assessor of the Environmental Rating Scales. She is a registered trainer who provides a variety of trainings and workshops state-wide. Tamaya works directly with administration, providers and teachers.

Prior to working with ASU

-Childhood Services, Tamaya was an Early Childhood Developmental Specialist. Tamaya has held other positions such as Math Instructor, Faculty Advisor for, Congressional Youth Leadership Council in Washington, DC and while working on her undergraduate degree she worked as Home Visitor for HIPPIY. Tamaya has more than 12 years of experience working with early care and education and working women, children and families. She served eight of the 12 years in a supervisory capacity. Tamaya is a member of SECA, AECA, NBCDI and NAEYC.

In addition to advocating for children and working

with early care and education programs Tamaya enjoys reading and traveling, but most she enjoys working in and with the community. Tamaya has been involved in Volunteers in Public Schools, Americorp, Big Brother Big Sisters, Time Warner -Time to Read, Oak Forest Community Garden, 4-H Youth Leader, Girls Embracing Mentors for Success (GEMS) and will soon join Junior Achievement and work with elementary children. Tamaya Walker resides in Little Rock, Arkansas. She received a B.A. in Sociology and a Certification in Non-Profit Management from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and a M.S in Early

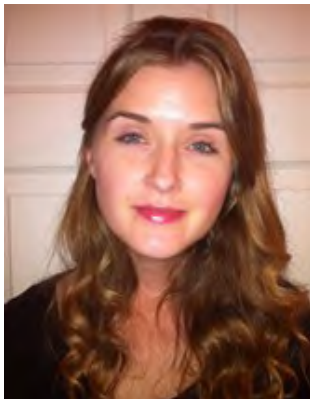
Member at Large Area #2 Candidate– Margie Fillinger



Margie Fillinger is running for the Member-at-Large position for Central Arkansas. She has been involved with the Early Childhood field for the past 20 years. She is currently the Early Childhood Development instructor at the University of Arkansas

Community College at Morrilton. Margie is currently a trainer for Pre-K ELLA, Pre-K SEL, INDEX and Pre-K Framework Handbook. She previously served as Director of the Earle Love Child Study Center and as adjunct instructor for UACCM.

Member at Large Area #3 Candidate- Michaela Schaper



Michaela received her bachelor's from Harding University in Christian Education in 2004. After college she worked as a Children's Minister in Little Rock for two years. For the past five years she has taught Pre-K at two schools in Fort Smith. Her passion for sharing great ideas has drawn her into teacher training opportunities over the last

year and a half. She has spoken at three different Early Childhood Conferences and taught workshops at two preschools. This summer she attended the Train the Trainer Trainings for: INDEX, PREKSEL, & PREKELLA.

Michaela and her husband are active in their church

and are excited to be new foster parents.

Member at Large Area # 3 Candidate– Natasha Crosby



Natasha Crosby is an Early Childhood Master Level Certified Trainer and Program Coordinator at the Helen R. Walton Children's Enrichment Center and the Early Childhood Initiatives Center in Bentonville. She has been in the Early Childhood field for over 15 years. She holds a Bachelors of Science in Human Development and

Family Studies and is currently completing a Masters Degree in Child Development at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Natasha trains Early Childhood professionals in many areas of the state on topics such as behavior guidance, successful transitions, parent and coworker communication, professionalism and more. She is honored and

excited to serve on the Arkansas Early Childhood Association board and advocate for children and professionals across the state.