



Official Newsletter of the Illinois Subdivision of the Division for  
Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children

Volume 18, Issue 2

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## Message from the IDEC President...

**Mojdeh Bayat**

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### Find us on the web at

<http://illinois-dec.org/>

The *IDEC Newsletter* is a quarterly publication of the Illinois Division for Early Childhood. Please send inquiries, comments, and article submissions to:

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Dear IDEC Members,

Happy New Year! I hope 2012 will be a healthy, productive, and happy year for all of you. Year 2011 ended with some notable successful events for the IDEC. First, our Sharing a Vision conference, which took place in September, was successful and well-attended. Plans are already underway for our next SAV conference. We had a great turnout at our IDEC business lunch in SAV, with Shannon Christian, from the Governor's office being our guest speaker. Dr. Bernie Laumann received the Jeanette McCullum Award (please see page 3 for details).

In November, we held a membership drive under the leadership of Sharon Doubet, the IDEC Chair of the Membership Committee, and Lorie Erbrederis Meyer, the student representative. A version of the flyer that was developed can be found on page 11. We hope that our loyal members will make every effort to pass the IDEC membership information to their friends and colleagues who are not members.

Finally, starting with the next issue, we will be devoting a new column to celebrating our individual members who have had notable achievements through their excellent work on behalf of children

and their families. Please send our Newsletter editor, your nominations of any colleague and friend whom you think should be acknowledged, celebrated, and appreciated in our community.

Sincerely,

*Mojdeh Bayat*

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### Nominating Committee Needed for 2012 Elections!

We are soliciting nominations for IDEC members to serve on the "Nominating Committee." This small group of people will help oversee the 2012 elections process. We will correspond via e-mail and possibly telephone regarding development of a slate of candidates to present to the IDEC Governing Board. Then we develop a ballot, send it out to the membership, tally the votes, certify the winners, and announce the results. Members would serve about two hours a month in March and April 2012. If you are interested in securing the next set of leaders in the early childhood field, then please contact Robin Miller Young by **January 15, 2012.**

Robin Miller Young, IDEC Past President  
Elections and Nominations Chairperson  
630-375-1118

[Robin\\_MillerYoung@ipsd.org](mailto:Robin_MillerYoung@ipsd.org)

## IDEC Call For 2012 Nominations

Looking for a way to get more involved in advocating for young children with disabilities, those at-risk for developing disabilities, and their families? IDEC has leadership positions available in which YOU can make a difference!

Currently, there are two positions that need to be filled by election: Vice-President and Treasurer. The elected officers will begin their terms on July 1, 2012.

The **IDEC Vice-President** gradually assumes more responsibility for leadership rather than being immediately thrust into the position of President. The Vice-President cycles through three other positions (President-Elect, President, Past President), thus committing to four years of participation. Although this sounds like a long time, it works to the Vice-President's advantage with regard to working with and being mentored by the other officers currently in these positions. As outlined in the IDEC By-Laws, specific tasks of the Vice-President include the following:

- (a) serve in the President's place and with his/her authority in the case of absence or inability of the President and President-Elect;
- (b) accept designated responsibilities that will provide training experiences that offer advancement to the office of President-Elect and President; and
- (c) serve as Chair (or Co-Chair) of a committee on the Sharing A Vision (SAV) state conference planning committee, assisting the President-elect as necessary; and
- (d) serve as the liaison with the Illinois Council for Exceptional Children (ICEC).

The **IDEC Treasurer** serves a two-year term. Per the IDEC By-Laws, the tasks include the following:

- (a) make an annual report of the financial status of the subdivision to the Executive Board and at the annual business meeting;
- (b) prepare and submit an annual budget for approval by the Executive Board and at the annual business meeting;
- (c) arrange for annual audit at the conclusion of the fiscal year, June 30, by a certified public accountant;
- (d) serve as the fiscal agent for the bi-annual state conference "Sharing A Vision" (SAV);
- (e) be responsible for Subdivision banking and all phases of bookkeeping;
- (f) function as the chair of the state conference SAV budget committee and supervise development of the budget;
- (g) present the state conference SAV budget to the Executive Board for approval;
- (h) have check writing privileges along with the IDEC President; and
- (i) annually renew the articles of incorporation for 501(c)3 status.

Further details about all of these positions can be found in the IDEC Constitution and By-Laws on the IDEC website: <http://idec.crc.uiuc.edu/index.html>

If you are interested in one of these positions or know an IDEC member who might be interested, please let me know by Thursday, **March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012**. You may contact me at 630-375-1118 or at [Robin\\_MillerYoung@ipsd.org](mailto:Robin_MillerYoung@ipsd.org).

Robin Miller Young  
Immediate Past President IDEC  
Chairperson, Nominating Committee

## **Bernie Laumann is Winner of JAM Award!**

Bernadette “Bernie” Laumann was named as the 2011 winner of the Jeanette A. McCollum (JAM) Award for Service to the Field by the Illinois Division of Early Childhood (IDEC). The announcement took place on Tuesday, September 27, 2011 at the Sharing A Vision early childhood conference held in Springfield, Illinois. The Jeanette A. McCollum Award for Service to the Field is presented to an early childhood professional, family member, student, or community member who meets high-standards of professional practice and leadership set by Jeanette A. McCollum, Professor Emeritus at the University of Illinois – Urbana/Champaign. The winner must have made significant contributions on a state, regional, or local level which have improved or will improve the lives of young children with special needs, their families, or those who work on their behalf. Bernie was chosen by a committee of IDEC members including LuAnn Shields and Kristy Herrell, Prairie Children Preschool, IPSD # 204; Jennifer Loncola Walberg, Associate Professor, DePaul University and Wu-Ying Hsieh, Assistant Professor, University of Illinois at Chicago.

Bernie was nominated by a joint committee of her former colleagues at the University of Illinois – Urbana/Champaign, including Drs. Mary-alayne Hughes, Micki Ostrosky, Amy Santos and Susan Fowler. A few of the many highlights from the nomination letters submitted by these four colleagues and three additional colleagues who also wrote letters of support are provided below.

According to Dr. Hughes, “Bernie has worked tirelessly on behalf of young children with disabilities and their families for over 30 years. She has a wealth of experience across a broad range of Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) roles, including serving as an ECSE teacher and principal of one of the first inclusive preschool programs in the state of Illinois. In her role as principal, she worked diligently with the classroom teachers and staff to make the inclusive early childhood program a model site in the state of Illinois.” As indicated by Dr. Susan Maude, Iowa State University, “Dr. Laumann’s program was one of seven sites out of 50 recognized as a Finalist in the Search for Exemplary Practices. She also gave generously of her time to educate program visitors about developing inclusive educational opportunities for children in their own sites.” Additionally, Dr. Laumann has worked in a variety of capacities in the University of Illinois’ Department of Special Education and was included on the University’s “Teachers Ranked as Excellent” list a total of 17 semesters! One of her former students, Laura Czopek, who is now a Developmental Therapist, said, “Bernie demonstrated her vast understanding of the field of early childhood and presented class material in a creatively organized and easy-to-understand fashion. She helped many college students find success in the college classroom, in turn, positively impacting the lives of countless young children.” Bernie is continuing to train new teachers at Eastern Illinois University. One of her new colleagues at Eastern, Dr. Rebecca Cook, stated the following: “Bernie’s career appears to be driven by priorities to have high expectations of teacher candidates, strong collaborative relationships within and across fields, a tireless consumption of research, in-depth knowledge of current issues, and being a strong proponent of families and their pivotal role in their children’s development.”

Each letter writer also commented on Bernie’s outstanding leadership abilities. She is a “quiet” leader who simply gets things done without a lot of fanfare. She has served IDEC in various roles, including President, and she capably served as the Chairperson of the Past President’s Council, a position created especially to keep her on the board and to develop new leaders in the organization.

Finally, please note the following comments written by Jeanette McCollum, for whom the award is named, which were shared at the time of the announcement. She knew that Bernie had been chosen as the 2011 winner of the award named in her honor and although she could not be present to congratulate Bernie in person, she asked that these words be shared on her behalf.

“Bernie - I feel like I've known you most of my professional career, and so am wondering why I'm still older than you are! You came to the U of I in what was, I think, my second year of teaching. I remember your cohort with great fondness because you were all eager to learn and very supportive of one another. In these respects you haven't changed very much! You have had a successful career as a teacher and as an administrator. Teacher education has always been your passion, whether as an administrator or more recently as a college teacher and now professor. You have always set your standards high, and have never wavered in your commitment to high quality early childhood education. I am very proud of you, and proud to have been one of your mentors. And of course proud that you were selected for this award. ”

Congratulations, to Bernie, on her selection as the 2011 Jeanette A. McCollum Service to the Field award winner!

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## **Literacy Resources for Infants and Preschoolers from Washington Learning Systems**

The Washington Learning Systems in Seattle, Washington has been developing research-based early literacy materials since 2004. Resources for preschoolers include *Supporting Early Literacy in Natural Environments* which are suggested activities for parents, caregivers, and young children. There are 46 activities for home and community. Each activity includes a description, hints for making the activity fun and developmentally appropriate, and a self-evaluation that guides adults to notice children's skills and to examine and increase their own interactions with children. Activities are in pdf format and available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Somali, Burmese, and Russian. A similar set of activities is available for promoting early literacy with infants. Activities, articles, and other resources can be downloaded from their website:

<http://www.wlearning.com/resources>

**WASHINGTON**  
LEARNING SYSTEMS



# Interested in how to prepare teachers to work in blended early childhood programs?

**Project Blend** is a new leadership training program in the Department of Special Education at the University of Illinois. The program is funded by the Office of Special Education Programs of the US Department of Education and is designed to prepare doctoral students to become leaders in developing blended teacher preparation programs in early childhood education, early childhood special education, and early intervention.

Project Blend graduates will earn a PhD and be qualified to develop and sustain teacher preparation programs that prepare new teachers to meet the needs of children with diverse abilities including children identified with or at-risk for developmental delays, as well as those diagnosed with a specific disability.

Students will be immersed in rigorous research focused on issues that support the development and effective delivery of inclusive preschool programs and early intervention services.

Project Blend focuses on four areas of competency:

- (1) *Knowledge of disability law and educational policy for children, birth to 5.*
- (2) *Ability to improve child outcomes through rigorous research and data-based decision making.*
- (3) *Skills to translate research into practice.*
- (4) *Ability to align early childhood curriculum to current state standards for early learning.*

Students will acquire these competencies through coursework, a seminar series, fulfillment of doctoral requirements, and experiential learning that include:

- *Participation in internship related to state and federal policy development and implementation.*
- *Internship on the translation of research into practice.*
- *Co-teaching of required ECE/ECSE/EI pre-service courses.*
- *Supervising pre-service teachers in blended programs.*

Full-time students funded through Project Blend will receive a competitive monthly stipend, tuition waiver, and yearly research and conference travel allowance. Students must be a US citizen or lawful permanent resident to qualify for funding.

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**For more information about *Project Blend*, please contact:**

**Susan Fowler ([safowler@illinois.edu](mailto:safowler@illinois.edu)) or  
Amy Santos ([rsantos@illinois.edu](mailto:rsantos@illinois.edu))**

**Department of Special Education  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
288 Education Building \* 1310 South Sixth Street  
Champaign, IL 61820 \*\* 217-333-0260**

**For information about the admission process, visit  
<http://education.illinois.edu/sped/AdmissionsDoctoral.html>**

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## Workshops Offered Through Chicago Botanic Garden and Kohl's Children Museum

New! [Art and Science with Found Objects: A Workshop for Preschool Teachers](#)

February 18, 2012, at the Chicago Botanic Garden

February 25, 2012, at Kohl's Children Museum

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Fee: \$150 (\$120 for Educator Members)

Grade level: PreK – 2

CPDU credit: 15, CPS Lane credit: 1, Graduate credit: 1

An additional fee for graduate credit (\$100 per credit through Aurora University and \$140 per credit through National Louis University) will be collected on the first day of the workshop.

The Chicago Botanic Garden and Kohl's Children Museum are excited to partner for the first time to offer this workshop for preschool teachers. This workshop will focus on creating art using re-purposed materials and incorporating science using natural materials into your classroom. This class is designed for PreK educators but is adaptable for PreK – 2.

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### No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Statewide Conference February 7-9, 2012



#### Early Childhood Focus

Wednesday, February 8, 2012  
featuring Dr. Lilian Katz

Sheraton Towers Hotel  
Chicago, Illinois

This conference for teachers and administrators features impressive keynote speakers, more than 200 concurrent sessions and expert panels focused on federal and state educational initiatives. Topics include ESEA/NCLB updates, continuous school improvement, early childhood education, technology in the classroom, special education, education for English language learners, family-school relations, and teaching strategies in core content areas.

For additional conference information, contact the The Center: Resources for Teaching and Learning at (224) 366-8555 or visit the web site: [www.thecenterweb.org/irc](http://www.thecenterweb.org/irc)



*Interested in getting paid while earning your master's degree?*



***Preparing Relationship-based Early Intervention &  
Early Childhood Special Education Personnel:  
PREP II Project***

The Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) program in the Department of Special Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has been awarded federal funding (PREP II Project) to support students interested in earning a **master's degree**, with an emphasis on working with young children, ages birth to six, with disabilities and their families. This is a 2 year full-time program of study on the Champaign-Urbana campus. There are no online courses at the present time.

Interested individuals should apply to the graduate program in the Department of Special Education.

For more information about the application process and admission deadlines, visit: <http://education.illinois.edu/sped/AdmissionsMasters.html>. Applicants should indicate their interest in the PREP II project in the goal statement component of the application materials.

If accepted into the program, funding consists of a traineeship stipend, a tuition waiver, and waiver of some fees. Funding is limited and awarded on a competitive basis. Attached to this funding is a service obligation to be fulfilled after completion of the degree.

For more information contact:

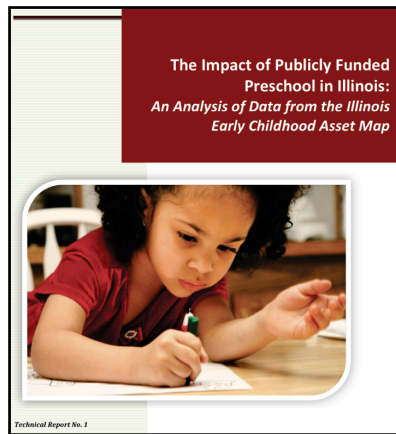
**Mary-alayne Hughes, Project Director**  
[mahughes@illinois.edu](mailto:mahughes@illinois.edu)



The Illinois Resource Center: Early Childhood in partnership with National Louis University is offering graduate credit for the one-hour online course, **ELL 101: Understanding the Development of English Language Learners (ELLs) in the Early Childhood Classroom (ECE508)**. Winter 2012 course is scheduled January 23 - March 16th. For further information and registration, visit IRC website at:

<http://www.thecenterweb.org/ec>

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The Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map Technical Report, *The Impact of Publicly Funded Preschool in Illinois: An Analysis of Data from the Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map*, provides an overview of the impact of state and federal dollars on providing access to publicly funded preschool for income-eligible children in Illinois. The report provides a description of the complex landscape in Illinois early learning programs, an analysis of the capacity of publicly funded preschool, Preschool for All and Head Start, to serve eligible children, and a set of recommendations for policy makers. The report is the first in a series and is now available for downloading at:

<http://iecam.crc.uiuc.edu/pubs/reports/technical/index.html>

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## **DEC's 28th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families**

Hilton Minneapolis  
October 28-30, 2012

**Proposals are due January 15, 2012**

[http://www.dec-sped.org/Conference/2012\\_Call\\_for\\_Papers](http://www.dec-sped.org/Conference/2012_Call_for_Papers)





**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Illinois Early Childhood Summit**  
**April 19, 2012**  
**Heartland Community College**  
**Normal, Illinois**

**Engagement Classroom Model: Individualizing Preschool Inclusion**  
by Dr. Robin McWilliam  
Director, Center for Child and Family Research  
Siskin Children's Institute

**This year includes focused content for practitioners :**

- Routines-based needs assessment
- Integrated services, including integrated therapy
- Embedded interventions and incidental teaching
- Zone defense scheduling
- Teachers' engagement data collection

This presentation will include practical, evidence-based strategies for promoting active engagement and preventing behavioral problems caused by restlessness and boredom in preschoolers. Detailed, concrete strategies designed to make the most of natural learning opportunities, maximize classroom efficiency and engagement, assess child functioning, and integrate therapy into classroom routines will be presented.

**About the presenter:**

Dr. McWilliam is one of the nation's leading researchers in early intervention/early childhood special education. He is the foremost investigator of engagement in children with disabilities and is the author, with Amy Casey, of the only book on child engagement, *Engagement of Every Child in the Preschool Classroom*. Dr. McWilliam is the Past President of the CEC Division for Research and is on the steering committee for CEC's efforts to define and identify evidence-based practices in special education. Dr. McWilliam's workshops are highly interactive and applied, and he is in constant demand as a speaker and consultant, throughout the U.S. and in Europe.

There is no cost to participate in the Illinois Summit. For information on registration, contact Johnna Darragh at Heartland Community College, [Johnna.Darragh@heartland.edu](mailto:Johnna.Darragh@heartland.edu).

Collaboratively sponsored by the Heartland Equity and Inclusion Project  
and Illinois STAR NET



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## NAEYC 21st National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development

June 10-13, 2012     Indianapolis, Indiana

Leadership Throughout the Early Childhood Profession:  
Research, Policy, and Practice

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

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## Illinois Division for Early Childhood

## Sponsor of the Sharing A Vision Conference

YOU ARE INVITED to join (or renew your membership) in the premier professional organization for anyone working in early intervention or early childhood special education! The Division for Early Childhood (DEC) is a division of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) - the largest international professional organization dedicated to improving outcomes for individuals with exceptionalities, students with disabilities, and/or the gifted. DEC is especially for individuals who work with or on behalf of children with special needs, birth through age eight, and their families.

### **Illinois DEC is YOUR professional community.**

#### **The benefits of “Engaging In A Professional Community” include:**

- DEC/CEC members receive four professional journals 4 – 6 issues of each/year: Young Exceptional Children, the Journal of Early Intervention, Exceptional Children, and Teaching Exceptional Children.
- Illinois DEC is one of the largest and most active DEC subdivisions in the nation. Join an energetic group of fun people with big dreams for ALL young children.
- Illinois DEC members receive a discount off of their registration fee for Sharing A Vision, Illinois’ leading professional development conference.
- Illinois DEC members are involved in policy and advocacy at a community, state and national level. Examples of recent advocacy/testimony/policy-building topics: Early Childhood Outcomes, Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge, Bilingual Preschool Rules and Regulations, budget appropriations.
- Each year, members receive \$100 off their DEC conference registration if they join before registering.
- Faculty members and others seeking to advance their careers can review conference proposals, serve on a state or national committee, or serve on a journal editorial board—membership is required for these valuable service activities.
- Student members value the opportunity to interact with leading researchers (and other students around the country) in discussion forums, in committees, and at professional meetings.
- Special Interest Groups (i.e., Early Intervention) provide a great connection for members with common interests. Members benefit by identifying colleagues for collaboration on research, practice, and problem-solving.
- As a professional community, DEC provides the opportunity to network and interact with others who share our passion for supporting young children and their families.

As of Oct. 30, 2011, Illinois DEC has 203 members. Help us raise that number! We can do more for our members when we have a STRONGER voice!!

When you join, be sure to sign up for both CEC and the Division for Early Childhood. Other membership levels are available: Premier, Student, Associate (family members), Joint, Retired. All levels offer great value.

Visit: **[dec-sped.org](http://dec-sped.org)**, go to Join Now, link to CEC membership forms.