



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

About CEED

Tracy Bradfield, Project Coordinator for CEED's Assessment and Training Center, successfully defended her dissertation on Thursday, February 19. Congratulations, Dr. Bradfield!

Richard Weinberg, Professor at the Institute of Child Development and former Director of CEED, received the Tom H. Swain Campus Recognition Award at the University of Minnesota's 20th annual Scholar-Athlete Awards Ceremony on February 16th. The award was in recognition of his nine years of going above and beyond the call of duty in his role as Faculty Athletics Representative.

Projects

Five Hundred under Five (500u5), the North Minneapolis project to get at-risk kids ready for kindergarten, now has a website: <http://www.500under5.org>. Please visit it and help spread the word that it's up and running.

February was a busy month for work involving the **Classroom Assessment and Scoring System (CLASS)**:

- Vicki Hawley (CEED) and Mary Ann Marchel (University of Minnesota-Duluth) conducted a reliability training for 14 people representing several Head Start programs, child care consultants, and the PI and other investigators from a federal University-Head Start partnership grant between CEHD C&I (Gillian Roerhig, P.I.) and White Earth Head Start.
- On Feb. 13th, Vicki Hawley facilitated an "Introducing CLASS" teacher in-service for 13 ECFE and School Readiness teachers in South Washington County schools.
- On Feb. 16-17, 18 participants from 6 Head Start programs and five school district early childhood programs attended the "Using CLASS in Professional Development" training (Vicki Hawley and Jonathan Fribley). "Using CLASS in Professional Development" is funded by a grant from MDE. The participants will divide into two cohorts and participate in monthly online learning communities about what it means to begin to integrate CLASS into programs. The online learning communities will be facilitated by Vicki Hawley and Katie Gag, with technical assistance from Allyson Candee, who got the cohort off to a great start by setting us up on cohorts on MOODLE.

The **Center for Response to Intervention in Early Education (CRTIEC)** submitted three new applications for review to the IRB to begin piloting new IGDI measures. The new measures, targeting expressive and receptive language, phonological awareness and alphabetic principle were developed by the team and are showing process with preschool aged populations. Additionally, CRTIEC continues to work hand in hand with the current IGDI validation study to make use of the new IGDI card formats and supplement our current research applications. We also recently hosted our first CRTIEC network meeting, which included professionals in local districts who have an interest and/or are implementing response to intervention strategies at the preschool level. The meeting was well received and CRTIEC will be hosting a series of these meetings surrounding topics in early childhood applications of RTI.

Publications and Presentations

Christopher Watson, CEED Interim Co-Director, will be a featured speaker at the upcoming MNAFEE Conference in St. Cloud. [The MNAFEE website](#) has registration information and brochure.

Amy Susman-Stillman, CEED Interim Co-Director, was a panelist in a session at the 14th Annual Minnesota Evaluation Studies Institute, entitled "Balancing the Larger Issues of Social Justice Against the Demands of the Marketplace." The session took place on February 25.

Amber Hays and Scott McConnell presented a paper at the National Association of School Psychologists convention on February 26, 2009. The paper was entitled "Defining and Measuring School Readiness: Theoretical Considerations and Practical Applications." A report will be submitted to the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation this spring.

Professional Development

We always use this space to promote our online courses, but this time we're proud to include some information on the students in those courses. We are offering 6 courses this session. Two of these are new courses offered for the first time, which have enrolled 73 students from 18 U.S. states, 3 U.S. Territories, and two other countries. Participants from the other five courses run the gamut of early childhood professions and interrelated disciplines and are from: MN, CT, ME, OK, VA, AR, ND, NY, IL, WI, WV, MI, NM, CA, ME, MD, PA, OR; Pago Pago in American Samoa; Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands near Guam; St. Croix in the Virgin Islands; Aberdeen, Scotland; and Ontario, Canada. The Prenatal Developmental Interventions course (for professionals working with families during pregnancy) will begin its pilot run soon, with participants selected by the instructor and who will provide additional feedback on the course for this pilot run. It is anticipated that in addition to some Minnesotans, participants will include people from Australia, Germany, Iceland, the Apache Reservation in AZ, Texas, and Washington, DC. You can read more about each course [on our website](#). Course sessions are held three times per year. If you do work in the community or with organizations that you think may be interested in these topics, please feel free to invite them to post a course flyer or course schedule.

Events

Registration is still open for the Harris Forum on May 14, 2009. Dr. Sheree Toth (Mt. Hope Family Center, University of Rochester) will speak on "Bridging Research and Practice: Relational Interventions for At-Risk Infants and Toddlers." Visit [the Harris Forum website](#) for a description of the lecture, Dr. Toth's bio, and registration information.

CEED is proud to be a co-sponsor of the "Parenting with *NO*" workshop series, presented by the National Institute on Media and the Family. The workshop is open for registration in locations throughout Minnesota in the next few months. For complete information, visit the Say Yes to No website at <http://www.sayyestono.org>.

As you may know, the CEED Round Table is a biennial event scheduled to happen this year. Although we usually hold the Round Table in the spring, this year we're planning it for the fall. So, never fear, it's on the way, and you'll hear more about it later in the year.

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 Zettervall (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.