



The Update

Winter 2004

Association for the Education of Young Children of Missouri

Greetings! from the Incoming National President

Greetings!

I am truly delighted by the opportunity to finally accept the role of President of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. During the period of my health challenges, which delayed the process, everyone — from President Jane Wiechel to every member of the Board and staff — has exhibited and expressed genuine concern and support for me and my family. Their persistent patience and personal generosity is an excellent reflection of our NAEYC's commitment to being a high-performing, inclusive organization. For this, I am eternally grateful.

I am now retired after 27 years as Executive Director of KCMC Child Development Corporation, and can therefore focus on a singular mission: to put children and families at the top of this nation's agenda. I come to this calling with a heart bursting with optimism and great expectations.

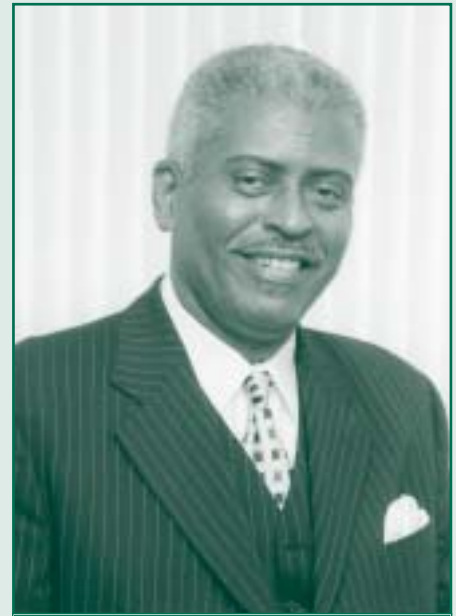
As I assume this important leadership position, I'd like to focus on the most essential element of effective leadership, that is, purpose, which — as Webster defines it — is something set up as the object or end to be attained. When we consider our purpose, as an organization and as a community of professionals, we must be clear about what we wish to attain in the final analysis. As I see it, we should have but one goal — a quality early education and care for *all* children, whether their parents can afford it or not.

This is a meaningful goal, which —

when we succeed — can change the very nature of our great nation. When every child is given a fair start, a healthy start, a safe start and a moral start, we elevate every family, every community, every neighborhood, every city and every state. So too, our businesses will be better, the stress on our social services infrastructure will be lightened, and our tax dollars will be used for productive enterprises instead of prisons, juvenile delinquency, teenage pregnancy, and welfare dependency.

With this lofty and worthy purpose, we too improve ourselves, knowing that our efforts can make a meaningful difference in the lives of millions. "A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history," said the Gandhi, a tiny man who changed the world forever.

To achieve such a purpose, we must understand and prepare for the challenges ahead: diminishing government funding and dwindling interest from the political parties and the powers that be. We must recognize that old ideas must be replaced by new, innovative approaches, new partnerships, new paradigms, a new energy and determination. We must literally reframe the debate about early childhood development, not as marginal programs for marginal people, but in the context of the overall health of cities and communities, in economic terms not entitlement terms, in terms of personal interest, not altruism. When we accomplish this



**Incoming National President,
Dwayne A. Crompton**

revisoning of our purpose, we will have built the foundation for achieving our ultimate purpose.

With your help, with your determination and faith, we together can transform this purpose into reality. I encourage you, and I seek your encouragement. Again, thank you for this humbling opportunity. Let's roll up our sleeves and get busy. And, like Emerson, may "we find delight in the beauty and happiness of children that makes the heart to big for the body."

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A Very Happy New Year!

from the

President Dr. L. Carol Scott

I don't know about you but, as an early childhood education professional, I give a lot of books to the children in my life. As each child gets older and accustomed to the repetition of flat, thin packages from me, they begin to joke about it, as in,

"Oh, gee, I wonder what Aunt Carol sent...d'ya suppose it could possibly be - wait for it - A BOOK?" On one recent holiday, when I went to New Jersey to see my youngest niece and nephew, they got a box from my mother just after they opened my gift of books. Well...grandma had sent books, too, and a cry of despair rang through the house: "More BOOKS???"

One of my favorite picture books to give a young child is *Oh the Places You'll Go* by Dr. Suess. I even gave this book to an 18-year old once, on the occasion of her graduation from high school! Many of you are probably familiar with this book and its message of excitement about what the future holds. The poetic Dr. Suess paints a picture of a world full of possibilities and explorations.

When I think of the places you'll go this year, I think of the courage it takes to step into the new, uncharted territory of a new year. I imagine you, standing on the brink of January and peering out into the unknown - 12 months of new possibilities. I'm reminded of the quote from Pearl Bailey that I shared with you in this column one year ago. The quote opens AEYC-MO's publication, *Their Future is in Our Hands: Becoming an Effective Advocate for Early Childhood Education*. Here it is:

"Everybody wants to do something to help, but nobody wants to be the first."

Do you remember when you had the intrepid nature of the young and were always willing to go first? When did you do something particularly scary or awful and then double-dog dare your friends to copy you? Can you recapture a similar feeling from your childhood? If not on a dare, when were you the one to take that first giant step into something new and

unexplored? Maybe as recently as earlier today or just last week?

I invite you to capture that memory and bring it into the present moment. Use the enthusiasm you had then to propel yourself into something new today - a new commitment to advocacy. In just a few weeks, on Tuesday, January 25th, 2005, you will have a chance to turn that new commitment into something very exciting!

Last year, despite the perfectly awful weather and icy roads all over the state, hundreds of child advocates braved winter's worst to gather in Jefferson City and march on the Capitol. The year before, when the weather was more accommodating, we were 800 strong on Child Advocacy Day. Would you like to make your new commitment to be one among 1,000 advocates this year?

We have a new Governor, and some of us have new Representatives and/or Senators to meet. I double-dog dare you to call today for 15-minute appointments with your Representative and Senator. You'll find the schedule for Child Advocacy Day on an inside page of this edition, so you'll know when you're free to meet with them.

Perhaps that is a special professional New Year's resolution you might make this year. Page 20 of *Their Future is in Our Hands* has some great tips about how to find out who your Representative and Senator are and build relationships with them. Please don't hang back in fear.... Remember - these men and women are your neighbors. They live and work in your community or nearby and they put their pants on one leg at a time, just as you do!

An advocacy toolkit from the



CHANGE!

CHANGE makes us grow! **CHANGE** forces us to get out of our comfortable routines, to try new things, to think about our lives from a new perspective. Each year at the annual NAEYC conference, participants are challenged to try new ways of recruiting, retaining and serving our state and local members. We find communication methods **CHANGING** at such a frantic pace that we struggle to keep up with all the new ways to talk with each other. NAEYC staff provides ongoing technical assistance to state affiliates in order to increase our capacity to effectively respond to the **CHANGING** world of technology and the **CHANGING** ways to do association business. **CHANGE** takes our breath away, as we find ourselves running to keep pace with it!

AEYC-MO uses a member survey at all conferences and local affiliate events to find out how its members would like us to **CHANGE**. Early childhood research tells us that we need to make some important **CHANGES** to provide high-quality environments for children. Hundreds of early education professionals have dedicated many hours to develop the proposed **CHANGES** in the current licensing regulations. The goal of these **CHANGES** is improvement in the quality of Missouri's early childhood care and education programs for each child.

Child Advocacy Day presents us with an opportunity to advocate for **CHANGE**. I urge you to make plans to attend, make appointments with your legislators, and study the issues that will **CHANGE** the lives of young children and their families for good.

A significant **CHANGE** in my life will come at the end of January as my husband and I move from Columbia to the Kansas City area. If you have had the experience of **CHANGING** homes, jobs, neighbors, churches—all the things that are familiar and comfortable—you know that **CHANGE** presents a host of new growth opportunities. It has been wonderful serving as your executive director for the past five years. It has been a time of great **CHANGE**—in the way we are structured, in our accountability to NAEYC and in the way we interact with our members. We are now officially reaffiliated with NAEYC and currently have four strong local affiliate chapters. AEYC-MO's future promises to be filled with even more exciting **CHANGES**. I wish for each of you the joy of achieving your vision for the field of early education and thereby, **CHANGING** the lives of young children and the lives of early childhood professionals.

Dee Ann Attaway



*Dee Ann Attaway
Executive Director*

The Update is published by the Association for the Education of Young Children of Missouri three times a year; Fall, Winter and Spring.

Dee Ann Attaway
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The Update accepts articles from classroom teachers, scholars, researchers, practitioners and students in early education childhood and related fields. Articles should be submitted to:

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Phone: 573 884-3374
Fax: 573-884-0598
Toll Free: 877-296-2852

The content of articles appearing in this publication is the responsibility of the author(s) and does not necessarily reflect the views of AEYC-MO. The Update serves as the primary communication from the State association and encourages diversity in opinions and experiences.

AEYC-MO, an organization for early childhood professionals, fosters excellence in early childhood systems and programs through advocacy, education and professional development.

Child Advocacy Day News

CHILD ADVOCACY DAY NEWS

Plan now to attend Child Advocacy Day,
Tuesday, January 25, 2005!

See page 7 for frequently asked
questions and answers about CAD

NEW CHILD ADVOCACY DAY WEBSITE IS WWW.CHILDADVOCACY.ORG

AEYC-MO is pleased to announce the new Child Advocacy Day web site, which will provide information about the history of CAD, a list of award recipients, and current information about this year's event. Be watching for the site which will be up and functioning by January 10, 2005. This year you will be able to download and print the documents you'll use for this year's event.

You are invited

to a luncheon for AEYC-MO members

Hosted by the AEYC-MO Membership Committee

2nd floor, The Truman Building, 11:30a.m

Lunch tickets will be available at the AEYC-MO booth in the Capitol

Join us for lunch and networking with other child advocates!

AEYC-MISSOURI ANNOUNCES SPECIAL RATE FOR STUDENT MEMBERS

WHEN: Beginning January 1, 2005

WHAT WILL IS COST? \$45 with full benefits of regular membership

WHY: To become a membership of your profession's association

HOW: Complete an **AEYC-MO** membership form and send with a check for your membership to NAEYC, or join online using a credit card at www.naeyc.org

JOIN TODAY



AEYC-MO Advocacy T-shirts

In preparation for Missouri's Annual Child Advocacy Day, AEYC-MO members designed a T-shirt to wear that will mark your affiliation with the organization. The shirts are forest green and long-sleeved with white lettering. The front left chest will carry the AEYC-MO logo. The design for the back of the T-shirt is featured here. To order, please complete the form below and send with payment to the state office.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Medium; Quantity _____ Large; Quantity _____
 XLarge; Quantity _____ XXLLarge; Quantity _____
 Check Money Order

Total Amount Enclosed: _____
(Please add \$3.00 per shirt for shipping.)

Send completed form and payment to:
AEYC-MO Office 1400 Rock Quarry Road Columbia, MO 65211-3280



Medium & Large
\$10.00
XL & XXL
\$12.00

✂ please cut along dotted lines and mail to the addresses shown.

AEYC-MO Handbook

AEYC-MO is proud to announce the release of *Their Future is in Our Hands: Becoming an Effective Advocate for Early Childhood Education*, edited by Michelle Mathews and Denise Mauzy. This advocacy handbook represents an overview of the legislative process and contains important information that every member should know when advocating for a fully-funded early childhood system for Missouri.

This handbook is dedicated to Kathy R. Thornburg and Peggy Pearl who served as AEYC-MO's Public Policy Co-Chairs for more than 20 years. The association would like to extend its gratitude to Kathy and Peggy for their unflinching devotion to increasing Missouri policymakers' awareness about children's issues. Through their work, AEYC members are more informed about the issues facing young children and families and the appropriate measures advocates should pursue.



You will receive your copy of this handbook as a membership benefit in January 2005. We hope that you find this handbook useful in your work on behalf of the association.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Check Money Order

If you would like to purchase additional copies of the *Their Future is in Our Hands: Becoming an Effective Advocate for Early Childhood Education*, please complete this order form and return it to the AEYC-MO office. Copies are \$10, plus \$3.00 for shipping.

Number of handbooks: _____
Total Amount Enclosed: _____
(Please add \$3.00 per handbook for shipping.)

Send completed form and payment to:
AEYC-MO Office 1400 Rock Quarry Road Columbia, MO 65211-3280

Thornburg Scholarship Application

Scholarship Application for Midwest AEYC Annual Conference

The purpose of the Kathy R. Thornburg Fund is to support new and emerging leaders' attendance at state, regional and national conferences and seminars, with an emphasis on those that are AEYC-sponsored. For the current year, the Thornburg Fund will support emerging leaders' attendance at the Midwest AEYC Annual Conference, **April 14-16, 2005, in Minneapolis, Minnesota**. Information about the conference is available on the Minnesota AEYC website at www.mnaeyc.org.

Following are the application requirements and form for AEYC-MO emerging leaders who would like to attend the conference. An emerging leader is defined as an AEYC-MO member who recently joined the state or local leadership through committee or board service and wants to enhance his/her knowledge, skills, and leadership capacity.

Application requirements

- * Complete application form submitted with attachments by no later than March 1, 2005 to AEYC-MO, 1400 Rock Quarry Road, Columbia, MO 65211-3280.
- * Applicant agrees to present a report at an affiliate chapter board meeting on his/her experience at the conference, and a written paragraph about the experience for the next edition of The Update.
- * Attached letter of recommendation from local or state board member with whom the applicant works as a volunteer.
- * Proposed budget showing how much of the total expense is covered by applicant, the scholarship and other sources. Maximum request is \$250 from Thornburg Fund. Receipts for expenses in an amount equal to or greater than the amount of the scholarship must be submitted following the event.
- * Statement detailing her/his interest in the event and how it will enhance his/her leadership role in AEYC-MO.

✂ please cut along dotted line and mail to the address shown above.

Dr. Kathy R. Thornburg Leadership Fund Scholarship Application for Midwest AEYC 2005 Annual Conference

Name: _____ NAEYC Member Number: _____

Address: _____

Work phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____

Budget for attendance: _____

Statement of interest in attending Midwest AEYC Annual Conference and how it will enhance your leadership role in AEYC-MO _____

please use additional sheets to complete statement of interest.

Child Advocacy Day's - FAQ's

What is Child Advocacy Day?

Child Advocacy Day is an event held in Jefferson City on the last Tuesday of January each year and is sponsored by the Missouri Alliance for Children, Youth, and Families. This year Child Advocacy Day is scheduled for January 25, 2005. It is an opportunity for child advocates to come together and show their support for children by participating in workshops, visiting exhibit booths to learn about new services and programs, discussing critical children's issues with their legislator, and networking with other child advocates.

Who can attend Child Advocacy Day?

Anyone who wants to support children through legislative action is encouraged to attend.

Is there a registration fee?

No, Child Advocacy Day is held free of charge. In fact, you do not even have to pre-register.

Where is Child Advocacy Day held?

This event is held in Missouri's capitol, Jefferson City. Advocates meet at the Capitol Rotunda (which is in the middle of the building) where they register and are given an overview of the day. Events throughout the day typically take place in the Truman Building and in the Capitol Building.

What can I do at Child Advocacy Day?

You are able to attend workshops addressing many topics that involve children and their families as well as workshops that will inform you about how to become more active in your advocacy efforts. Child Advocacy Day is an opportunity for you to meet and speak with your legislators about issues that affect children.

What can I do to prepare for Child Advocacy Day?

It is highly recommended that you call your Senator or Representative in advance to make a 15-minute appointment with him/her on Child Advocacy Day. You can find out who your legislators are by checking the Missouri State Home Page on the web at www.mo.state.us.

Do I have to talk to my legislators?

No, but there is ample opportunity to do so if you would like to. You will receive information that you may simply leave with your legislator instead of making a scheduled appointment. In addition, you can still show your support for children in other events and activities during the day. However, if you would like to meet with your legislators, it is highly recommended that you contact them ahead of time and set up an appointment (see previous question).

How do I find my legislators at the Capitol?

During the registration time (which is first thing in the morning at the Capitol Rotunda), there is a booth in which you will be able to locate your city/town on a Missouri map and people will assist you in figuring out which legislators serve your area. Then, people will also assist you in finding where your legislators offices are in the Capitol building.

Where do I get in the building?

It is most convenient for Child Advocacy Day participants to enter the Capitol at the south carriage door.

Where can I park?

Parking is available in the Madison Street Garage for a fee. Free parking is available on the west side of the Capitol (down the hill).

NAEYC Public Policy & Communications Resources

On the NAEYC website:

NAEYC's updates, messages and links to important resources for advocacy and public policy are available at <http://www.naeyc.org/policy>. Here are some highlights:

Action Center: sign up for NAEYC's free weekly updates on federal and state developments and to receive alerts to contact your members of Congress; find your members of Congress and media outlets with only your zip code. <http://capwiz.com/naeyc/home/>

Federal Policies and Legislation: learn about important federal policy developments, as well as NAEYC issues and messages on key federal early childhood education programs. <http://www.naeyc.org/policy/federal>

State Legislative Trends and Policies: learn about important state policy trends and developments. <http://www.naeyc.org/policy/state>

Critical Issues: critical facts and statistics about children, programs, and the early childhood workforce; reports and information on state policies on:

- Accreditation linked to tiered child care reimbursement and state pre-kindergarten programs
- Standards, indicators, and school readiness assessments
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Financing a system – guide, glossary, slide presentation, NAEYC Policy Brief
- State pre-kindergarten

All at: <http://www.naeyc.org/ece/critical.asp>

Research & Reports: summaries of major national reports with links to the full document. <http://www.naeyc.org/ece/research.asp>

Links to other organizations: wide array of national organizations that work on early childhood education issues. <http://www.naeyc.org/ece/links.asp>

By free email subscription:

Public Policy: free weekly updates on federal and state developments. currently over 10,000 subscribers nationally; Sign up at: <http://capwiz.com/naeyc/mlm/>

Communications: The Affiliate Communications Exchange is a free, monthly email with articles, templates and ideas for your Affiliate newsletters, media relations, and other communications efforts. To register, contact Alan Simpson at asimpson@naeyc.org

Tools for Advocates/Affiliates:

Dos and Dents of lobbying and political activity for nonprofit organizations: <http://www.naeyc.org/policy/toolbox.asp>

NAEYC Advocacy Toolkit with examples of effective actions by NAEYC affiliates and other advocacy organizations: <http://www.naeyc.org/policy/toolbox.asp>

Advocates in Action: Making a Difference for Young Children – NAEYC book <http://www.naeyc.org/shoppingcart/search.aspx>

Affiliate Council Report - December 2004

Hello! Let me introduce myself. I am the new Affiliate Council representative from Missouri. This is my third tenure on the Missouri AEYC Board having served in the early 80's and then more recently in the mid 90's when Sherri Griffin was president, I served as parliamentarian. I've been in and out of Missouri for over 20 years working in the early care and education community in Columbia, Kansas City and most recently in Springfield. Currently, I am an associate professor in early childhood and family development at Southwest Missouri State University (SMSU). I've worked in the field for the past 30 years in four different states. I'm married to Russell Carney who is a professor at SMS in educational psychology, and we are the very proud parents of Betsy, 17, and Alex, 14.

Judy Kulczycki was Missouri's first representative to the Affiliate Council the three years prior to my appointment. The affiliate council representative to the national council serves for three years and brings issues from the state affiliates to the national council to be addressed. This is a relatively new position resulting from the restructuring of NAEYC during the reaffiliation process. The Missouri representative serves on the nominations committee of the Affiliate Council. The affiliate council representative serves as a conduit for information/issues/concerns from the state affiliate. So, if you or your affiliate has an issue to be address, I'm the person to contact. The affiliate council meets twice a year, at the national conference and then again in the spring which was in Washington, DC in March this year. We also meet regionally either at the meetings or by conference call as issues arise (Missouri is in region VII along with Nebraska, Kansas and Iowa.).

At each Affiliate Council meeting, a problem is addressed and discussed with a plan of action taken. At the March meeting, the task was to analyze the roles and responsibilities of the NAEYC Governing Board.

On the regional level, discussions have centered around:

- ◆ accreditation facilitation: what is going on and when will we know?
- ◆ assessment and review of the reaffiliation process
- ◆ ongoing support for states
- ◆ national membership dues

Concerns were raised about adopting a one-size-fits-all model (for membership). Many variances need to be taken into consideration including cheaper student dues, regional cost of living differences, our membership of low-wage earners. Our priority must be to attract a membership of early childhood educators and dues cannot be a barrier.

In November, the Affiliate Council met at NAEYC in Anaheim. During the 'speak out' part of the meeting, I asked how conference presentations are selected and why can't members know in advance where future meetings will be held. And, I got an answer that day! For about the past three years, conference presentations have been peer reviewed by a NAEYC panel of staff and members. The goal is to select presentations that stratify and have breadth of content. While the process may not be scientific, it is completed carefully. I learned where the next conference sites will be in order by year: Washington, DC ('05); Atlanta, GA ('06); Chicago, IL ('07); New Orleans, LA ('08); Washington, DC ('09); Anaheim, CA ('10); Chicago, IL ('11); and Atlanta, GA ('12).

As I mentioned, the Missouri representative serves on the Nominations Committee. This committee is currently recruiting for one of the two positions that the Affiliate Council is charged to fill on the NAEYC Governing Board. One of the concerns of the Affiliate Council has been to get a more stratified and representative (of the NAEYC membership) makeup of the NAEYC Governing Board. The committee is meeting that charge and is challenging all Affiliate Council representatives to personally contact at least three leaders in their states to apply for the Affiliate Council position. I have received some names and will send those affiliate members a letter encouraging them to make the application for this NAEYC Governing Board position. Applicants must have served on the State Affiliate's Governing Board. The Nominating Committee will forward four names to the NAEYC Nominating Committee. That committee will select two to go on the ballot for elections. All applications will be made online and the deadline is April 1, 2005. If you or you know someone who would be interested in applying, please let me know.

Please feel free to contact me with any issues to address to the Affiliate Council. Contact information follows:

Mary Beth Mann

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901 S. National
Child and Family Development
Early Childhood & Family Development
Springfield, MO 65804

e-mail: mem032f@smsu.edu

phone: 417-836-6339
fax: 417-836-7649

Minnesota AEYC presents Midwest AEYC 2005 Conference



April 14-16. Celebrating Strong Beginnings

Mark your calendars if you have not already for the upcoming Midwest AEYC Conference **Celebrating Strong Beginnings 2005** April 14-16 at **Minneapolis Convention Center**. Sonia Manzano "Maria" from Sesame Street and Bev Bos will be the keynote presenters. Also, there is an exciting line up of featured speakers including **Dr. Dan Gartrell, Sue Baldwin, and John Archambault** (author of Chicka Chicka Boom Boom), **Anew Dimension Illusion Theatre, MacPhail Center for Music, Debra Sullivan, Karen Farnum Surmani** and nationally renowned researchers from the University of Minnesota. In addition, there will be hundreds of workshops to choose from a wide variety of tracks including Behavior Guidance, Curriculum Exceptional Children, Leadership and Music and Movement and tracks for specific age groups and settings. This is a wonderful opportunity to network with colleagues from other states, exchange ideas and visit exhibitors. And its a great chance to explore downtown Minneapolis or visit the Mall of America. For more information, please visit <http://www.mnaeyc.org> <<http://www.mnaeyc.org>> and click **Midwest 2005** under Events.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**MHSA ANNUAL WINTER TRAINING
CONFERENCE 2005**
February 2-4, 2005
THE LODGE OF FOUR SEASONS
LAKE OZARK, MISSOURI

CONFERENCE ON THE YOUNG YEARS
March 10, 11, & 12, 2005
TANTARA RESORT
OSAGE BEACH, MISSOURI

2005 NAEYC AFFILIATE LEADERSHIP SEMINARS PRESENTS

LEADERS WHO S.E.R.V.E

The one-day seminar that involves interactive workshops designed specifically for the strategic work of NAEYC affiliates.



Learn from senior NAEYC staff how to become a better leader by:

Seeing the Future
Engaging and developing others
Reinventing continuously
Valuing results and relationships
Embodying values

Additional Information

Schedule of Events

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m

**Registration and
Continental Breakfast**

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

**Lunch and Networking
(lunch provided by NAEYC)**

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

DOUBLE THE EXCITEMENT

Arrive a day early and attend "Raising A Leader", the 2005 AEYC Regional Management Seminar on Friday. This event will conveniently be presented in each of the four states the day before the Affiliate Leader Seminars.

For registration information, call
(800) 424-2460 ext. 12650
or visit the link below.

<http://naeyc.org/affiliates/seminars.asp>

Hotel Reservations Winter Tour

Nashville, TN - January 22
Sheraton Downtown Nashville
623 Union Street
Nashville, TN 37219
January 21-22, 2005
Rates: \$119 single - \$129 double
Cutoff date: December 30, 2004
(619) 259-2000

Denver - February 12
Embassy Suites, Downtown
1881 Curtis Street
Denver, CO 80202
February 11-12, 2005
\$119 single/double
Cutoff date: January 13, 2005

Summer Tour *more details to come!*

Springfield, MA - June 25
Marriott Springfield, Massachusetts
June 24-25, 2005

Detroit, MI - August 13
Hilton Detroit/Troy, Michigan
August 12-13, 2005

naeyc

**** Be sure to mention the
NAEYC 2005 Affiliate Regional Training
Seminar to obtain special room rates! ****

MO's Professional Achievement and Recognition



The Professional Achievement and Recognition System (PARS), administered by the OPEN Initiative, is a database that verifies and tracks teachers' qualifications for various professional roles and recognizes educational achievement on Missouri's Career Lattice.

Teachers and directors working with children birth through school age are encouraged to enroll in the Professional Achievement and Recognition System. For more information, please call the OPEN office (toll free number: 1-877-782-0185). OPEN recognizes and congratulates the following professionals who have furthered their education and advanced at least one level on Missouri's Career Lattice:

Marie McKinley of Walnut Creek Day School in Columbia (Boone) has moved to Level 4b

Amanda Bigger of Academy of Fine Arts in Columbia (Boone) has moved to Level 4b

Tonya Jones of YWCA Manchester Head Start in St. Louis (City) has moved to Level 2b

Patsy Caffery of Webster Child Care Center at Laclede Groves in Webster Groves (St. Louis County) has moved to Level 2b

Jennifer Field of Janet Crutcher's Home Based Program in Moberly (Randolph) has moved to Level 2a

Heather Frazier of YMCA of Greater Kansas City in North Kansas City (Clay) has moved to Level 3b

Angela Criner of St. Martin's Child Center in St. Louis (St. Louis County) has moved to Level 2b

Felicia Davis of Radiant Faith Day Care and Preschool in St. Louis (St. Louis City) has moved to Level 2b

Jennifer Mertell of Cuddles Day Care Corporation in St. Louis (St. Louis City) has moved to Level 3a

Cheryl Hughes of St. Mark's United Inner City Services Child Care in Kansas City (Jackson) has moved to Level 2a

Carol Ley of Arlington Day Care in Bridgeton (St. Louis County) has moved to Level 2a

Rhonda Beaman of The Rainbow Connection Daycare in Columbia (Boone) has moved to Level 2b

Congratulations and thank you to these wonderful early education professionals. Your dedication to professionalism and continuing education is an inspiration to us all!



From the President continued from page 2

Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities describes how a personal visit to your legislator allows you to "read" his or her response to your request for specific support. A face-to-face visit also allows your legislator to respond immediately to your questions and offers of support – something that s/he cannot do when you write or phone. Finally, in a personal visit, you can become acquainted with your legislator. Finding out what you have in common and who you know in common may prove helpful when you make future contacts for comments on specific legislation.

I want to see you at Child Advocacy Day; I hope every one of you will come up to me and say, "Carol, you invited me and I'm here!" If you can't attend, perhaps you'd be willing to make sure that the local newspaper and radio stations in your town know about this important event. There's a sample press release on page 37 of *Their Future is in Our Hands*. (If you don't have this great book, look inside this newsletter for information on how to purchase a copy.) Add the agenda that is in this issue to your press release and follow up with a phone call encouraging your local media to cover the march on the Capitol.

However many steps into the unknown you've taken in the past, even if some of them were into advocacy work, this is a brand new year, fresh and waiting for you. What new commitment will you make? What's your new year's advocacy resolution for 2005?

Oh! What are the places you will go?

See you at the Capitol!



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