

Summer 2012

NAECTE

A Periodic Newsletter for Members and Friends

From Our NAECTE President

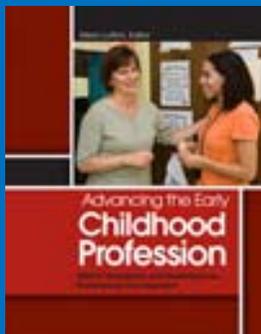
**NAECTE Summer
2012 Professional
Development
Institute:**

**Indianapolis, IN
June 11, 2012**



**NAECTE on
Facebook!**

**Search for “National
Association for Early
Childhood Teacher
Educators”**



Grades have been turned in, special projects are underway, and the spring NAECTE conference is right around the corner! I hope your spring semester or quarter has gone/is going well.

We are looking forward to the NAECTE meeting in Indianapolis, June 10-13th. Look for Kelly Baker's update in this newsletter about the conference. I know there was some concern with the number of proposals right up to the deadline, but then a flood of proposals poured in! As I told Kelly and Pat Cantor, our proposal co-chair, we all must be living on the edge. If weren't for the last minute, what would we do?

The Alliance for Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE and ACCESS) is being recognized by NAEYC for our work on the Early Childhood Education Professional Development: Adult Education Glossary. This work is intended to clarify terminology that many groups and individuals use when writing grants, research papers, articles

etc. about early childhood professional development and teacher education. The glossary works with the “Advancing the Early Childhood Profession: NAEYC Standards and Guidelines for Professional Development” book just published by NAEYC, being referred to as the “red” book. Alison Lutton has thanked us publicly for our work and says that she looks forward to working with us in the future. All of this certainly wouldn't have been possible without all of your thoughts, comments, and passion for the profession.

Have you looked for our organization on Facebook? We have a small number of Facebook members, but it could be a very easy way to touch base with others, share documents, links etc. I am the current administer because it is a closed group and I have to “allow” you to join, but that's not an arduous task! Check it out.

On a personal note, my state of Arkansas is in the process of changing our teacher certification licensure from PK-4 to K-6. We have been told that the main reason for the change is that rural superintendents have a difficult time finding certified teachers that they can move into 5th or 6th grade if needed. Many of us spoke up and advocated for keeping an early childhood focus, but in the politics of small, rural states I guess our voices don't count for much. However, I do know that many of you have had the same experience and I just want to say that NAECTE matters now more than ever. Just because a state shifts focus away from early childhood teacher certification doesn't mean that we throw in the towel. It means that we stick together even more. Our conferences are your best opportunity to band together for shared wisdom and advice! See you in Indianapolis! Sara McCormick Davis President, NAECTE

Summer and Fall 2012 Conference News

Pack your bags and get ready for the NAECTE PDI in exciting Indianapolis, Indiana! Our June conference will be held on Monday, June 11, in the JW Marriott, JW Grand Ballroom 4. This year's conference theme is ***Creative Leadership in Early Childhood Education***, and will include 25+ scholarly, thought-provoking presentations. We will be honored to welcome our very own Dr. Doris Fromberg, who will deliver the keynote address. Dr. Fromberg certainly needs no introduction, as she has a rich history of significant contributions to the field of Early Childhood Education, as well as to our association. You won't want to miss her vision and her challenge for our membership! Registration will begin at 8:00, and the conference will be held from 8:30 until 12:30. See you in Indy!

The NAECTE Fall Conference will be held on Wednesday, November 7, in the beautiful city of Atlanta, Georgia! While it is an exciting time to be in our field, we continue to face many challenges as professional teacher educators. I believe our conference theme is an accurate reflection of the challenge, as well as the promise that exists for those of us who prepare teachers of young children. That theme, ***21st Century Early Childhood Teacher Education: Research, Reform and Resilience*** will be addressed by our esteemed keynote speaker, Dr. Nancy Carlsson-Paige. Carlsson-Paige has written extensively about a number of important topics related to the education of young children, including her most recent work, *TAKING BACK CHILDHOOD: A Proven Roadmap for Raising Confident, Creative, Compassionate Kids*. Dr. Carlsson-Paige has focused on children's well-being as a response to media saturation and other cultural forces; she speaks passionately about the need to preserve children's play in order to support healthy development.

Registration will begin at 8:00, with the conference scheduled from 8:30 until 4:00. The annual business meeting will commence promptly at 4:00, and will end at 4:30. Details of the NAECTE/ACCESS Awards reception aren't yet finalized, though it will be held on the evening of November 7. Please continue to visit the website for additional details regarding location and the conference program.

Kelly Baker, Vice-President in Charge of Conferences

NAECTE Foundation Doctoral Scholarship – June 1, 2012 Deadline!

A message from Mary Jensen, NAECTEF President

Thanks to the many donations of NAECTE members, the NAECTE Foundation launched a new scholarship this year for doctoral students. One of the goals of the NAECTE Foundation is to promote and support promising scholarship related to early childhood teacher education. As a means of promoting the growth of leadership and scholarship in the field, NAECTEF will assist doctoral students in completing dissertation research. In addition to recognition as a NAECTEF Doctoral Scholar, the NAECTE Foundation is offering a \$1,000 award to encourage doctoral students to conduct research that has the potential to impact the early childhood teacher educator profession and to shape our future. These funds are to be used to support data collection and completion of the dissertation. This past year, we recognized Sherry Been as our Doctoral Scholar. Her dissertation (Oklahoma State University) is entitled: *Early Childhood Teacher Memories: Crafting Professional Identities*.

Now, we need NAECTE members to identify and nominate well-deserving doctoral candidates for this year. If you are working with doctoral candidates, please consider nominating one of them for this award. Any current member of the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators who is faculty or chair on a doctoral committee is eligible to nominate a student for this award. Application guidelines and procedures are described in a link on the Foundation webpage at naecte.org. **The deadline for application materials to be submitted is June 1, 2012.** If you have additional questions, please contact Kathryn Castle, the Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, at kathryn.castle@okstate.edu.

NAECTEF continued to offer its Research Award this year. At the November Orlando Conference, Anna Hall (University of Kentucky) received the 2011 NAECTEF Research Award. The title of her study is: *Development and Initial Psychometric Evaluation of the Writing Attitude Scale for Teachers*.

Applications for the 2012 NAECTEF Research Award also are due June 1, 2012. Please see the Foundation webpage link at naecte.org for the Request for Proposals. If you have additional questions, please Christine Chaille, the Chairperson of the Research Award Committee, at chaillec@pdx.edu.

Finally, please consider providing continuing support for these membership-sponsored awards by making a contribution to the NAECTE Foundation. See our website: <http://www.naecte.org/> for further information.

*Keep current on
association events
by checking in
regularly on our
web site
<http://www.naecte.org>*

Call for NAECTE Members!

Dear NAECTE Members,

Let's increase membership in NAECTE. Have you asked your doctoral students to join NAECTE? Have you asked your colleagues to join NAECTE? Have you asked your colleagues from other colleges to join? Montana has received grant money to involve early childhood professors. Minnesota just sent in a huge contingent of members as a group. Did you know that NAECTE can be helpful in receiving tenure and promotion? You can serve as a leader in early childhood in your state or nationally in NAECTE. You can write a journal article for our journal. You can learn about issues in early childhood teacher education from the journal or the position statements. The Colorado legislature just approved a major in early childhood after 25 years of not having one. The NAECTE Position Statement was used to support highly qualified early childhood teachers in the state legislature. Go to www.NAECTE.org to join now. Help yourself professionally!

Mary Jo Pollman, VP Membership, NAECTE

Highlights from Regional Reports – Read More at NAECTE.ORG!

NAECTE Region 10 News:

Oregon and Pacific NW Region:

On the cusp of Oregon's great changes in early childhood education as promised by our Governor and newly appointed state commission on early education, a consortium of educators, directors, policy-makers, and community agencies has forged an alliance and brought the Reggio Children exhibit to Portland for a six-month stay. "[The Wonder of Learning](#)" leads a series of community events, symposia, and dialogue sessions and brings powerful images and narratives of children's work, creative capacity and thinking-made-visible to our region for study and reflection on our own work with young children. The exhibit stay culminates in the North American Reggio Emilia Alliance (NAREA) conference in June 2012 and focuses on our efforts to improve our quality of early education in the Pacific Northwest Region. Portland State University's *Curriculum and Instruction* [Master's in Early Childhood Education](#) program has offered course credits for each symposium and for the NAERA conference, engaging the community and its many master's and doctoral students in projects and related researches.

Submitted by Will Parnell

Washington and New Zealand:

As part of their early childhood professional development work, Harvest Resources Associates, co-founded by Margie Carter and Deb Curtis, have been leading small study tours to New Zealand for a firsthand look at their exemplary early childhood education system. Designed to recommit to commonwealth treaties with the indigenous Maori peoples to equally honor culture, New Zealand's early childhood systems strengthens cultural identity, bilingualism and cultural democracy. Perhaps best known is their system of assessments, "Learning Stories", designed not only as a formative assessment tool for the children, but a professional development tool for teachers. Limited to 30 people the week long study tours include visits to a variety of centers, lectures by higher education faculty, center leaders and action planning by delegates. An off shoot of these study tours has been the launching of teacher exchanges between centers in New Zealand and Hilltop Children's Center in Seattle. Next study tour is Feb 2013; Visit www.ecetrainers.com for more info.

Submitted by Margie Carter

Region 2 News

Submitted by Sherry Cleary:

The New York State chapter of NAECTE held its annual conference in conjunction with colleagues in ACCESS and our AEYC Higher Education Committee, on April 19, 2012, in Buffalo, NY. Nancy Maldonado (Lehman College at the City University of New York) gave the keynote address entitled: Educating the Early Childhood Student to Meet the Needs of Hispanic/Latino Families. Two individuals who had recently defended their dissertations made presentations as well. Karen Wise Lindeman gave a talk on "Early Cochlear Implantation and the Inclusive Preschool Setting" and Lisa Minicozzi spoke on "Kindergarten Teachers' Response to the Demands and Mandates of Teaching pre-Packaged Curriculum". In the Faculty Forum component of the day discussion was richly focused on early childhood teacher certification and the hiring barriers faced by graduates when engaged in job search in the public schools and the need for education and training for principals and other school administrators in the topic area of early childhood education and young child development.



New Jersey AECTE group visits the American Museum of Natural History on March 2, 2012
Photo courtesy of Janis Strasser

Let's Get Children Outside with Nature-Based Education!

Growing Up WILD: Exploring Nature with Young Children, a multi-award-winning early childhood activity guide and training program for building school readiness skills through nature exploration, is making a splash with educators of young children! Since the launch of *Growing Up WILD* two short years ago, more than 60,000 early childhood educators have been trained, making it one of the fastest growing nature-based education programs in the country.

Developed by the Council for Environmental Education, *Growing Up WILD* is reaching out to educators of young children nationwide with activities that provide a consistent, tested, developmentally appropriate, interdisciplinary teaching tool— helping educators to develop active healthy children who appreciate nature and are prepared to enter school with ample learning skills.

With 27 nature-based activities correlated to the Head Start Domains and NAEYC Standards with easily digestible background information, *Growing Up WILD* provides educators with the knowledge and skills to comfortably teach nature-based education that includes math, science inquiry, literacy as well as music and movement.

Growing Up WILD's new website also features new resources to aid educators in the classroom such as [Show Me Wildlife](#), featuring clickable links for viewing insects, bears, birds and more! There you can also find links for viewing workshops, activities and an introductory video featuring testimonials from educators who have experienced *Growing Up WILD* first hand.

For more information about how to get FREE *Growing Up WILD* materials through training or how to order materials directly, please visit www.pwGrowingUpWILD.org. Be sure to download *Growing Up WILD's* free sample activity, *Seed Need*, allowing children to explore seeds as food for people and animals and learn how animals spread seeds.

There's never been a better time to get outside with *Growing Up WILD*!
Article and photo courtesy of Geoffrey Castro



OUR PURPOSE

- To promote the professional growth of our membership.
- To discuss educational issues specific to our membership.
- To advocate for improvements in early childhood teacher education.
- Provide a forum for consideration of issues and concerns of interest to educators of early childhood teacher educators.
- Provide a communication network for early childhood teacher educators.
- Facilitate the interchange of information and ideas about research and practice.
- Use, as vehicles, the Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education, conferences, resolutions, position papers, and other publications.
- Cooperate with other national and international organizations concerned with the study and education of young children.