



KDEC
Kansas Division for Early Childhood
Fall 2004

KDEC NEWSBRIEF

A Message for KDEC Membership
KDEC 2005 Conference

The KDEC 2005 conference is coming up. This year, the KDEC annual conference, “*The Changing Faces of Early Childhood*” will be held in Overland Park, Kansas at the Double Tree Hotel from February 24th – 26th, 2005. Peggy Miksch is the Conference Chair. We received over -- proposal submissions. Thank you to all those who submitted proposals!

Hotel reservations may be made by clicking on the link below or at: ---. Directions to the Double Tree Hotel are included in this NEWSBRIEF. We welcome membership involvement in the conference. It is a great opportunity to meet colleagues from throughout Kansas. If you would like to volunteer or have questions about the 2005 conference, please contact Peggy at ---. We hope you will attend the exciting events planned this year and look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Future Issues of the NEWSBRIEF

Future issues of the KDEC NEWSBRIEF will be available through EMAIL. To save costs and paper use, the KDEC Board decided to make the NEWSBRIEF available on the web site only. We would like to invite you to visit the web site at www.kdec.org for future issues of the NEWSBRIEF and other KDEC information. We hope you will find this new format for the NEWSBRIEF convenient. Please let us know.

DEC International Conference

The Division of Early Childhood (DEC) 20th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families, “*Lessons Learned: Weaving our Future from the Threads of the Past*” will be held in Chicago, IL December 5th – 8th, 2004 at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers. For DEC conference information check out the web site at www.dec-sped.org

Look for highlights of the International DEC conference in the winter issue of KDEC NEWSBRIEF!

FOCUS ON MEMBERSHIP

KDEC BOARD WANTS YOU- A CALL FOR KDEC BOARD NOMINATIONS

The Nominations and Election Committee of KDEC is soliciting recommendations from the membership for the offices of Vice President and Treasure beginning July 2005. Self-nomination is encouraged. The Vice-President position requires a commitment of 4 years with a rotation of 1 year each in the positions of Vice-President, President-Elect, President, and Past-President. The Treasure position requires a two-year commitment. All nominees must be current KDEC members.

Please send your nominations (name, position, address, phone, e-mail, and your name) to:

KDEC Nominations Committee
C/o Misty Goosen, KITS
521 JR Pearson, Bldg. 80
1122 West Campus Rd
Lawrence, KS 66045-3101
Phone: 785-864-0725
Fax: 785-864-3983
e-mail: mistyg@ku.edu

Nominations must be received by December 15, 2004.

2005 KDEC AWARD NOMINATIONS

The annual spring conference provides an opportunity for KDEC to recognize individuals that go beyond the day-to-day requirements of their position and promote a better world for children with disabilities and their families. The KDEC Awards Committee is seeking nominations from the field for five such awards. The five categories of awards include:

Outstanding Student DEC Member Award

This award is presented to a current full time student member of DEC/KDEC who has contributed a great deal of time, energy, or support to early childhood special education. This can include activities within their Student CEC Chapter and/or to children who are exceptional and their families.

Direct Service Provider Award

This award is presented to a current DEC/KDEC member who has made significant contributions to young children with exceptionalities and their families. The candidate for this award should have less than ten years of direct service in the field. This award honors those who are beginning their career and have made exemplary contributions in their local area.

Distinguished Service Provider Award

This award is presented to a current DEC/KDEC member who has demonstrated exemplary performance over a period of at least ten years as a direct service provider and is recognized by members of the profession as someone who demonstrates innovativeness, imagination, creativity, and the ability to inspire. This person must be a member in good standing both currently and for at least the previous five years.

Award of Excellence

This award honors an individual who has made significant contributions in the following areas of early intervention: publications, research, development of new concepts, approaches or programs, new techniques for diagnosis or rehabilitation, improved psychological or education evaluation procedures, improved administrative procedures, practical application of improved teaching devices, and dynamic leadership.

Outstanding Contributor Award

This award honors an individual who has made significant contributions to early intervention in Kansas. This award is open to members as well as nonmembers. Persons who might be considered could include family members, legislators, physicians, educators, and any individuals providing services to young children and their families.

Criteria to consider when nominating an individual:

Number of years in CEC/DEC

Maintains and encourages involvement in CEC/DEC/KDEC activities

Experience serving as an officer or committee chair

Shows initiative in developing programs and/or events

Works with exceptional individuals and their families outside CEC activities

Exhibits a sincere commitment to exceptional children, their families, the field of special education and their community.

Please take the time to nominate a candidate for one or more of these awards. The nomination process is quite simple. A nomination form is provided at the end of this News -Brief. The KDEC Awards Committee will review the information, and award recipients will be announced at the spring conference. Fill out the form and provide other supporting information to:

KDEC Awards Committee

C/o Misty Goosen, KITS

521 JR Pearson, Bldg. 80

1122 West Campus Rd

Lawrence, KS 66045-3101

Phone: 785-864-0725

Fax: 785-864-3983

e-mail: mistyg@ku.edu

Submissions can be returned US Mail, FAX or E-MAIL

2004 KDEC Mini Grant Awards

Congratulations to the following 2004 Mini-Grant recipients:

Anne Gurss, representing the Seaman School District Special Services Department, was awarded \$500 for the purchase of creative art supplies to support a curriculum to actively engage learners of all abilities.

Carla Wood Jackson representing the Schiefelbusch Speech-Language-Hearing, was awarded \$500 for the purchase of materials and supplies to support integrated playgroups for young children who experience communication challenges.

Doug Greer, representing the Hays Area Children's Center, was awarded \$500 for staff training expenses and the purchase of materials to support evaluation of and intervention for infants and young children with sensory needs.

Sherry Viles, representing the Early Awakening Interagency Coordinating Council, was awarded \$500 for parent stipends and other expenses to support parenting classes.

KDEC Membership

The Division for Early Childhood (DEC) is an international professional organization designed for professionals and families associated with infants and young children with special needs. It was formed as a division of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) in 1973. The Kansas Division for Early Childhood (KDEC) is a state subdivision of the International Division for Early Childhood and began in 1982. Our subdivision is seeking persons to be part of this organization. By joining, you will receive the benefits of numerous publications (Young Exceptional Children, Teaching Exceptional Children, Exceptional Children, and Journal of Early Intervention). KDEC also provides the opportunity to interact, collaborate, and communicate with others in the field; be informed on innovations in research, policy, best practices, and current issues; and be eligible for reduced rates at the KDEC annual conference. New members may contact Ginny Butts, KDEC Membership Chair at ginnyb@futures-unlimited.org or call 620-326-8906, ext. 224 for an application. Or, for easier and quicker membership, visit the Council for Exceptional Children at www.cec.sped.org. Please consider joining our organization and supporting the children and families around the state. If you are already a member, share this information with a colleague and invite them to check out the DEC website at <http://www.dec-sp.org/index.html> for more information about the benefits of membership.

Student Membership

The Kansas Division for Early Childhood (KDEC) would like to extend an invitation to currently enrolled early childhood/early childhood special education university students to join our organization as student members. The benefits are HUGE for the nominal dues required.

A student must first be a member of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) for a dues amount of \$37, and then additionally join the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) for the amount of \$12. That means for a total dues amount of only \$49, a student will receive the following:

Teaching Exceptional Children (6 issues per year)

Exceptional Children (4 issues per year)

CEC Today (7 issues per year)

Journal of Early Intervention (4 issues per year)

Young Exceptional Children (4 issues per year)

Student members of CEC and DEC automatically are members of KDEC. In addition to the five different journals that are received during the year, student members have access to Student Educator Professional Liability Insurance for the low cost of \$12 per year. As each student needs this during their practicum experiences, this insurance is available to student members at this low yearly cost. Student members also have reduced conference rates for national, regional, and state meetings.

If you are currently a student member, please share this information with your peers and encourage them to join you in this professional organization. If you are a regular CEC/DEC member but have the opportunity to encourage a student to join KDEC through CEC/DEC, please do so. This is a wonderful opportunity for upcoming practitioners to join their national and state organizations, and participate in future policy development and best practice in the field of early childhood/early childhood special education.

Respectfully,

Robin A. Wells
Past Student Membership Chair
University of Kansas

If you have questions about the KDEC NEWSBRIEF contact Dale Walker at ---