

# Regional Wrap-Up

## Region 5 T/TAC @ JMU

### Linking People



### and Resources

### Calling All Library Materials....

Please return all materials borrowed from the T/TAC lending library by May 31 so that we may do inventory. Items will be available for borrowing again in mid-June. If you need assistance or information about the library, please contact Judy Hensley at (540) 568-6746 or <henslejk@jmu.edu>.

Also, remember that if you borrow software from the lending library, it is to be removed from your computer when you return the software.

Remember,

The T/TAC is open during the summer months, but we like to take a vacation, too. So please call ahead to be sure someone can be here to assist you. Thanks! And have fun in the sun!

### Financial Help for Teachers

Math, science, and special education teachers who have taught in Title I schools for up to five years may be eligible for higher loan forgiveness amounts under a new law. The Taxpayer-Teacher Protection Act (P.L. 108-409), signed by President Bush in October 2004, authorizes up to \$17,500 in loan forgiveness to individuals who have been employed full-time for five consecutive years as highly qualified math, science, or special education teachers. This increase of \$12,500 above the loan forgiveness amounts available to other teachers is meant to ease the shortage of teachers in key subject areas. The increased amount of teacher loan forgiveness is available to new Federal Stafford Loan borrowers (math, science, and special education teachers with no outstanding loan balances prior to October 1, 1998, who borrowed eligible loans prior to October 1, 2005).

For more information, call the US Dept. of Education's customer service call center at 1-800-433-7327 or go to [www.ifap.ed.gov/dpccletters/GEN0414.html](http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpccletters/GEN0414.html)

(*The Achiever*, Vol. 4(3), February 15, 2005)

### Congratulations!!!!!!!

Three cheers to third year coach Chris Dodson and the Spotswood High School (Rockingham County) girls basketball team for winning the Virginia AA state championship. This is the first girls state basketball championship for Spotswood. Coach Dodson is a teacher of students with severe disabilities. In the classroom, Chris has been recognized for his peer mentoring program at the high school. Through work in his classroom, Chris and his students have inspired more than one Spotswood High graduate to pursue a career in special education.

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## Looking for summer camp information?

The Year 2005 Summer Camps in Virginia resource guide is now available on the Partnership for People with Disabilities Web site, <[www.vcu.edu/partnership](http://www.vcu.edu/partnership)>.

For further information, contact Monica Uhl, Respite Resource Project, at (804) 828-8587 or <[muhl@mail1.vcu.edu](mailto:muhl@mail1.vcu.edu)>.

## Electronic Newsletter Available

The Center for the Improvement of Child Caring (CICC), a 30-year old nationally known nonprofit parenting education organization, has announced that its free Effective Parenting Newsletter will provide special editions devoted to the needs of specific parent groups and to specific parenting issues.

One of the latest editions of this free electronic newsletter focuses on the Effective Parenting of Teenagers. Future editions will provide coverage related to raising children under five, children with special needs, children from different ethnic groups, strategies and programs for involving parents in their children's education, and preparing them for college. Other editions will also focus on providing parents with alternatives to corporal punishment, proven strategies for enhancing child self-esteem, and for reducing sibling rivalry, as well as the latest research on parenting.

Anyone can receive the free Effective Parenting Newsletter by visiting CICC's website, [www.ciccparenting.org](http://www.ciccparenting.org), and clicking on "Add Me." Copies of prior editions of the newsletter are also available on the CICC website.

## Conferences and Training Events

June 20-24: *Sixth Annual Content/Teaching Academies*. James Madison University, Harrisonburg. Sponsored by James Madison University Center for School Leadership, Region 5 T/TAC, and the Virginia Department of Education. For further information visit the Web site <<http://coe.jmu.edu/Academy2005>>.

## Conferences and Training Events cont....

June 20 (Roanoke) or June 21 (Fredericksburg): *Meeting the Needs of Students Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing in Virginia's Public Schools*. Sponsored by Partnership for People with Disabilities; funded by VA Dept. of Education. Contact Debbie Pfeiffer at <[dlpfeiffer@vcu.edu](mailto:dlpfeiffer@vcu.edu)> for info on training; Kristen Stahr at <[khstahr@vcu.edu](mailto:khstahr@vcu.edu)> for info on registration.

July 20-22: *Shining Stars: Charting the Future for Today's Children. Virginia's Second Annual Early Childhood Conference*. DoubleTree Hotel, Charlottesville. Sponsored by T/TACs @ GMU, JMU, ODU, VCU, & VT; VA Dept. of Education; Together We Can; and VA Division for Early Childhood/CEC. Registration through VA Tech Continuing Education, <[www.conted.vt.edu/shiningstars](http://www.conted.vt.edu/shiningstars)>.

July 28-29: *DCDT Summer Institute 2005*. Roslyn Center, Richmond.

### End of year T/TAC survey now on-line!

Please take a few minutes to complete the annual T/TAC end of year survey. This information helps us in assessing our services and in preparing for the upcoming school year. This year the survey is available on-line at:

<https://surveyor.jmu.edu/ss/wsb.dll/henslejk/TACendofyear.htm>

The Institute is designed to share cutting edge information about transitioning youth to post-school options. For more information, contact Sally Chappel at Region 5 T/TAC @ JMU, <[chappesl@jmu.edu](mailto:chappesl@jmu.edu)> or (540) 568-8095.

October 19: *Using Verbal Behavior to Analyze Language and PECS*. Presented by Dr. Andrew Bondy, Pyramid Educational Consultants

& The Delaware Autism Program. College Center, James Madison University, Harrisonburg. Registration information will be available late summer & will be conducted through Commonwealth Autism Service.

November 5: *School Violence: A Safe Schools Initiative Conference*. College Center, James Madison University, Harrisonburg.

This conference will address the complex issue of school violence and what professionals can do to protect and ensure the safety of all children. Classroom teachers, administrators, other professionals related to education, school board members, teacher education candidates, and professors are welcome to attend. To be placed on the mailing list for the conference, contact Violet Allain at <[vallainvl@jmu.edu](mailto:vallainvl@jmu.edu)>.

## Knowledge Rater

**Teacher:** These words are important for our lesson. Repeat each word after me. Think about what you know and need to know. If you know what the word means write it in the expert column. If you think you know a word, but are not positive, write it in the middle column. Words to learn go in the last column.



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Expert Words	I think I know these...	Not sure of these...

**Knowledge Rater:** A tool for assessing prior knowledge of a topic. It may contain vocabulary, facts, concepts, or ideas related to a content area. Step 1: Students rate words. Step 2. Students share (1:1 or small groups) expert words. Step 3. Students collaborate to work out the "I think I know" words. Step 4. Teacher makes a composite of the unknowns to direct instruction.