

NAECTE Region 1 Update

Connecticut

Submitted by Regina Miller

We continue to hold very successful collaborative group meetings representing our 2 year and 4 year institutions of higher education as well as community stakeholders (community programs, governmental representation). This group addresses current issues that pertain to the preparation of teachers and the movement of teachers from the associate degree through the bachelors degree.

The Standards Committee that addressed the identified Workforce needs for many additional teachers for publicly funded programs (i.e., School Readiness, Head Start, etc.) and was charged with the development of standards for an early childhood teacher credential that will be attainable at the 2 year and/or 4 year degree levels concluded the work of the group in June 2009. This group addressed issues of articulation between 2 and 4 year degree schools, alternate routes and accelerated track options, assessment of programs and students and issues relating to practicum. This group is operated under the umbrella of the CT Department of Higher Education. This group regularly reported out at CT-AECTE meetings and several members of the CT-AECTE group were part of the Standards group. The implementation of this work is still on-going.

The CT Early Childhood Alternate Route to Certification (CT-ECE ARC) has launched a third cohort. Individuals eligible for this program have worked in the field for 3 – 5 years with backgrounds that include community preschool, public special education (preschool and elementary), kindergarten teaching, and early intervention programs. This very rigorous program was developed by the CT-AECTE group through a very collaborative process. This program is an excellent and successful model for what can actually evolve in a small state with few resources at each individual higher education institution.

New Hampshire

The New Hampshire Association for the Education of Young Children (NHAEYC) is sponsoring its First Annual Symposium for Early Childhood Education Faculty, including faculty in high school vocational programs and two- and four-year college and university faculty. The all-day event will be held on January 22, and will include representatives from the NH Child Care Licensing Unit, the Child Development Bureau, the Department of Education, and NHAEYC. The goal is for early childhood faculty to exchange ideas about how state and national preparation standards impact their programs and how we can work together to make sure that all children in the state have well-qualified early childhood teachers. Faculty will also have opportunities to discuss issues of concern in their programs and in the field in general, including the NAECTE Position Statement on Early Childhood Certification. From this exchange, we hope to identify areas of interest to pursue for future professional development opportunities for New Hampshire early childhood faculty.

NAECTE Region 2 Update

NJAECTE News from New Jersey
Spring 2010

Congratulations to member, Tamar Jacobson (Rider University) who is also a member of NAECTE's Advocacy Committee, on the publication of her new book Perspectives on Gender in Early Childhood (Redleaf Press). Several members of our NJ chapter contributed the following chapters:

Blythe Hinitz (and Dorothy Hewes) – “Practical Applications from the History of Gender and Early Childhood Education

Sonja de Groot Kim – “Lessons Learned Early: Girls Wait”

Janis Strasser (and Lisa Mufson Koepfel)- “Creating Preschool Classroom Environments that Promote Gender Equity”

At our fall meeting we engaged in a lively sharing of our favorite classroom assignments, textbooks, activities, handouts, and teaching strategies. We also approved our revised By-laws.

In January, we sent requests for nominations for our Outstanding Teacher Educator Award and Outstanding Research Award for 2010. We hope to present these awards at our annual spring meeting.

To the surprise of many members, NJ had a new governor elected in November. Former Governor Corzine has been a staunch supporter of early childhood education in our state and expanded preschool enrollment to over 40,000 children and our state's budget for preschool to over \$600 million. With the new governor taking office in January, we chose to be proactive in making plans for our February meeting by inviting Dr. Aida Beth Cutler to be our guest speaker. Dr. Cutler is Dean of Montclair University's College of Education and a member of the new NJ Governor's sub-committee on education transition team. She will share her insights on the role and future of early childhood education, teacher education and higher education at this critical time in our state. Contact NJAECTE's VP for Membership, Joanne Vesay at jvesay@rider.edu for information about our chapter or to join the NJ affiliate chapter.