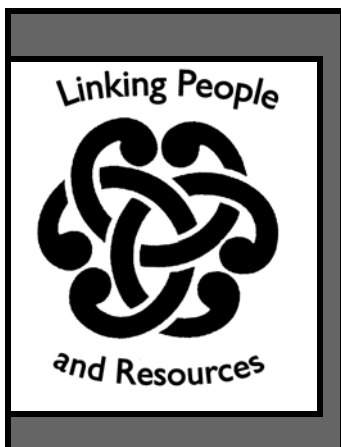


April/May 2004

Regional Wrap-Up

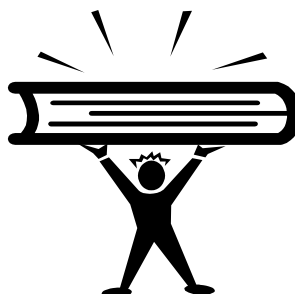
Region 5 T/TAC @ JMU



This is the last T/TAC newsletter for the 2003-04 school year. We thank you for utilizing T/TAC services during the year and encourage you to continue accessing services throughout the remainder of the school year and into the summer.

In this newsletter you will find information about summer events. Please avail yourself of one or more of these opportunities to gain new knowledge, reinforce existing skills, network with colleagues, and have some fun.

Remember, the T/TAC offices are open year-round. If you plan to visit the library or stop to talk with a coordinator during the summer, please call ahead as staff is on a rotating vacation schedule and we want to be sure someone is here to answer your questions and meet your needs. Have a great summer!



IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL T/TAC LIBRARY USERS

The T/TAC library will close on May 28, 2004 for inventory. All borrowed materials must be returned to the library by Friday, May 28. With your assistance in the returning of materials, the library should be able to reopen for use by Monday, June 7.

Thank you for your continued use of our materials and for your assistance in the return of materials for the inventory.

Judy Hensley, T/TAC Librarian

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With Deepest Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to the family, friends, and colleagues of Bill Hinek, Albemarle High School, Albemarle County, who passed away in February. Bill had served on the T/TAC Advisory Committee for the past two school years. He had a love of students and education and was well regarded by all who knew him.

We also extend our sympathy to T/TAC Coordinator Debbie Yancey, upon the death of her mother in April.

Good News!

CONGRATULATIONS TO..

Jimmy Smith, a student at Spotswood High School in Rockingham County, for winning the VA Federation Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) "Yes I Can" Award. Jimmy has worked diligently to overcome developmental delays that include communication and social interaction skills resulting from autism. At Spotswood, Jimmy has been a member of the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA) for five years and Sergeant at Arms of VICA for three years. He is a loyal SHS Trailblazers sports fan and has been part of the cannon crew at ballgames for four years. For the past three years, Jimmy has assisted the staff of the Region 5 T/TAC doing office tasks through a community-based work program. The "Yes I Can" award was presented to Jimmy at the state VA CEC conference held in Charlottesville in February. As Virginia's winner, Jimmy now becomes eligible for the national CEC award competition. We're proud of you Jimmy!



Pictured above: Mrs. Smith, Jimmy, Mr. Smith and T/TAC Coordinator Sally Chappel.

CHEERS TO..

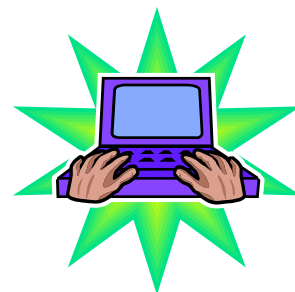
Chris Dodson who was named Valley district girl's basketball Coach of the Year. Chris, a special education teacher at Spotswood High School, Rockingham County, works with students with severe disabilities.



Dr. Reid Linn, Principal Investigator for the T/TAC, became a first-time grandpa in March!

On the Web:

Kidspiration and *Inspiration* are software programs used widely in schools across the country to enhance learning by the use of graphic organizers. The Institute for the Advancement of Research in Education (IARE) at the Appalachian Educational Laboratory has completed a research study entitled *Graphic Organizers: A Review of Scientifically Based Research*. In the report, twenty-nine studies were identified and evaluated as scientifically based research (SBR). The studies provided evidence in support of the instructional effectiveness of the use of graphic organizers. Scientifically based research cited in the literature review demonstrates that a research base exists to support the use of graphic organizers for improving student learning and performance in the following areas:



- Reading comprehension
- Student achievement across grade levels, diverse student populations, and content areas
- Thinking and learning skills such as organizing and communicating ideas, seeing patterns and relationships, and categorizing ideas
- Retention

Inspiration Software has designed standards matches to help school district personnel use graphic organizers by integrating *Kidspiration* and *Inspiration* software into instruction. Visit <www.inspiration.com> and click on *NCLB*, then *Standards Alignment*, then *State Standards Matches*; click on *Virginia* to download the VA state standards that are supported by the software. Notes are included that provide suggested templates and activities; teachers can modify these starter documents to reflect individual learning objectives, curricula, and teaching styles. The Appalachian Educational Laboratory website is <www.ael.org>.

Guidelines for Instruction-Based Assessments (2004), a new publication from the VA Dept. of Education, is available on the VDOE website at: <www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Instruction/Sped/I-BAbooklet.pdf>.

The Access Center: Improving Outcomes for all Students K-8, is a five-year national technical assistance center funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The Access Center developed a resource to help school personnel select "research-proven" strategies/materials that will enhance participation and learning of students with disabilities in general education content. This tool offers information about topics such as the use of literacy rich environments, mnemonics, and learning strategies, and provides information about the considerations for practice that would assist educators in implementing the strategy. You can download a free copy of the tool at: <www.k8accesscenter.org

www.goodcharacter.com is a content-rich website that provides free resources ideas and materials to assist school personnel in implementing character education. The site provides grade level (elementary, middle, and high) teaching guides, which include discussion topics, writing suggestions, classroom activities, and other information related to K-12 character education. The following principles are emphasized throughout this website: Your character is defined by what you do, not what you say or believe; Every choice you make helps define the kind of person you are choosing to be; Good character requires doing the right thing, even when it is costly or risky; You don't have to take the worst behavior of others as a standard for yourself, you can choose to be better than that; What you do matters and one person can make a big difference; and The payoff for a good character is that it makes you a better person and it makes the world a better place.

Conference Assistance Fund

Formerly known as the Conference Assistance Fund, the Training Fund for Consumers and Family Members provides funds for individuals with developmental disabilities and/or their families to attend local, state, or national conferences, meetings, and workshops. The event MUST be disability related.

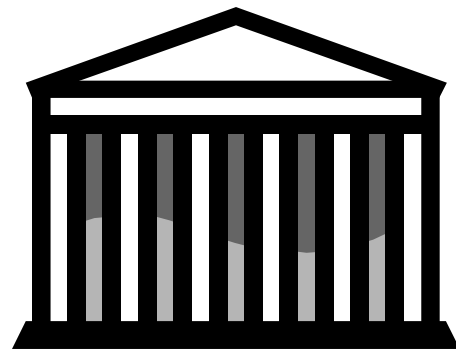
The TFCFM may only provide some of the funding necessary for you to attend a conference, so you may need to identify other funding to assist you in attending the event. Applications MUST BE submitted before the event (at least 30 days prior to attending in order to receive funds prior to the conference). The TFCFM is funded by the Virginia Board for people with Disabilities.

For information on the application process for the Training Fund for Consumers and Family Members, please contact Janet Bixby, Manager of Outreach, TFCF, c/o Access Independence, Inc., 403-B South Loudoun Street, Winchester, VA 22601; phone 540.662.4452; or , www.accessindependence.org.

Mini-Grants Available for Educators Working with Students with ASD

In an effort to promote the development of highly qualified personnel working with students with autism spectrum disorders across the state of Virginia, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is making \$1000 mini-grants available to applying school divisions for educator professional development. Mini-grant information and applications will be posted at the VDOE website later this month. Funds are available for both the acquisition of professional development resources, and for attending conference and training events. Examples of appropriate use of funds are attached with the application.

Check regularly for the posting of the Superintendent's Memo this month. Visit the VDOE website at <www.pen.k12.va.us>. Click on DOE offices, then on Special Education and Student Services. There you will find a link to Superintendent's Memos regarding special education. This is where the Supts Memo announcing the mini-grants will appear. You may also contact Brenda Dogan, Region 5 T/TAC @ JMU, <fogusbe@jmu.edu> or 540.568.7051, for further information.



Character Counts



Summer Fun

Access for All: Supporting Students with Moderate to Significant Disabilities.

June 28 & 29;

Holiday Inn Select, Lynchburg.

Keynote speakers are Norman Kunc and Emma VanDerKliff, Axis Consultation and Training LTD, and Daniel Wilkens, The Nth Degree.

Collaboratively sponsored by VA Dept. of Education, the Training/Technical Assistance Centers, and Partnership for People with Disabilities. Registration information: <www.conted.vt.edu/access4all>.

Shining Stars: Charting the Future for Today's Young Children. Virginia's Early Childhood Conference.

July 13: Hotel Roanoke,

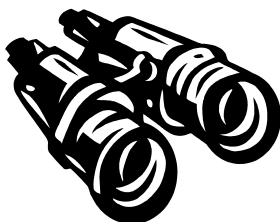
July 15: Holiday Inn West, Richmond.

Sponsored by VA Dept. of Education, the Training/Technical Assistance Centers, Partnership for People with Disabilities, and Child Development Resources.

Breakout sessions to include: Intro to Pre-K PALS, Routine based assessment, pre-literacy, blending practices in assessment, Part C to Part B transition, transitions in daily routines, phonological awareness, behavior, inclusion, multicultural, families.

Registration information:

<www.conted.vt.edu/shiningstars>.



Looking Ahead...

July 22 & July 23:

DCDT Summer Institute 2004, Virginia Division on Career Development and Transition/Council for Exceptional Children. Virginia Diocesan Center at Roslyn, Richmond. For more information, contact Sally Chappel, 540.568.8095 or <chappesl@jmu.edu>.

Oct 13:

Designing Behavior Support Plans for Students who Engage in Problematic Behaviors, JMU College Center, Harrisonburg. Presenter will be Dr. Cathy Pratt of the Indiana Resource Center for Autism. Co-sponsored with Commonwealth Autism Services (formerly TAP-VA).

November 3 & 4:

TechKnowledge 2004, Holiday Inn Koger Center South, Richmond.

Collaboratively sponsored by T/TACs at JMU, ODU, and VCU and the Children's Hospital, Richmond. Featured speakers include Jane Korsten, Barbara Bloomfield, Denise LaCost, Judith Sweeney, and Mary Wilds.

Raising The Bar

The Region 5 Training and Technical Assistance Center, in Collaboration with the Alvin V. Baird Attention and Learning Disabilities Center, held the third annual "Raising the Bar" meeting aimed at improving services for individuals with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (AD/HD) at the James Madison University College Center on March 23, 2004.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Linda Pfiffner, spoke on the different diagnoses and treatment options regarding AD/HD as well as her work which has focused on interventions for youth with AD/HD. Dr. Pfiffner recently conducted research on social skills interventions and the role of family factors in developmental models of children with AD/HD. Her development of an integrated home-school psychosocial intervention for children with AD/HD-I (inattentive type) was presented during the three hour morning session. Her presentation provided specific information for teachers, physicians, mental health providers, and parents about steps to effectively help children and families.

During the afternoon session Dr. Steven Evans, director of the Baird Center, presented data regarding Virginia's record of disciplinary actions of students with AD/HD and highlighted trends of the growing population of students diagnosed with the disorder. Dr. Evans' presentation was followed by a panel discussion that included a local lawyer specializing in juvenile affairs, a pediatrician involved in clinical studies of AD/HD, two teachers from local school systems, a parent of a child with AD/HD, and a student from a local high school who has the disorder. The meeting is held each year in the spring on the campus of James Madison University.