



# VAECE E-NEWSLETTER

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## Save the Date!

2017 Week of the Young Child will be April 24-28, 2017

The Week of the Young Child, first established in 1971, is an annual celebration aimed to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

Information about Virginia's 2017 WOYC Celebration will be coming soon! To learn more check out <http://www.naeyc.org/woyc>

## Noteworthy News

U.S. Department of Education Releases Guidance on Supporting Early Learning through the Every Student Succeeds Act

"The U.S. Department of Education released non-regulatory guidance to help ensure young children from birth through third grade get the strong start they need to achieve success in school and in life"

Check out the article [here!](#)

## President's Message: Change is in the air at VAECE

### *Reaffiliation with NAEYC*

In August we submitted our application for re-affiliation with NAEYC. We have heard back from NAEYC on our application and have been asked to provide clarification on three items, which is great news! Please read the update on reaffiliation from our past president, Debi Deloose for more information.

### *New Governance Structure*

The VAECE board has been working hard to implement a new governance structure that is more inclusive and open - where everyone's voice is heard. The response from our board members has been overwhelmingly supportive of this change. You'll learn about opportunities for your own involvement at conference in Hampton this March 31-April 1.

### *New Administrative Support*

We hired Savanna Love as our new administrative assistant

in August. Savanna is already implementing changes such as this new format for our newsletter and is the point of contact for our association. While this was a requirement for re-affiliation, it was also necessary as Sara Dix Smith left for a full time position in Bedford in June. Savanna brings her organizational skills and professionalism to our organization as she finishes up her dissertation at VCU and works as an assistant volleyball coach at Randolph Macon College.



### *New Conference Facilitators*

We also contracted with two new facilitators for our annual conference. Jennifer Hamlin and Jennifer Root, have been working behind the scenes since June along with our conference



## Update from the Valley Chapter

The Valley Chapter held a fall board meeting in September. During that meeting, part of our work was planning for a fall membership meeting. The membership meeting was held on October 24th. After a pizza dinner, two lead teachers from James Madison University's Young Children's Program presented a program on diversity. Session participants involved in this Make and Take workshop were able to make diversity themed items that could be taken back to the classroom and replicated with their children. We enjoyed seeing and working with both new and returning faces.

## Update from the Southwest Chapter

The Southwest Chapter created a listserv of current members using MailChimp to share information pertaining to the chapter and VAECE. We have also looked at our membership roster to seek out potential board/committee members. Unfortunately, many have served in past years and while still want to be a member do not want to serve on the board/committee. While others just didn't show any interest in participating. So instead of focusing on that, we are partnering with Child Care Aware of Virginia to offer training to providers. Our hope is, this will help us with awareness in the coverage area, since at this point we are nonexistent.

committee and VP Jane Plum, to plan conference. We are excited about the changes they are bringing and their expertise to make this year's conference a wonderful learning opportunity for all. The conference will be held from March 30th - April 1st in Hampton, Virginia. More information is available on our website:

[www.vaece.org](http://www.vaece.org)



## Update from Central Virginia

Central Virginia is hosting free PD. Join us at the Jefferson Madison Regional Library in Downtown Charlottesville on November 9th at 6:30 pm for two hours of free professional development. Pizza is FREE, parking is validated, and our informative and local educational leaders Jennifer Slack and Lynne Crofts will be sharing professional development for FREE! Problem with Praise: You've heard all the buzz about avoiding 'Good Job' but a few of us know what we should say to support learning. Join us to learn about the research showing negative effects of praise and what you can say instead. -- Jennifer Slack, Our Neighborhood Child Development Center director and CVAEYC president. Mindfulness for Educators: Less stress, improved memory, increased concentration, better control of emotions. Learn how mindfulness can lead to happier, more resilient lives. -- Dr. Lynne Crofts, UVA professor and Mindfulness teacher as well as long time educator. Visit us online to learn more! <http://cvaeyc.wixsite.com/cvaeyc/mini-conference>

Central Virginia is gearing up for a huge early childhood institute. Deb Curtis and associates are coming to Charlottesville January 19th-21st. Teachers as Researchers is a three day institute for early childhood educators to transform your thinking about the teacher's role in education, learn more about being a reflective practitioner, and build skills to develop these reflective practices in your community. Visit our website to learn more, <http://ourneighborhood.community/teachers-as-researchers-2017-institute.html> REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

## Update from Southeastern Virginia

On October 15, Southeastern AEYC hosted its' tenth annual "Raising the Bar" Conference with a patriotic theme.

## SECA Conference

The SECA 2017 Conference will be in Biloxi Mississippi. The resort is beautiful and the presenters are amazing. Dr. Tammy Pawloski will deliver her keynote address, Challenges and Opportunities: Why Poverty Matters and How Teachers Can Matter and Dr. Susan B. Neuman, author of eleven books, including Changing the Odds for Children at Risk and Giving Children a Fighting Chance, will share insights. For more information about the speakers and schedules, visit the SECA webpage at <http://www.southernearlychildhood.org/speakers-and-schedules/>, download the conference app at <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.kitapps.android.builder.seca2014>, or contact me, your Virginia SECA Representative, Susan Barnes at [barnessk@jmu.edu](mailto:barnessk@jmu.edu).

Over 500 ECE professionals attended the 57 workshops offered and visited with 40 vendors. We welcomed Family Child Care Provider, Kim Adams, as she serenaded us with, *God Bless America*, as our opener and Keynote Speaker and Center Based Child Care Provider/Advocate, Phillip Hawkins, Jr. We have 151 members to date and our goals include



welcoming new and returning members, and recruiting newly opened facilities and students. We are currently partnering with TAECE in the planning process of the VAECE annual conference.

## Update from Northern Virginia

In collaboration with a local library, Northern Virginia AEYC has held three free "Arty-Party" events for families this year. The events attracted between 50 and 100 attendees.

On October 22 Northern Virginia AEYC held a seminar about dyslexia and how it presents in preschoolers and kindergartners and about how to talk to and work with parents when there are concerns about a child's development or emotional well-being.

Northern Virginia AEYC's annual fall conference is planned from 8:30 to 4:00 on Saturday, November 12. Keynote speaker, Rae Pica, will kick off an exciting day of early childhood training for conference attendees. Fifteen workshops will be held during three sessions.

Northern Virginia AEYC is proud to present its 2016 Outstanding Service to Young Children Award to Linda K. Smith. Linda is currently

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development, with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. During her career with tribal preschools, military child care, child care resources & referral agencies, and at HHS, Linda has been a strong champion for high-quality early education for all young children. The award will be presented at the



November 12 conference.

Northern Virginia AEYC Board has expressed a commitment to maintaining a strong, collaborative relationship with VAECE as we move forward to the next chapter in our relationship with NAEYC.

### *Update from PWAIEYC*

PWAIEYC wrapped up their 3 Summer/Fall Training events with the Fall Conference held on Saturday, October 22. Participants rotated between 4 different topics: Demystifying the Virginia Milestones by Krista Dawson; Spotlight on Literacy Development by Mariella Walker; Promoting Meaningful Learning by Marcy Hemminger; and Connecting Children with Nature by Carol Clark. Participant were able to network with their colleagues while building on their knowledge base.

### *Moving forward! NAEYC Restructure Update*

VAECE leadership is very excited about this next chapter in our organization. We have every confidence that upon review by NAEYC that the affiliate application will be sent onto the NAEYC governing board for approval (January 2017). A big thank you to the VAECE leadership for supporting the restructuring process.

Once the application is approved and Virginia signs an affiliation agreement with NAEYC (by April 2017) we will have much work ahead of us but we are up to the challenge! The final roll out of the NAEYC affiliate restructure will occur in September 2017. Until that date your membership continues as it has in the past-NAEYC, SECA, VAECE, local affiliate or chapter. As that date approaches VAECE members will be kept up to date on changes taking place.

As you know, local affiliates (just as state affiliates) had to decide about becoming an affiliate, becoming a chapter or disassociating with AEYC all together. You will be hearing from your local affiliate regarding their individual board decision on their future status. Northern Virginia has applied for affiliate status and the Virginia affiliate looks forward to continuing collaboration with that group. VAECE is hoping that the remaining affiliates will choose to become chapters of the state affiliate. Together we are stronger! Currently, two local affiliates are considering disbanding and another is considering dissolving its relationship with NAEYC. The Virginia affiliate is continuing conversation with those affiliates so that member services can continue on a local level.

VAECE is also an affiliate of SECA and recently signed an updated affiliation agreement with that organization. Change is in the air and during 2017 you will be hearing from the Virginia affiliate as well as SECA as to how you will be able to make a choice about your national membership (SECA or NAEYC) or a combination of memberships to meet your needs.

