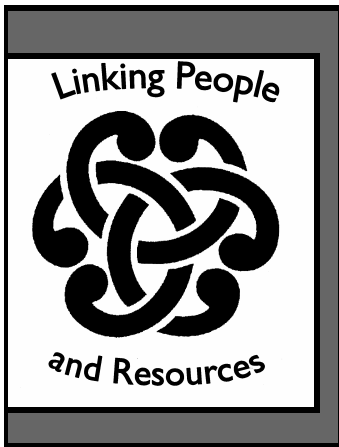


Regional Wrap-Up

Region 5 T/TAC @ JMU

Opportunities Abound!



Inside this issue:

Supporting Students with Disabilities	2
Free Newsletter	2
Surfing the Net	2
Planning a Conference	3
Congratulations	3
Note to Library Users	3

As you read through this issue of the T/TAC newsletter, please take note of the many opportunities for training and professional development that will be held throughout the spring and summer. February brings us the *Virginia Council for Exceptional Children conference* in Charlottesville and the *Virginia Council for Learning Disabilities annual spring symposium* in Williamsburg. March provides JMU's third annual *Raising the Bar conference for persons who work with individuals with ADHD* and Commonwealth Autism Services (formerly The Autism Program-Virginia) third annual conference in Richmond: *On Common Ground--Collaboration and Partnerships on Behalf of Those with Autism Whose Lives We Share*. In June you'll have the opportunity to attend the fifth annual *SOL Content Teaching Academies* at JMU, travel to Lynchburg for the third annual *Access for All conference* for personnel who work with students with moderate or severe disabilities, or to Roanoke for *AT and Aug Com: Making the Connections*. Early childhood folks can go to Roanoke on July 13 or Richmond on July 15 for Virginia's *early childhood education conferences*. All of the above events are of affordable prices, offer opportunities to network with colleagues, and include topics relevant

to today's teaching environments. The T/TACs are co-sponsoring and/or providing presenters and staff assistance at all of these events. We hope to see you there, too! Read on.....

Raising the Bar:

Improving Services for Individuals with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Across Virginia Third Annual Meeting. Tuesday, March 23, JMU College Center. Keynote presentation will be by Dr. Linda Pfiffner, Associate Professor and Director of the Hyperactivity, Attention, and Learning Problems Clinic at the Children's Center at Langley Porter, Dept. of Psychiatry, University of California, San Francisco.

Early Childhood Special Educators Take Note!

1) Mark your calendars! *Shining Stars: Charting the Future for Today's Young Children. Virginia's Early Childhood Education Conferences* will be held July 13 at Hotel Roanoke and July 15 at Holiday Inn West, Richmond. Information will be mailed in the spring. We hope you can attend one of these exciting and fun events!

2) *Early Childhood Transition from Part C Early Intervention to Part B*

Special Education and Other Services for Young Children with Disabilities Technical Assistance Document (August 2003) is now available on the VDOE website at <<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/sped/ta.shtml>> and on the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia website at <<http://www.infantva.org>>. This document replaces the 1996 document, *Suggestions and Examples on Transitioning from Services Under IDEA Part H to Part B*. The guidelines clarify questions about the roles and responsibilities of early intervention and public education systems in implementing a seamless services delivery system for Virginia's young children.

3) For information about early education and reading check out <www.getreadytoread.org>. The site is a project of the National Center for Learning Disabilities. *Get Ready to Read!*'s program vision is that all preschool children will have the skills they need to learn to read when they enter school. The site provides parents, educators, health care providers, and advocates with tools to help build early literacy skills.

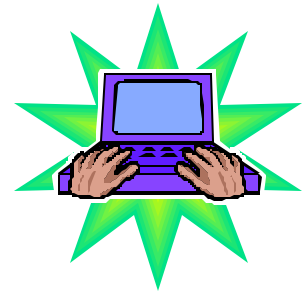
4) *Preschool Matters*, a publication of the National Institute for Early Education Research, is available on their Web site at <www.nieer.org>. NIEER, located at Rutgers University, supports early childhood education initiatives by providing objective, nonpartisan information based on research. The Web site includes policy briefs, news updates, a state databank of preschool information, on-line discussions, and numerous resources relevant to preschool education.

**Personnel who work with students with significant and/or multiple disabilities...
Mark your calendars...**

Third Annual Access For All Institute: Supporting Students with Moderate to Significant Disabilities. June 28 & 29, Holiday Inn Select, Lynchburg. Sponsored by VDOE, T/TACs, Virginia Deaf-Blind Project, and Together We Can Project. Registration and additional information available at <<http://www.conted.vt.edu/access4all>> or by contacting Jane Todd at 540.231.2014 or <janetodd@vt.edu>.



The T/TACs across Virginia are offering a free e-mail newsletter for parents and professionals serving students with autism. The newsletter will include teaching tips, web links, and conference information. If you would like to subscribe, please contact Judy Hensley at the Region 5 T/TAC, henslejk@jmu.edu or 1.888.205.4924, with your name, school, school division, and e-mail address.



Surfing the 'Net:

For information about Virginia's Instructional Support Team (IST) project, the IST Web page has been placed on the VA Department of Education's Web site. It can be found at: <<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/studentsrvcs/IST>>

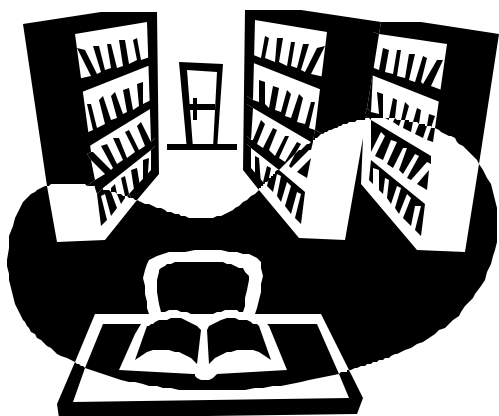
For information about personnel programs and tuition assistance for special educators, please explore <www.teachvirginia.org>.

Two booklets, *A Child Becomes a Reader*, are available from the Partnership for Reading and are designed for parents and caregivers to help young children become readers. One publication covers birth to preschool and the other grades K-3. The publications offer ideas to turn everyday interactions into learning opportunities and are based upon research studies on early literacy development. For online versions of the publications, visit <www.nifl.gov/partnershipforreading>.

So You Have to Plan a Conference...

While many of us attend conferences, quite a few have not had the opportunity to go “behind the scenes” to work on a conference planning committee. The work involved in planning a successful conference is time consuming and intense, sometimes frustrating, often frantic, and the first time one serves in this capacity may be overwhelming, to say the least. The T/TAC staff who recently were involved in the International DCDT Conference offer the following top ten list on how to create a successful conference:

1. Gain support from state organizations/agencies/families/consumers to back your efforts.
2. If there has been a previous conference, review all information. Speak to previous conference planners.
3. Identify eight or more persons, but not too many, who are willing to take a lead as a committee chair.
4. Start early: Secure conference rooms, lodging, and keynote speakers.
5. Create a good relationship with the host hotel and stay in constant communication.
6. Meet monthly to provide updates on how planning is progressing. Assign tasks before leaving each meeting.
7. Take meeting notes and follow-up with responsibilities outlined.
8. Allow extra time beginning about two weeks before the conference to deal with last minute items, problems, questions, and loose ends.
9. Always expect the unexpected—before and during the conference.
10. Take some time off following the conference, but get together soon with the planning committee to celebrate the conference’s success!



~~Congratulations!!!~~

to Dr. Reid Linn, Professor of Special Education and Principal Investigator for the Region 5 T/TAC grant at JMU. Dr. Linn was recently named the Associate Dean of the College of Graduate and Professional Programs at JMU.

to T/TAC Coordinator Brenda Fogus and Nejat Dogan who were recently married. You may contact Brenda Dogan at her same phone number (540.568.7051) and e-mail address (fogusbe@jmu.edu).

A Note To Our Library Users

Our coordinators and staff work diligently to offer the most current information available to our users. We often make purchases for the library on recommendations from you, our users. In an attempt to satisfy the numerous and varied needs we purchase a minimal number of copies of each item. This means that there may only be a few copies of each item available for check out for our large user list. When sending materials out, if there is another user requesting the same material, I make every effort to send with the materials a note regarding the reserve placed on the enclosed material with a due date reminder. If the item is not on reserve only a note regarding the due date and opportunities to renew are included. New materials are in high demand. Your expediency in returning materials by their due date allows multiple users the opportunity to use them. Thank you for your cooperation in using the T/TAC lending library.

Judy Hensley, T/TAC Librarian