



This e-newsletter offers brief updates on CEED people, projects, and events.

About CEED

Happy New Year!

Our friends and colleagues at the Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement (CAREI) were featured in [a recent Star Tribune article](#) on legislation to promote research on education. What a great way to start the year!

Projects

Minnesota Early Learning Foundation (MELF) staff at CEED are wrapping up this fall's data collection in collaboration with MELF Research Consortium partners Child Trends, SRI, and Wilder Research. Two large components of this data collection period were interviewing parents and assessing children. In addition, staff are busy preparing to collect data early this year from providers, teachers, directors, and home visitors through surveys, interviews, and focus groups. Data being collected will contribute to the understanding of how early care and education contribute to school readiness for low income children in the state.

Here are this month's updates for the Center for Response to Intervention in Early Childhood (CRTIEC):

- In December, Scott McConnell and Tracy Bradfield traveled to D.C. to present current progress on the CRTIEC grant. They received a warm reception and presented on building an assessment architecture to screen students and monitor progress in a Response to Intervention model.
- Additionally, CRTIEC pushed forward with an IRB application for new oral language measure development and recently were approved to begin pilot testing new oral language measures that include new formats and measures that access both receptive and expressive language skills in preschoolers. They've also been working with U of M faculty member Michael Rodriguez to include advanced analyses of items and ability in our data collection effort using Item Response Theory (IRT), which ideally will lead to a more robust set of measures.
- Finally, CRTIEC GRAs have moved forward in branching out on each remaining "arm" of early literacy, (alphabetic principle, comprehension and phonemic awareness), working hard to prepare new, unique measures and building a theoretical foundation for each area, which will eventually lead to additional IRB applications and pilot testing in the coming months.

Publications and Web Updates

Great news! You can now view the 2007 and 2008 Harris Forum lectures in their entirety on the CEED website. The lectures are presented in Breeze format, a multimedia platform that allows you to view the video and PowerPoint slides simultaneously. Visit [the Harris Forum section](#) of the website to access these presentations.

Professional Development

We're pleased to announce the launch of a new online course offered through CEED: *Premature Babies and Their Parents: Information and Insights for Early Intervention Personnel*. This course is designed to enhance the skills of early intervention professionals by providing them with background information about the experiences of parents who have given birth prematurely, the effect of premature birth on the infant's behavior and development, information about developmental care, and other research-based strategies proven to enhance the child's development and offer both parent education curricula as well as implementation strategies. For more information about this and our other online courses, which are open for enrollment throughout the year, please visit [the online courses section](#) of our website.

Events

You heard it here first! The 2009 Harris Forum will take place from 1:00-3:30pm on Thursday, May 14, 2009 at the U of M's Coffman Memorial Union Theater. This year's Harris Visiting Scholar is Dr. Sheree Toth (Associate Professor of Psychology, University of Rochester; Executive Director, Mt. Hope Family Center), who will present on "Bridging Research and Practice: Relational Interventions for At-Risk Infants and Toddlers." Registration is not yet open--you'll receive a separate email announcement when it's ready.

Partners and Links

Please visit the CEED website, <http://cehd.umn.edu/ceed>, for ongoing listings of job opportunities with partnering organizations and individuals.

CEED Sampler is compiled and distributed by the [Center for Early Education and Development](#) at the University of Minnesota. Editor: Sara Zetteravall (sarazet@umn.edu; 612-625-2252). To be removed from the newsletter mailing list, please e-mail ander352@umn.edu with "Unsubscribe, CEED email list" in the subject line. The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.