

Idaho AEYC Receives Grant

Ron Wilkes, Vice President of U.S. Bank of Idaho representing the U.S. Bancorp Foundation, visited Idaho AEYC on September 1st to present an award of \$2500. The grant will help fund mentor/coaching and on-the-job training for individual special projects on topics such as business practices, playground safety, curriculum development, and health and safety. Some individuals do not qualify for federal dollars so private grants are appreciated to help those who might not otherwise get the opportunity to further develop their skills in the field of early care and education.



Karen Mason (Idaho AEYC Executive Director), Ron Wilkes (US Bank of Idaho) and Rosemary Shockley (Immediate Past Idaho AEYC Board President) pause for a photo shoot after the presentation of the grant award.

The U.S. Bancorp Foundation giving program is designed to respect the diversity of communities. The Foundation is actively involved in communities, partnering with local nonprofits such as Idaho AEYC to meet specific needs within each community. In Mr. Wilkes comments to the group, he stated that he valued the important work done by those in the early childhood field. "It's hard work," Wilkes remarked.

Fall 2009

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Board Members — Officers & Committee Chairs

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Past President	<i>Rosemary Shockley</i>
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U of I	<i>Haley Holihan</i>
BSU	<i>Doug McCurdy</i>

Mark your Calendars
November 18-21, 2009
 NAEYC Annual Conference & Expo
 Washington, D.C.
April 11-17, 2010
 Week of the Young Child

Idaho AEYC — Board of Directors



Melissa Bandy, President 2009-2011

President's Message

Ready Or Not?

What an exciting time for Early Care and Education in Idaho! Increased recognition of the importance of quality early experiences, Strengthening Families, the Quality Rating and Improvement System, Mentor/Coaches, Professional Development, Early Learning Guidelines, Stimulus Funds, and after 22 years of deep opposition, an improved child care licensing statute was approved in the 2009 legislature! So wait, here's a tricky question, are we ready? As Tammy Mann, Deputy Executive Director of Zero To Three stated at the 2009 Birth To Three Conference, "Given this opportunity, we have to get this right!"

In March, 2009 Idaho AEYC and the Early Childhood Coordinating Council sponsored an early childhood leadership discussion on March 5th with Stacie Goffin, the lead author of *Ready or Not: Leadership Choices in Early Care and Education*. Our time together focused on unifying Idaho's early care and education leaders around a shared policy agenda for our state. With over 100 people in a statewide video conference, the energy was powerful and exciting, yet we found ourselves circling the wagons and coming back around to some foundational questions, one being, how do we define our field?

If I were to ask each one of you the same question, (What is Early Care and Education?), there may be a common theme among each definition given like "children" or "care" or "education," but can we define our field? As Goffin writes, "to affect political decision-making and exert influence during moments of opportunity... field-wide leadership must be able to represent a coherent field of practice.... The field lacks a consistent and unambiguous point of view about how it defines the purpose of its work and about what defines its shared identity and responsibility." So, the authors call the question: "What defines and bounds early care and education as a field?" Calling the question seemed like an easy, most appropriate step to take, right? Yet here we are in September 2009 with the question still unanswered.

A focus on bringing together Idaho's early care and education leaders around a shared policy agenda for our state came down to three tough questions in March 2009:

- We need to define the terms and decide what our field is about: Is there a difference between 'care' and 'education'? Are we about 'care'? Are we about 'education'? Are we about both? What is our focus?
- What is the age of children served in our field?
- What knowledge and skills do people need to enter the field?

2009-2010 Board Meeting Schedule

Annual Member Meeting

September 24—Conference Call at 4:30 PM MDT

To participate, dial 1.888.481.3032.

When prompted, enter participant code 31503944#.

(There is no charge to the participant.)

October 15—Boise 9:00 to 3:00 MDT

Additional meeting dates to be set in October.

Change/Renewal

As we answer these questions in the coming months, the environment in which we will be working will be fast-paced, evolving, and renewed, or as I like to say, it will be the "tipping point" in early care and education in Idaho! "We are surrounded in that magic moment when an idea, trend, or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire." (Gladwell, M. 2002).

We as a field must be ready to take on this incredible challenge by unlocking the traditions of the past, and allowing new, proven wagons in to help us do our work effectively, and *to get it right the first time!*

With that said, Figure 1 (see page 3) is provided as a visual of the changes you will see happening with Idaho AEYC's Board structure. We believe these changes and deep attention to structure and the impact of member input will provide a strong central nerve center for early care and education in Idaho.

I also want to encourage — challenge really — each of you to take some change/renewal steps of your own:

- Join Idaho AEYC as a member and become part of this movement!
- Enroll in the IdahoSTARS Registry for professional development and scholarship opportunities.
- Become a licensed child care provider no matter how many children you serve.
- Reflect on your own work with young children and pick one thing you can do better now!
- And, as Joan Lombardi of the Administration for Children and Families stated during the Birth To Three Conference 2009, "If you have been in the field for many years, mentor someone; if you are in your career prime, keep in step with research and best practice and become a leader; and if you are young and new to the field, dream big and challenge us all!"

Ready or not we need your help *now* to make a difference! Visit Idahoaeyc.org or call 2-1-1 to become involved today!

Warmly,
Melissa Bandy

Leadership in the News

Idaho AEYC Recognized for Exemplary Work Place Practices

Idaho AEYC has been awarded the prestigious Alfred P. Sloan Award for Flexibility in the Workplace. The Sloan Awards honor organizations of all sizes and all types in Boise and across the country that are using workplace flexibility as a strategy to increase workplace effectiveness and yield positive business results.

"We are thrilled to receive this recognition for our workplace practices. We have a great team and flexibility makes it work," stated Karen Mason, Executive Director of Idaho AEYC.

The Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility are part of the *When Work Works* project, an ongoing initiative of Families and Work Institute, the Institute for a Competitive Workforce (an affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce), and the Twiga Foundation. Through *When Work Works*, these partner organizations provide research, resources, and recognition to employers nationwide. Each of the 2009 Sloan Award winners will also be recognized nationally and will be featured in next year's edition of the *Guide to Bold New Ideas for Making Work Work*, published by Families and Work Institute.

Applicants were evaluated in a rigorous two-step process, first comparing the employer's application to nationally representative data from Families and Work Institute's *National Study of Employers*, and then corroborating the employer responses through a survey of employees.

For more information about *When Work Works* or the Alfred P. Sloan Awards, please contact Shanny Peer at 212.465.2044 x 217 or speer@familiesandwork.org.

New Board Officers Selected at July Meeting — Meet your Leaders



After serving for a year as president-elect, **Melissa Bandy** became president on August 1, 2009. In addition to leading the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children membership, she is currently employed as an infant toddler specialist for the Zero To Three Program.

Retiring president **Rosemary Shockley** now fills the position of past president. Rosemary's teaching assignment in early childhood education has been transferred from Boise State University to the College of Western Idaho in Nampa.



Beginning her first year of teaching in the Lewiston School District with an early childhood blended certificate, **Jill Bielenberg** also begins a 2 year term as vice president of the Idaho AEYC Board of Directors. Jill served on the board for the past 2 years representing the Palouse Area AEYC student association at the University of Idaho.

Stan Burton was appointed to serve as treasurer and also to chair the finance committee. Stan lives in the Boise area and serves as the Executive Director of the Idaho Head Start Association.



Newly elected member from Rathdrum, **Rosario (Charo) Wohlsen** will fill a one-year vacancy as secretary of the Board. Charo spends her days serving young children and their families at the NAEYC accredited Little Folks Day Care and Preschool in Coeur d'Alene.

Kathleen Miller Green has a rich background in early childhood special issues including disabilities and culturally diverse populations. She was the Board's choice to represent Idaho on the NAEYC National Affiliate Council. Kathleen and her family live in Plummer. She teaches at North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene.



Advancing Idaho AEYC's Leadership: Our Process for Change/Renewal



(Adapted from WAEYC, 2008)

Idaho AEYC Office News

Introducing...

Mary Ellen McVay



In mid-January Mary Ellen McVay became part of the Idaho AEYC team as the Registry Assistant. Today she is the Professional Development System (PDS) Coordinator. Her responsibilities include processing all incoming Initial and Continuing Incentive applications and fielding any PDS related issues and questions. Mary Ellen is also responsible for the Registry database integrity and report generation.

She came to us after retiring with 30 years of service from AT&T where she worked as a Software Support Analyst in California. Mary Ellen moved to Boise a year ago and enjoys her 3 large Labradors. She has 2 grown children who live in Southern California.

Tracy Gagnon



Joining Idaho AEYC in August is Tracy Gagnon. Tracy will serve in a new position, IdahoSTARS Assessment Specialist. She has experience with the Environment Rating Scales previously leading a team of assessors, with direct services in child care, and as a mentor/coach in the Boise/Meridian area. This full time position is funded for two years through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funds. This position is an integral part of the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) and Tracy will be working closely with Jane Zink who now serves as the Quality Rating and Improvement System Coordinator.

Tracy's tasks include maintaining reliability of assessors across the state within and between regions, reviewing assessment reports for accuracy and consistency, coordinating assignment of assessments; and working with independent contractors who will complete the assessments. Tracy lives in Meridian with her husband and two children.

Carol Couch




Carol Couch joined Idaho AEYC in November 2008 as the development director assigned to increase the awareness of Idaho AEYC and IdahoSTARS in communities throughout the state. She has researched and developed contacts, promotions, and fundraising for the improvement of quality care and education. Carol will be working to build a strong awareness foundation that will carry us into the future creating new friends for the organization, increased donations, and fundraising. Carol lives in Meridian with her two daughters, Carly (17) and Piper (13).

NEWS BRIEFS

- **GoodSearch for Idaho AEYC** — Give to Idaho AEYC just by searching the Internet. That's what you can do by using GoodSearch.com. The founders of GoodSearch.com, launched back in 2005, and its new sister site GoodShop.com donate to non-profits when users search or shop. Over 60,000 nonprofits benefit from both sites. You can help Idaho AEYC by going to www.goodsearch.com. Complete the box under the question, "Who do you search for?" by entering Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children. Then click VERIFY. You only need to do this the first time. Your computer should remember your selection. Shopping sites that donate are listed. Just click and your shopping will donate funds to Idaho AEYC.
- **CafePress.com** — More shopping fun to help Idaho AEYC. Get great gifts with the Idaho AEYC logo. Check it out at www.idahoaeyc.org.
- **Step Up for Kids**— Step Up for Kids Week is October 5-9, 2009. Visit www.everychildmatters.org for more information. This is the second annual special, non-partisan, nationwide event, which brings together thousands of people to show wide-spread public support for a shift in spending priorities toward children and families.
- **Business Summit on Early Learning**— November 19, 10 AM to 2 PM, BSU Stueckle Sky Center. Invitation ONLY. Speakers include John Medina (developmental molecular biologist and research consultant, author of *Brain Rules*, and founding member of Talaris Institute), Karen Elzey (Vice President & Executive Director of the US Chamber of Commerce's Institute for a Competitive Workforce), and Rob Grunewald (Regional Economic Analyst with the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and co-author of the landmark study "Early Childhood Development: Economic Development with a High Public Return"). For more information on the Summit, see www.idahoaeyc.org.

Idaho AEYC and IdahoSTARS — Both Serve You

	Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children — a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization	Idaho State Training and Registry System — a project of Idaho AEYC and partners: U of I CDHD and DHW
What is it?	A state affiliate of a national organization (NAEYC) with 5 local affiliates in Idaho advocating for quality early care and education, providing conferences and training on best practice, and increasing public awareness.	A statewide training and registry system for the field of early care and education that provides professional development and recognition opportunities for individuals in the field, registry of Idaho Child Care Program (ICCP) facilities, tracking of professional achievements, and a quality rating and improvement system to inform parents choosing child care.
Who belongs?	Members belong to the local, state, and national affiliates to raise the quality of early care and education through accreditation, research, and practice resources. They also help build the profession by promoting high standards, equitable compensation, and comprehensive training opportunities.	Individuals and early care and education facilities interested in pursuing high quality child care services to families and children.
What is the purpose/mission?	Mission: To improve the quality of life for Idaho's young children and their families by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving professional practice in early care and education; • Building public understanding and support; and • Building and maintaining a strong, diverse, and inclusive organization. 	The vision is "Idaho's children have access to the highest quality child care and early education." Each year IdahoSTARS takes another step to implement the newest, most innovative programs in our state. IdahoSTARS moves forward by providing a consumer-driven, consistent structure that educates and supports parents and promotes quality, inclusive early care and education and professional development for child care providers.
When to join?	Join as soon as you enter the field or any time thereafter. Not a member? Join TODAY ! Go to www.idahoaeyc.org and click on 'Become a Member Today'.	An individual can join the Professional Development Registry at any time to learn more about professional development opportunities. You or the facility where you are employed may be eligible to receive scholarships for training and/or formal education. A child care facility can register to become an ICCP provider when it would like to accept families that qualify for tuition assistance from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.
Why join?	Network with colleagues to support quality early care and education, improve teaching and learning, build a profession, and promote private and public support.	As an individual, if you are eligible, IdahoSTARS provides opportunities and supports quality improvement through scholarships and incentives directly to you. As a facility, ICCP payments will be paid directly to the facility based on parents' income. Also, facilities can apply for Enhancement and Quality Improvement Grants.
What is the cost?	Annual dues include membership for national, state, and local affiliates. Three options — student [\$40], regular [\$55], comprehensive [\$110] — provide tailored benefits to support early childhood professionals at different levels.	No cost to participate at this time.
What are the benefits?	Members receive professional journals and books; discounts on subscriptions to magazines; reduced fees at local, state, and national conferences; insurance and credit card options; a voice in shaping public policies affecting early childhood education, and many other benefits.	If you and the facility where you are employed are eligible, there are opportunities for scholarships (academic and training), annual cash incentives for continuing to attend training and earning college credits, career pathway level move incentives, facility improvement grants, Specialization Certificates, and mentor/coaching services. Facilities may also request a Quality Rating application to plan for improvements over time.
Want more info?	Contact Karen Mason at kmason@idahoaeyc.org or at 208.345.1090 x16.  Visit the website at www.idahoaeyc.org .	Contact Brenda Breidinger at bbreidinger@idahoaeyc.org or call 208.345.1090 x10.  Visit the website at www.idahostars.org .

Census 2010

Educating the ECE Community for a More Accurate US Census in 2010

In our last issue we wrote about the role of canvassing and how that was effective in identifying structures with addresses in preparation for mailing the Census questionnaire. We also reported that this will be the shortest questionnaire in Census history. It is good to remind everyone in the early childhood professions that our programs for quality child care and early education depend on an accurate count. This will take a small effort on your part—to remind families that the Census is easy, safe, and completely confidential. There is much to be gained, approximately \$1400 per individual in Idaho, and that same amount to be lost if even one person decides that this is not important.



Greeting the canvasser

There is now, and always will be, strength in numbers! Idaho AEYC wants to encourage you to get involved in your local Complete Count Committee—there is one in every county and those meeting times and dates are published in your local newspaper. Look for Census information at the October child care conferences and let us know what you are doing to promote the Census with families.



2010 CENSUS: **IT'S IN OUR HANDS**

Logrando un Censo Más Exacto en 2010 para el Campo de la Educación Inicial



Usted podrá completar más fácil este cuestionario.

En el último boletín escribimos sobre el papel de captación y como esto fue eficaz para identificar las estructuras con direcciones en preparación para el envío del cuestionario del Censo. También le informamos de que este será el más breve cuestionario en la historia del Censo. Es bueno recordar a todos en las profesiones que rodean la educación inicial, que nuestros programas de calidad para el cuidado infantil y la educación a temprana edad dependen de una cuenta precisa. Esto tomará un pequeño esfuerzo de su parte para recordar a las familias que el Censo es fácil, seguro y completamente confidencial. Hay mucho que ganar, aproximadamente \$1400 por persona en Idaho, pero la misma cantidad se pierde si incluso una persona decide que

esto no es importante. Hay ahora y siempre lo será, ¡fuerza en unirnos! Idaho AEYC quiere alentar a involucrarse en su Comité local para una Cuenta Completa -- hay un comité en cada condado y las reuniones y las fechas se publican en su periódico local. En octubre, podría encontrar más información del Censo en las conferencias para los proveedores del cuidado infantil. Háganos saber lo que Usted está haciendo para promover el Censo con las familias. Está en nuestras manos.

Conference Information

Council for Exceptional Children—Division of Early Childhood, Sun Valley, Sept. 30—Oct. 3

“Professionals: Working for Students Today and Education Tomorrow” is the 2009 conference theme. The Division of Early Childhood (DEC) presentation is on Saturday, October 3rd and features the CSEFEL Teaching Pyramid Model: Supporting Young Children’s Social Emotional Development presented by Dr. Pam Buschbacher, Ed.D, a CCC-SLP with more than 25 years experience as a nationally certified and state-licensed speech language pathologist. For more information or to register, go to www.idahocec.org.

The **Snake River AEYC** presents Dr. Foster Cline Saturday, **October 3rd**, 9 to 4 at the College of Southern Idaho in the Taylor building, room 276. The conference and lunch is \$50.00. Dr. Cline will be discussing child development and the importance of character development providing common sense discipline techniques to insure that all participants envision themselves being immediately more effective with children. Dr. Cline will cover issues and attitudes that are commonly confused such as assertiveness vs. aggressiveness; rewards vs. bribery; consequences vs. punishment; and firmness vs. anger. For more information, contact: Jennifer Patterson at jpatterson@csi.edu, 208-732-6884.

North Idaho AEYC Annual Conference: This year’s Region I conference will be held on Saturday, **October 17th, 2009** on the North Idaho College campus in Coeur d’Alene. The theme of the conference will be **“Children Color the Future.”** The goal of this year’s conference is to provide hands-on curriculum and program management sessions that will inspire and increase our early childhood professional’s ability to individualize and provide high quality experiences for young children and their families. To request the Fall Registration flyer, contact the conference chair, Kathleen Miller Green at kmgreen@nic.edu. Mark your calendars and we will see you in October!



Children First Conference 2009 — Saturday, **October 17**, 2009 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Williams Conference Center at Lewis-Clark State College, Lewiston, ID. Registration deadline 10/09/09. For more information, dial 2-1-1 and ask for the Region 2 office. Speak to Darla or Danielle or email Darla at d.amundson@cap4action.org.

Treasure Valley AEYC— During October, Treasure Valley AEYC members will receive an electronic or mailed survey asking for their opinions about our field. This is in preparation for our fall conference discussing the book *Ready or Not — Leadership Choices in Early Care and Education*. The tentative date for the conference is November 7. Official invitation to join the conference will be sent once the date and location are confirmed.

The spring conference will be held Saturday, April 17, at the Hampton Inn near the Idaho Center. Keynote presenter is Jane Kitson with a hands-on workshop on making language and literacy fun. For more information on either event, contact Jeanne’ at haydenj@slrmc.org.

Affiliate Briefs For more news, visit the Affiliate pages on our website.

North Idaho AEYC, serving the five northern counties of North Idaho. For more information, contact president Barbi Harrison at bjharr33@aol.com. Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:00 PM at the Panhandle Health Building at 8500 North Atlas Road in Hayden.

Palouse Area AEYC, serving north central Idaho. The group held a reorganizational meeting in June. Contact Darla Amundson at d.amundson@cap4action.org to find out more about the reorganization.

PA AEYC—Student Association, serving University of Idaho students, is led by president Haley Holihan. The next meeting is in September. The group meets the first Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM in the Niccolls building, room 206. Contact Haley at haleyholihan@vandals.uidaho.edu for more information.

Treasure Valley AEYC, serving the Treasure Valley, is led by interim president Jeanne’ Hayden. For meeting information, contact Jeanne’ at haydenj@slrmc.org.

TV AEYC—Student Association, serving Boise State University Students. Students will be electing officers and drafting plans for the year at their first meeting, September 23. For more information, contact faculty advisor, Bea Harris at beatriceharris1@boisestate.edu.

Snake River AEYC, serving Twin Falls County, the Magic Valley, and Wood River Valley. The next meeting will be in September. The time and date have not been defined. For more information contact Jennifer Patterson, SRAEYC-Treasurer, jpatterson@csi.edu, 208-732-6884.

Eastern Idaho AEYC, serving Eastern Idaho including Pocatello, Idaho Falls, Rexburg, and the surrounding regions, meets in Pocatello and Idaho Falls. Leading the group are co-presidents are Judy Boren jboren@uidaho.edu and Carol Grimes dc-grimes@hotmail.com. Contact one of the presidents for meeting dates, location, and time.

IdahoSTARS Update



QRIS Roll Out in 2010

The second design phase of the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) has come to a close. The QRIS is a quality rating and improvement system for child care facilities in Idaho. The quality of the facility is rated through a system of 5 stars, similar to ratings for hotels, movies, and restaurants. The QRIS includes a built-in system for improvement in each of the 8 Quality Standards. In this way, the QRIS credits facilities for the quality practices already in place while simultaneously providing a roadmap to increased quality.

Sincere thanks to facilities who worked over the last 18 months to provide input and insight into the system. Some changes made to the system based on the second design phase are:

- The assessment network has been restructured to ensure reliability and accountability.
- Mentor/coaches will receive extensive training on the QRIS so they can offer technical assistance as well as mentoring.
- The QRIS quality standards and application process have been revised.
- Regional Child Care Resource and Referral Quality Consultants will receive extensive training on the QRIS so they can offer technical assistance and connect providers to the resources they need.



Coordinator Jane Zink & Karen Mason refine the QRIS charts.

The Quality Rating and Improvement System is planned to roll out statewide January 2010, available on a first come, voluntary basis as funding allows.

Eight Quality Standards

- **Environment:** Measures health, safety and environment through the *Environment Rating Scales*.
- **Business Practices:** Documents business practices.
- **Professional Development:** Documents ongoing education and training of staff.
- **Education:** Documents current education level of director/owner and teachers.
- **Strengthening Families:** Documents implementation of *Strengthening Families through Early Care and Education*.
- **Staff-to-Child Ratio:** Documents ratio of staff to children in each classroom.
- **Group Size:** Documents the number of children in each group.
- **Inclusion:** Documents how a facility supports children's full participation and ways staff intentionally plan for each child and family to be successful, especially when a child has an identified disability.

Scholarships Requests Increase

The Idaho AEYC Scholarship Office is looking forward to a very productive year! Over 120 Academic Scholarships have been awarded for the upcoming school year and training scholarships have also been in high demand.

Since July 1, 2009, over 132 training requests have been received in the Scholarship Office, an increase of 60% since September of last year! All this activity is exciting because it is a reflection of the enthusiasm for learning and improving quality by the early childhood workforce throughout Idaho.

Much of the increased scholarship activity is due to Idaho AEYC receiving ARRA funds over 2 years through the Department of Health and Welfare from the federal Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG). Because of child care provider interest and ongoing demand for scholarships, all of these funds are targeted for increasing professional development opportunities for IdahoSTARS participants. See the chart at the right for scholarships granted listed by institution.

Additionally, 8 CDA Assessment Scholarships representing 5 CDA Programs have been awarded.

Scholarships Granted

College of Western Idaho	25
College of Southern Idaho	23
Idaho State University	23
Boise State University	22
North Idaho College	11
Treasure Valley Community College	5
Lewis Clark State College	3
University of Idaho	2

For more information about any IdahoSTARS program:

- Contact program director Brenda Breidinger at 208/345-1090 ext 10
- Visit: www.IdahoSTARS.org
- Dial Idaho CareLine at 2-1-1

IdahoSTARS Update



Mentor/Coaching Statewide Summit Planned for November

Mentor/coaching is thriving in the early childhood community in Idaho! To date, 75 child care providers have received the services of an IdahoSTARS Approved Mentor/Coach in 2009. Forty-eight mentor/coaches are available, throughout the state, to meet a wide variety of needs expressed by child care providers and directors, and scholarships are available to help fulfill these requests.

With the statewide introduction of the Quality Rating and Improvement System in January, 2010 we project that even more providers and directors will seek the services of qualified mentor/coaches to support them in the process of improving the quality of the care they provide for young children. With that in mind, a statewide summit will be held in Boise - November 4th through 6th - for all IdahoSTARS Approved Mentor/Coaches, Trainers and Assessors. They will come together for in-depth training in how to most effectively support child care professionals in the completion of this process.

It is an honor to have this important working relationship with so many child care professionals throughout the state. Young children and their families are the fortunate recipients of this dedication, commitment, expertise and quest for providing the best quality of care and education for young children throughout Idaho!

As Joan Lombardi stated (see article on page 2), "If you have been in the field for many years, mentor someone." Experienced

IdahoSTARS mentor/coaches are currently available and assisting providers throughout the state. Find out how you can take advantage of this wonderful opportunity—either being a mentor/coach or having a mentor/coach—by dialing 2-1-1 and asking for Julaine Ziegert.



Above is a recent photo of some of the key players on the mentor/coaching team – the Regional Quality Child Care Consultants. From left to right: Martha Anderson – Region I; Darla Amundson – Region II; Pat Carroll – Region III; Mary Olsen – Region IV; (Tammy McKinney – Region V not pictured); Judy Boren – Region VI; and Aimee Roberts – Region VII, and Julaine Ziegert, Director.

Focus Groups Conducted Around State to Provide Input on QRIS Posters

IdahoSTARS personnel generated draft posters—one applicable to Family Home and Group Child Care and the second applicable to Child Care Centers—to use to communicate the Quality Rating and Improvement System. To test their effectiveness, four focus group meetings were conducted across the state in Idaho Falls, Moscow, Nampa, and Twin Falls. Invitations were issued by direct mail both in English and in Spanish, and in Moscow phone calls were also made to stimulate participation. All participants were offered refreshments and given a \$10 gas card for their participation. The Nampa and Twin Falls meetings featured two sessions per meeting—one conducted in English and another conducted in Spanish.

Each meeting started with a welcome and introductions. Marsha Bracke of Bracke and Associates, Inc., facilitated all meetings conducted in English; Elena Rodriguez, IdahoSTARS, facilitated the sessions conducted in Spanish.

The facilitator let the group know that they were to evaluate and provide input and guidance on a poster designed to communicate the Quality Improvement and Rating System. She clarified that some individuals are familiar with the system, and some are not, and both are important and desired perspectives.

Participants were grouped by Family Home/Group provider and Center providers to review their respective posters. They were provided questionnaires and, after reviewing the questions with the facilitator, were invited to respond to those questions individually by working in small groups and writing their responses on their form. At the end of the meeting, all of the forms were collected and transcribed for use by IdahoSTARS.

Volunteers, Funders, and Donors

Thanks! We could not do it without you!



Board members discuss matters over lunch at a meeting in March in Boise.

Thanks to the individuals listed below for volunteering time helping with the website, clerical tasks, answering phones, creating display boards, assembling furniture, copying documents, assisting with mailing, entering data, and various other tasks including offering thoughts and support.

Our **Board members** volunteer significant amounts of their time and resources. We are sincerely grateful for all they give and do.

THANK YOU ALL!

(Names appear on the front page.)

Volunteers

June 15 to September 15

Barb Bancroft
Jeanne Barker
Ecco Barney
Patty Beckes
Francis Betikoetxea
Imanol Betikoetxea
Earnestine Brooks
Nicole Cantu
Christa Collier
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Connie Ziegert
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Funders

CATCH—American Academy of Pediatrics
Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation
Early Childhood Coordinating Council—IDHW
Herbert D. McAvoy Fund
in the Idaho Community Foundation
Idaho Children's Trust Fund
Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
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Kissler Family Foundation Philanthropic Gift Fund
in the Idaho Community Foundation
National Alliance of Children's Trust and
Prevention Funds
National Association for the Education
of Young Children (NAEYC)
Pew Charitable Trust
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EWU Press
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Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking for persons who would like to help out in our office with tasks such as answering phones, clerical tasks, data entry, mailings, scanning, surveys, and other special projects such as an online auction or art project.

For more information about these opportunities, contact Nicolette at nbetikoetxea@idahoeyc.org or 208/345-1090 extension 28.

Membership Phone Drive

We are looking for 4 to 5 volunteers to help with our annual membership drive. If you have a pleasant telephone voice and are comfortable calling our members to update their information, call or email Carol Couch at ccouch@idahoeyc.org or 208.345.1090 extension 13. Training and scripts will be provided.



Contact Carol for information on time commitment and scheduling.

Resources

Book Review

Brain Rules by John Medina

For additional information visit: www.brainrules.net



Not only is John Medina coming to Boise in November, but the book has also caught Oprah's attention. Check it out on [Oprah's website](#).

Here's what readers at Idaho AEYC are saying:

One of the more remarkable ideas is the "theory of mind" that states teachers who are very sensitive and have the ability to understand their students and their motivations, have tremendous power over the student's learning. That, coupled with small class size, makes teachers aware of when kids are engaged, frustrated, really learning, etc. Medina puts forth the idea teachers -to-be should be tested for their level of empathy and advanced theory of mind skills; it's that important to a student's ability to learn. — C. Rudeen

Discussed are 12 powerful concepts that education and business should heed and incorporate into daily routines for the betterment of all mankind. As an individual, my take-aways from the book are #1 exercise more; #2 sleep more; and #3 stress less. All 3 have amazing implications on brain function. — J. Zornik

John Medina is a master at *applying* the principles about which he is writing in this page-turner. I want to share—and apply—my new-found knowledge and excitement with all those whom I hold near and dear. — J. Ziegert

Mr. Medina offers a practical look at the brain and its functions while incorporating a sprinkling of humor. The book is easy to read and understand. The information is practical and can be used in everyday life as a business person and as a parent. — K. Walters

I think the implications for how children learn and adults work in readable layman's terms is very exciting. I was particularly intrigued with the impact of exercise on Alzheimer's and dementia. — K. Mason

I love the book *Brain Rules* because John Medina told me everything I already knew but did not know anyone had "proven":

- I have to see something and connect it to other things I already know in order to remember it.
- Taking a walk every day does not take away from work time, but actually adds to it—moving wakes up my brain!
- Sleeping when I'm tired is more important than trying to get more done—and many things that seem to be problems are solved while I sleep.
- Having fun is essential to learning! — M. Durning

One of the parts of the book that was eye-opening to me was that we are not able to multi-task (although we *think* we can!). My favorite quote in the whole book, I think, is "Studies show that a person who is interrupted takes 50% longer to accomplish a task...and makes up to 50% more errors!" — T. Reichel

Flu Season Precautions

Excerpts from an article by
Gayle A Bush, PhD, Professor Troy University

The flu, or influenza, is a viral disease that spreads mainly through person-to-person contact, often through coughing or sneezing. The single best way to prevent the flu is vaccination.

Children may be carriers of the virus for up to 10 days or longer, which makes it possible for other children to catch this virus if the ill child is in the childcare setting. Help parents understand how important it is to keep their children home when they are sick. As a caregiver, it is important that you stay home when you are sick to prevent the spread of illness to other caregivers and children.

In childcare, reminders of good health habits are necessary to help stop the spread of germs and prevent illness. Simple habits like covering your mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze (or coughing/sneezing into your sleeve) and frequently washing your hands can effectively reduce the spread of disease.

In a child care setting, children and adults should wash hands before preparing food and after handling uncooked meat and poultry; before eating; after changing diapers; after coughing, sneezing, or blowing noses; and after toileting.



Sanitation is important. Sanitizing toys and surfaces such as tables and door knobs on a daily basis can help reduce the transmission of illnesses.

For more information, go to www.flu.gov.

Websites in the Spotlight

Born Learning www.bornlearning.org

Everyday life is a learning experience for children. Born Learning is a public engagement campaign that helps parents, grandparents, and caregivers explore ways to turn everyday moments into fun learning opportunities.

Reading is Fundamental www.rif.org



Reading is Fundamental is the nation's largest children's literacy organization. Reading Is Fundamental, Inc. prepares and motivates children to read by delivering free books and literacy resources to those children and families who need them most. The site offers activities for educators, parents, and kids.

Talaris Institute www.talaris.org

The Institute supports parents and caregivers in raising socially and emotionally healthy children. Subscribe to the free newsletter or checkout the helpful articles in the Research Corner.

**Idaho Association for the
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your newsletter by email.



We're on the web at
www.idahoaeyc.org

Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children

VISION

Inspire and lead those who touch the lives of Idaho's children.
Encourage commitment to the ideal that every Idaho child deserves to live a satisfying childhood
that allows him/her to develop to full potential.

MISSION

To improve the quality of life for Idaho's young children and their families by:

- Improving professional practice in early care and education
- Building public understanding and support
- Building and maintaining a strong, diverse, and inclusive organization

Joining Together

Join other early childhood colleagues to speak out on behalf of Idaho's children for high quality and adequately funded programs and services. You can join online or contact the editor for more information. Thanks to these members who have joined or renewed in June, July, or August. Melissa Bandy, Maureen Benz, Jill Bielenberg, Hob Boazman, Kari Boazman, Stan Burton, Aurelia Cisneros, Debbie Clark, Natalie Clayton, Carol Couch, Jill Derr, Chad Dunkley, Dianna Duskett, Lori Fascilla, Janice Fletcher, Jennifer Fredericks, Susie Freligh, Michael Godfrey, Mary Griffin, Ida Gustin, Kristine Hays, Debra Hughes, Michelle Klebofski, Teresa Kross, Katie Laliberte, Barbara Larsen, Tifiny Lind, Kathleen Lucas, Liane Maasdam, Tiffanie McCauley, Scott McDonald, Maria Morales, Carrie Mori, Daleen Nelson, Randi Nelson, Juli Pool, Erica Rainey, Kathy Reynolds, Brenda Rhoads, Janna Robnett, Barbara Shupe, Shanalee Slade, Nancy Lee Summervill, Blanca Torres, Marina Trejo, Sandy Tryborn, Heather Tucker, Pamela Washburn, Skye Winberry, Rosario Wohlsen, Ann Wyttree, Christine Zacharias, Sandra Zavala, Julaine Ziergert.