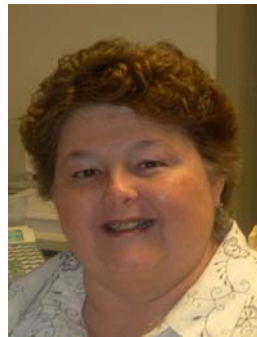
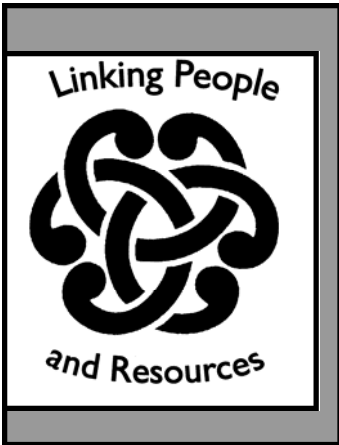


Regional Wrap-Up

Region 5 T/TAC @ JMU

Welcome Susan!



The Region 5 T/TAC is delighted to welcome Susan Bowman into a new position, our first events planner. Susan will work most closely with the autism and IST priority

projects to make arrangements for conferences and trainings, conduct registration, provide data entry, and do other responsibilities related to those projects' events. She will also provide support to other T/TAC events and to the Institute for Innovation in Health and Human Services at JMU, of which T/TAC is a part. Susan was employed for the past 15 years by the School Nutrition Association of Virginia as the administrative assistant. She also has work experience with the Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community, and the Virginia Department of Education where she worked in vocational education.

While the number of Internet sites that an average person visits may amount to hundreds by the end of the week, saving them in our browser's Favorites folder is an easy way to retrieve them later on. This time-saving technique works well if you're using the same computer every day, but what do you do if you're sharing someone else's classroom and the computer doesn't have any of your favorite sites stored on it? This is a dilemma that many teachers face on a daily basis as they try to plan or teach their lessons using the Internet in different classrooms throughout the day or week.

Fortunately, you no longer have to worry about searching the Web to locate your favorite educational sites. A new online service now allows anyone to create his or her own portable portal. This "portaportal" stores your personal favorites on a Web site and can be easily accessed from virtually any computer linked to the Internet. To begin using this free online bookmark utility, sign up at <www.portaportal.com>. You may customize your portaportal to contain any number of content-specific folders and links. In fact, you also have the option of allowing others to access your portaportal as guests. Simply e-mail them your portaportal guest page Web address.

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Accessing Your Internet Favorites from Any Computer

Panagiotis Kallis,
VDOE Region 5 T/TAC@ JMU

Today's teachers may find solace in an online world of educational tools and resources that are conveniently only a few "googles" and clicks away.

Conferences and Training Events

Sharing Internet resources with others around the country can be a powerful collaboration tool; however, its use is not limited just to teachers. With the current push for differentiating instruction, some teachers have also discovered the benefit of student-specific portaportals that can be designed with links to valuable educational Web sites that meet the individual needs of students. This is certainly possible to accomplish as there is no limit to the number of portaportals that one is allowed to create. If you would like more information on how to create your own portaportal, e-mail me, Pano Kallis, at <kallispx@jmu.edu>. Additionally, to see a sample portaportal created by a teacher, visit <www.portaportal.com> and type "TTAC" in the Guest Access box. You'll quickly realize the potential of portaportal as an instructional asset for both you and your students.

March 12-14, 2007:

Virginia Transition Forum, Norfolk Marriott Waterside, Norfolk, VA. Visit <www.virginiatransitionforum.org> for more information.

SECEP 2006-2007 Training for Educators and Service Providers of Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Social Skills Strategies for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Wednesday, November 29, 2006 or Wednesday, March 21, 2007

8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Registration deadline: November 26/March 18.
NO on-site registrations.

Instructional Strategies for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Wednesday, January 31, 2007 or Wednesday, April 25, 2007

8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Registration deadline: January 28/April 22.
NO on-site registrations.

Behavior Intervention Strategies for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders
Wednesday, February 28, 2007

8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Registration deadline: February 25.
NO on-site registrations.

Workshops are held at the SECEP facility located at 6160 Kempsville Circle, Suite 300B, Norfolk, VA 23502. Free parking is available on site. \$100 registration fee is required per workshop/per person. This fee includes materials, snacks, and lunch.

To register, contact Phyllis Kozakiewicz at 757.892.6100, fax 757.892.6111, or e-mail <Kozakiewicz.phyllis@secep.net>.

Visit us on the Web at <www.secep.net>.



Do you know....

...about PEATC? The Parent Educational and Advocacy Training Center is the Parent Training and Information center (or PTI) for Virginia. PTIs across the nation have joined with Community Parent Resource Centers (CRPCs) to form The Alliance to provide training and information to parents of infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities and to professionals who work with them. At The Alliance Web site, you can find one of the approximately 100 parent centers in the U.S. that is closest to you. Also at the site is information about scientifically-based research, the What Works Clearinghouse, a link to the U.S. Dept. of Education Technical Assistance and Dissemination Network, information about IDEA and NCLB, and parent-friendly publications. Visit the Web site at <www.taalliance.org>.

Planning for the Future

Beginning in 2004, VDOE Region 5 T/TAC teamed with JMU's Office of Disability Services and Exceptional Education Department to facilitate a half-day conference for parents, high school students with disabilities, teachers, and counselors. The conference focus is on the skills needed to apply to college and be successful in a college environment. The sessions are led by parents, college students with disabilities, and professionals.

The 3rd Annual Planning for the Future Conference will be held on Saturday, November 11th from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. at the Festival Conference and Student Center at James Madison University. As in the past, there will be a special strand for high school students with disabilities facilitated by successful college students with disabilities. For more information contact John McNaught at VDOE Region 5 T/TAC, 540.568.2641 or mcnaugit@jmu.edu

Some participant's comments from previous conferences include:

- Thank you for recognizing concerns of parents who have students with learning disabilities.
- I wish there had been one 5 years ago so we could have helped our son through high school without his having such a rough time.
- Thank you for presenting a compelling testimony to self disclosure and accepting being different... minimizing frustration and discouragement.
- Thank you for planning this very needed event. I gained valuable information as a parent of a high school senior with severe medical problems.
- Thank you for the information and all the hard work and preparation.

On the Web

Literacy Guidance for Parents in Multiple Languages

Read early and read often! The early years are critical to developing a lifelong love of reading and it's never too early to begin reading to your child. Read Across America partners Reading Rockets and Colorín Colorado have created parent guides in Spanish, Haitian Creole, Arabic, Russian, Traditional Chinese, Hmong, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Korean. The tips in these publications offer some fun ways you can help children become happy and confident readers. Download these free guides and share them in your communities. Tip sheets are also available at www.readingrockets.org/article/7833 for parents of children in kindergarten through third grade.

Fit Source: Physical Activity and Nutrition Resources for Child Care Settings: A Web Directory for Providers

There's a Web directory that links child care and after school providers to a wide variety of physical activity and nutrition resources! Housed within the Web site of the National Child Care Information Center (NCCIC), Fit Source offers links to activities, lesson plans, healthy recipes, information for parents, and many other downloadable tools that can be used to incorporate physical activity and nutrition into child care and after school programs. Resources are organized by age: infant/toddler, preschool, and school-age. Check it out at <http://fitsource.nccic.acf.hhs.gov/fitsource>.

Speaking about Speech!!

Below are two Web sites that will be great resources for speech-language pathologists, students, parents, and teachers.

The Talking Page

This Web site features sound clips and videos of children with apraxia speaking and reading. Produced by the father of a young man with apraxia, it features articles about apraxia, technology, and diagnosis of apraxia. The videos are wonderful and the sound quality excellent. Take a look, it is a great resource for any therapist with children with apraxia on their caseload! Visit <www.debtsmart.com/talk>.

Speechville Express

Therapists will welcome this Web site that includes stations for education, communication, regional resources, and diagnosis destinations. At diagnosis destination there is a wealth of information on many different diagnoses including articulation, aphasia, apraxia, PDD, stuttering and others. Each station is full of resources specific to students, parents, teachers, and therapists. Additionally, AAC, books, and software information is just a click away! View the site at <www.speechville.com>.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

June 25-29, 2007:

Content Teaching Academies, James Madison University, Harrisonburg. Academies in early childhood special education (preschool), K-5 elementary core, 6-12 Mathematics, 6-12 History and Social Studies, 6-12 Science, 6-12 English Language Arts, K-12 Gifted, K-12 Technology, K-12 English as a Second Language, and K-12 Administrators' Strand. Information will be available online in January.

July 11-13, 2007:

Early Childhood Shining Stars Conference, Ramada Oceanfront, VA Beach. Look for details in the spring!

June 23-27, 2008:

Content Teaching Academies, James Madison University, Harrisonburg.

VDOE Region 5 T/TAC Web site and Phone Number:

<http://ttac.cisat.jmu.edu/>
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Fax: (540) 568-6726
Email: henslejk@jmu.edu