



Linking People and Resources

REGION 5 T/TAC

Regional Wrap-Up

IST Program

Under the direction of the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), a new project being added to the regions 5, 6, & 7 T/TACs this year is the Instructional Support Team (IST) initiative. The IST program has been implemented in other regions of the state over the past three years. The IST program works with all personnel in the chosen site, including general and special educators, administrators, parents, support personnel, to provide additional modification and adaptation to curriculum to support students in the general classroom. The long term goal of the IST project is to reduce the special education referral rate. Joining the staff as

our new Instructional Support Team Coordinator is Melinda Bright. Melinda comes to us from Staunton City Schools where she was an upper elementary and middle school teacher. Melinda has also taught elementary grades in Augusta County and Waynesboro City schools. She has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Radford University and a master's in administration and supervision from the University of Virginia. Melinda has worked as a member of her school improvement team and has served on numerous other school committees during her public school teaching career. We welcome her knowledge and

expertise! She may be contacted at 540.568.7923 or <brightmb@jmu.edu>.



Welcome to T/TAC Melinda!

Assistive Technology

Richard Boon (known as "Boon"), our new assistive technology coordinator, most recently taught high school students with learning and emotional disabilities in Fairfax County. He also was a teaching assistant and adjunct faculty in the graduate school of education at George Mason University, where he is a Ph.D. candidate in special education with a minor in instructional technology. Boon's dissertation is focused on using *Inspiration* software v. traditional textbooks to teach high school social studies in inclusive classrooms. Boon holds bachelor and master degrees from Purdue University. He is also the president-elect of VA Federation, Council for Exceptional Children. Contact him at 540.568.3585 or <boonrt@jmu.edu>.

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Welcome Boon!

Changes...

One thing we know about life, and particularly the field of education, is that the one constant is change! During the summer, the T/TAC was not immune to alteration as we experienced several changes among the T/TAC staff.

Among our support personnel, we said good-bye to long-time program support tech, Kathy Dickenson. Kathy maintained the database, monitored the budget, was our webmaster, and formatted the attractive newsletter, brochure, and other print materials sent from our office. Linda Maxwell, formerly of JMU facilities management, has been with us since mid-May working on activities related to the budget, database, and consultant contracts. Jeannie Tallent, a former middle school

teacher in Harrisonburg, has just begun work at the T/TAC as our webmaster and publications person. Both Linda and Jeannie are working part-time and may be contacted at 540.568.7949.



Welcome Linda !



Congratulations Massengill Family !

We have a new T/TAC baby! Katera Ashley Massengill, daughter of Gina, one of our high incidence coordinators, entered the world on Friday, September 13. The family is doing well and we wish them our best.

Goodbye Maria !

We also said good-bye to Maria Beck, low incidence disabilities coordinator, who has taken on a new challenge by going to work for the Partnership for People with Disabilities (formerly VIDD), in Richmond, as a coordinator for the Deaf-Blind Project, Together We Can. Maria will still be a familiar face in Region 5 as she continues to collaborate with the T/TAC staff on

projects related to the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program.

Debbie Yancey, our assistive technology coordinator and speech-language pathologist, has moved over into Maria's former position as low incidence disabilities coordinator. Debbie joins Brenda Fogus, our other low incidence coordinator, and will continue to

respond to communication and low-tech AT inquiries. Debbie may be contacted at 540.568.7924 or <yanceydm@jmu.edu>.

The 2002-03 Tuition Assistance Program for Special Educators

Superintendents Memos and applications have been posted on the VA Department of Education website. For those teaching school-age students (ages 5 to 21): <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/suptsmemos/2002/inf103.html>

For Early Childhood Special Educators: <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/suptsmemos/2002/inf104.html>
There are a couple of changes for special educators teaching school age (5-21 years) students:

1. Funds are available for full time paraprofessionals enrolled in undergraduate or graduate courses related to special education areas

(Paraprofessionals remain eligible for early childhood funds),

2. Eligible teachers teaching students ages 5-21 must hold a conditional or provisional license and courses must lead to special education endorsement, and

3. Eligible teachers may not participate in another personnel preparation program where tuition assistance is provided by Va. Department of Education.

Eligible educators and paraprofessionals should apply for tuition assistance as soon as they have enrolled in courses. Applications will not be considered after the last day on

which a course is offered. Funds are limited for 2002-2003.

For further information, contact Patricia D. Burgess, Ed. D., Special Education Human Resources Development, Division of Teacher Education and Professional Licensure, Virginia Department of Education, PO Box 2120, Richmond, VA 23218-2120. Phone: 804.225.2096

Conferences & Training Events

October 10-12: Council for Learning Disabilities 24th International Conference, Denver, CO. Contact: 913.492.8755 or <KMcb41457@aol.com>

October 17: Transition Practitioner's Council Meeting: Best Practices to Facilitate Transition to College. American Frontier Culture Museum (Octagonal Barn), Staunton. Contact: Sally Chappel, JMU T/TAC, 540.568.8095, <chappesl@jmu.edu>

October 17-19: Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder 14th Annual Conference, Miami Beach, FL. Contact: 1.800.233.4050 or <national@chadd.org>

October 19-21: The P. Buckley Moss Foundation for Children's Education 5th Annual National Education Conference. The Creative Mind: A Natural Treasure. Lakeview Conference Center, Morgantown, WV. Contact: 540.932.1728 or <foundation@mossfoundation.org>

November 13-16: International Dyslexia Association 53rd Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA: Contact: 410.296.0232

November 19 & 20: Creating Connections: Celebrating Early Intervention in Virginia, DoubleTree Hotel, Charlottesville. Contact: Cori Hill, 804.828.7049

November 20-23: National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference, New York. Contact: 202.232.8777

November 21-24: American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA. Contact: 301.897.5700, ext. 4583 or <www.asha.org>

PREP Project of Virginia (Providing Resources and Education to Professionals) presents, "Working with Infants and Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing" (Beginning Level) at the following dates & locations:

Sept. 24: Roanoke, VA Tech Higher Ed Center

Oct. 15: Hampton, Radisson Inn

Nov. 8: Abingdon, SW Conference Center

Dec. 11: Blackstone, VA Tech Southern Piedmont Agricultural Research Extension Center

Feb. 12: Fredericksburg, Holiday Inn Select

Sponsored by Partnership for People With Disabilities (formerly VIDD) @ VCU. Funded by VDOE, VDH, VDMHMRSAS (Part C) & VDDHH. For further information, contact Laura Robertson, Partnership for People With Disabilities/VCU, at 804.827.0196 or <lroberts@mail1.vcu.edu>

Call for Proposals

April 2-4, 2003: TAP-VA (The Autism Program) 2nd Annual Conference, "Hands Across the Water." Sheraton Park South, Richmond. Contact Jill Aldrich, TAP-VA, <jaldrich@autismva.org> or 804.355.0300 for proposal information. Deadline for proposal submissions: November 1, 2002.

March 17-19, 2003: Virginia's Transition Forum 2003. Hotel Roanoke, Roanoke. Contact Sally Chappel, JMU T/TAC, 540.568.8095, <chappesl@jmu.edu> for proposal information.



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We're on the Web!
<<http://web.jmu.edu/ttac>>

The following websites related to mathematics, and graphing in particular, offer a variety of tools designed for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

<http://www.tsbvi.edu/math/tools-blind.htm>

http://dots.physics.orst.edu/~gardner/gardner_j_calculator1.htm

<http://www.rit.edu/~easi/easisem/graphaph.html>

<http://www.tsbvi.edu/Outreach/seehear/winter02/math.htm>

<http://www.rit.edu/~easi/nsfppd/9712608.htm>

<http://www.rit.edu/~easi/easisem/haptic.html>

TRANSITION INFORMATION

Do you want to know the latest trends and activities relating to transition in Virginia? Do you want a forum to ask your colleagues questions and help to promote transition in Virginia? Then sign up for UNITE-TALK Transition Listserv.

To subscribe, follow these instructions closely.

STEP 1: Address an e-mail message to: LISTSERV@listserv.vt.edu

STEP 2: Type in message: **SUBSCRIBE UNITE_TALK**

STEP 3: Make sure the caps lock key is turned off and send the message.

STEP 4: You will receive this confirmation notice.

Your command:

SUBSCRIBE UNITE_TALK <your name>

has been received. You must now reply to this message (as explained below) to complete your subscription. The purpose of this confirmation procedure is to check that the address LISTSERV@listserv.vt.edu is about to add to the list for your subscription is reachable.

STEP 5: To confirm your SUBSCRIPTION:

Reply (select the reply option) to the confirmation message and write

"OK"

in the body of the message (no subject, no signature lines and omit the quote marks). You will receive a welcome from the listserv moderator and little output note (toss this).

STEP 6: Your first message to the list: Write a short introduction of yourself telling where you are and what your interest in this discussion list will be and send that message to the list address.

UNITE_TALK@listserv.vt.edu

VOILA! You are now on the **UNITE_TALK** discussion list. Feel free to send messages of interest and ask questions of other list members concerning transition and related issues. We will send out announcements and questions to you also.

Use the **UNITE_TALK@listserv.vt.edu** address whenever you write to the entire list. When you want to reply to a person on the list (for his/her eyes only) please use the person's personal e-mail address.

So get plugged into our on-line discussion now! If you have any trouble subscribing call Susan Asselin at 540.231.8206 or e-mail her at [<sasselin@vt.edu>](mailto:sasselin@vt.edu)