

# The Collaborative



Volume XVII Issue II

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## Challenging Budget with Promise

- After a tumultuous year of economic uncertainty, Governor Steve Beshear proposed a budget which includes no further direct reductions for P-12 education in Kentucky. His plan was outlined in full detail in a letter dated January 4, 2010 that was emailed to all school district personnel (see page three for a full printed version). While asking many state departments to prepare for an anticipated budget reduction of three percent, Beshear noted that school districts across the state should not expect a budget reduction in SEEK funding.
- The Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children has been fortunate throughout the economic crisis to maintain the current level

of funding. Initially KECSAC was asked to prepare for an anticipated 8.4% reduction in our current year's budget allocation; however, after Governor Beshear's proposal, the Kentucky Department of Education decided to absorb any administrative budget reductions without passing that reduction on to programs directly serving children. Once again because of our state partners at the Department of Education, our colleagues serving on the Kentucky Board of Education, Governor Beshear and our friends across the Commonwealth, state agency children will continue to receive high quality educational services. As the crisis continues to develop, with new economic data and projections being received daily, the KECSAC staff will continue to advocate for our children while keeping our state partners informed of any impending changes in funding.

Continued  
on page 3.

## Teaching in Action

Following the first successful installment of the *Teaching in Action* series, KECSAC staff was eager to have a workshop at another KDE Best Practice Site for Alternative Education. All God's Children at the Providence School in Nicholasville was honored in all three categories in KDE's search for model programs. Principal Denise Adams hosted a group of colleagues on December 4, 2009 for; both students and staff shared their pride in TPS, as well as strategies for overcoming the challenges they face.

Participants began the day by touring the facility with student leaders. The students had a wealth of knowledge to share about the educational program at TPS as well as their own experiences there. Hearing the young men and women, who struggled in school

before enrolling at TPS, describe their college goals was a wonderful motivator for the educators present. Following the tour and classroom visits, a student panel shared their opinions about what aspects of the program helped them succeed and fielded questions. One of the young ladies painted a picture of the environment at TPS by stating that "We're like a big family here. All the teachers are here to help. They're not just here to teach. They take care of you." The group then was able to meet with administration for a candid discussion regarding the obstacles to educating at-risk youth and the unique nature of

TPS. The day ended with administrative and staff meetings in which attendees got to find out exactly how treatment and education are integrated within the school.



# Director's Corner



Director, Dr. Ronnie Nolan.

What a whirlwind winter we have had thus far! Only a few short weeks ago I was writing each of our school districts to share the budgetary outlook for the current fiscal year and the years ahead. At that time I was asking each of our partnering school districts to prepare for a significant reduction in KECSAC funding as we move forward in educating the Commonwealth's most at-risk population of students. Internally, at the KECSAC central office, we were preparing significant budget reductions as well, working diligently to minimize the impact any reduction would have on our students. We have been fortunate

throughout this budget crisis to have advocates who believe in our students and who support our mission.

The Kentucky Board of Education continues to speak to the needs of the students in our programs and can identify with the ongoing educational barriers our students face daily. In addition, the leadership at the Department of Education continues to embrace our students and place them in the forefront of their thoughts and priorities as they deal with internal budget reductions and stretched resources.

Because of the tremendous support of our partners, the outlook we had in early December is now swinging back in the other direction. Governor Steve Beshear has publically called for no budget reductions for school districts; once again demonstrating his support for our students and countless other students in the Commonwealth. While we were preparing for a nearly one million dollar budget reduction in December, we are now pleased to say we have a budget with no expected reductions this fiscal year.

However, as all citizens of the Commonwealth have come to know over the last few years, we are not out of the proverbial woods just yet. The Commonwealth's economic outlook continues to be bleak and we must continue to prepare for possible reductions in the future. As stewards of our state's resources we have an obligation to use those funds in the most ethical, meaningful and resourceful ways. We are committed to doing just that.

I am thankful to our partners, to the Kentucky Board of Education, the leaders at KDE and the countless teachers, administrators and students in our programs who believe in our mission and support the wellbeing of our students. Because of your commitment, we continue to be able to provide quality educational services to over 19,000 students annually.

## Fall SACSAA Meeting

Seventy-nine school administrators attended the **SACSAA (State Agency School Administrator Association) Fall Meeting** at the Elizabethtown Tourism and Convention Center on September 11, 2009. Donna Buckley, SACSAA President, presented the Outstanding School Administrator, Support Staff, and Teacher awards. KECSAC Director, Dr. Ronnie Nolan led the business meeting. Some of the topics discussed were: the selection of a universal pre/post test for all

KECSAC programs, Professional Development "Re-imagined," the development of an Outstanding State Agency Child award, the budget outlook for 2009-2010, Best Practice Sites, KECSAC's mini-grants awarded at the end of the 2008-2009 school year, the extended transition research project and he reviewed the exact wording of the definition of "state agency child" as outlined in KRS 158.135, the legislation that governs KECSAC. Kaye Parker, KECSAC's Associate Director, presented key data from the 2008-2009 Census.

## Programs Across Kentucky





Kentucky Governor, Steve Beshear.

January 4, 2010

Dear Friend:

I was pleased to announce today a plan to prevent budget cuts to Kentucky classrooms and school districts around the state. Educating our children is my number one commitment and today's actions further my goal of protecting education funding.

First, I announced my plan to fill a \$100 million hole in the current fiscal year's budget. While some agencies will face three percent cuts, the budget reduction order continues to preserve from cuts all of the areas of

government that the General Assembly and I exempted in the first budget reduction to this fiscal year, in particular the SEEK formula for K-12 classrooms.

Now, there is a second part to this announcement, one that I make with a little more enthusiasm. Last June, though the General Assembly and I protected the SEEK formula from cuts despite being faced with a billion dollar budget hole, there were reductions in the non-SEEK portion of the Department of Education's budget, approximately \$22 million. Likewise, in this budget reduction order, the non-SEEK portion of the Department's budget is included in the three percent cuts – some \$10 million.

Every year, the SEEK allocation is based on a beginning-of-the-year estimate that makes assumptions about the number of children in the school system, about the costs of various services, and about funding that will come from local property tax assessments. In years when those estimates prove too high, and too much money is allocated, that leftover money has often been sent back to the General Fund.

However, in the budget passed last summer, I made a promise to you that if there proved to be an overage in the SEEK allocation this fiscal year, I would make sure that money went

back to the individual school districts, not to the General Fund. I am pleased to announce that there will be extra money this year and I am fulfilling my promise by announcing that that money will not be swept back into the General Fund but instead will be returned to the districts through the Department of Education's SEEK formula. We will not know the final number until late February, but it will be between \$30 million and \$40 million.

We estimate that the additional funds distributed to schools through the SEEK formula will more than offset the impact of these three percent cuts in every district. In addition, the additional funds will in most instances offset the cuts in non-SEEK funding made last June. The bottom line – every district will see budgetary relief, and most will be made whole. Every day you work hard to enrich the lives and minds of our students. I took my action today to support your hard work, and to call attention to our great need for a quality education for Kentucky children. Despite these difficult times, we cannot and I will not turn my back on the future – and that future lies with our children.

Sincerely,

Gov. Steve Beshear

### **BULLITT COUNTY Bullitt County Day Treatment**

Recently the Bullitt County School District initiated a campaign for schools to collect food and household items for the local homeless shelter, Shepherds Shelter. Schools issued a challenge to see who could bring in the most items. A local pizza restaurant volunteered to provide a pizza party for the winning school. Given Bullitt County Day Treatment's size (30-35 kids) Doug Roberts knew they would have to double or triple their

efforts to match the strength of other area schools.

The students and staff at Bullitt County Day Treatment brought in 1,375 items in just over a weeks time. The judging (for the pizza party) was based on a percentage of items brought in based on student enrollment / participation. Needless to say, the Day Treatment kids and staff won!

Mr. Roberts noted, "I am very proud of all of our kids (and staff) effort. They

all chipped in to bring in much needed items and actually made it a competition within the school."

### **FAYETTE COUNTY Florence Crittenton School**

The Florence Crittenton School was profiled in a Lexington magazine, *Natural Awakenings*, in the November issue. The profile is available to be viewed in the archives at:

[www.awakeky.com](http://www.awakeky.com)

# Aquaculture: Collaboration Makes It Happen

Doug Doan, School Administrator

In order to expand the vocational opportunities for the students at Northern Kentucky Youth Development Center (NKYDC), School Administrator Doug Doan and teacher Gary Huff started an aquaculture program. Aquaculture is an alternative farming method that cultivates fish and shellfish under controlled conditions in ponds and specialized pools and tanks. In the past ten years, many aquaculture farms or fish farms have been established in Kentucky, particularly shrimp farms.

At Northern Kentucky Youth Development Center, Gary Huff led the effort to research and implement an aquaculture program. Mr. Huff visited Kentucky State University and The Land Grant College Aquaculture program designed to promote Aquaculture

as an alternative farming method in Kentucky. At the University Mr. Huff met Dr. Bill Tidwell, director of the program. As luck would have it, Dr. Tidwell was looking for opportunities to help promote Aquaculture across Kentucky and he offered everything that NKYDC would need to get the program started.

Dr. Tidwell offered to provide NKYDC with equipment, fish, food, and most importantly expertise. Dr. Tidwell sent Mr. William Bean to look at the site and make recommendations on just what growing techniques would best suit the goals of the NKYDC staff. William Bean has become a friend to the program and an invaluable resource. Plans were made to start with a small outdoor pond and then develop some indoor tank systems that could be housed in a shed or outbuilding. By heating the shed the fish could grow and learning opportunities for students could happen year round.

As plans for the program began to take shape, many individuals as well as organizations assisted NKYDC to establish this program, including:



Adult tilapia, like those farmed at NKYDC.

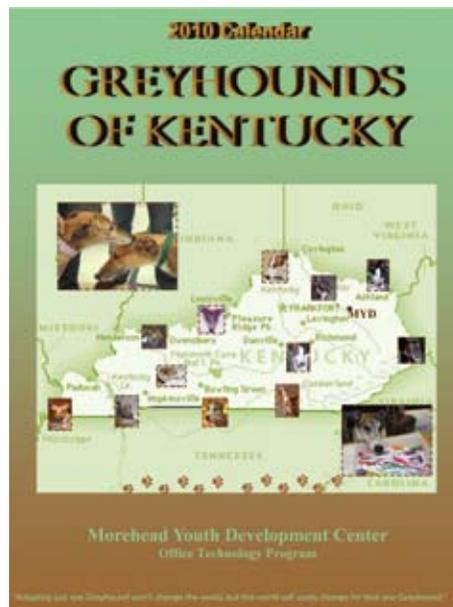
- The Kenton County on site School Program agreed to use money from the Student Activity Fund to help seed the program.
- The Department of Juvenile Justice Education Department provided a \$6,000.00 grant.
- The Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children (KECSAC) awarded NKYDC a \$5,000.00 grant.
- Masonry Teacher, Jeff Garnett used the opportunity to have his class use their masonry skills to lay block and brick and provide general manpower.
- The Sportsman Club provided a gift of \$1,000.00.
- A group of thirteen volunteers donated a Saturday to put rafters on a shed constructed by the masonry class.
- Kenton County Schools Teacher, John Reusch has donated thousands



Adult koi, like those farmed at NKYDC.

The article, "Empowering Young Girls to Rise Above Difficult Circumstances," is a powerful testimony regarding the positive impact the Florence Crittenton School has had on many Kentucky girls and young women in the past eighteen years.

Mary Venezie, executive director, is quoted as saying: "We treat the whole child... we not only assist the adolescent in resolving her emotional conflict or behavioral disorder, but we also help her improve her health, nutrition, education and even spirituality. We provide each girl with opportunities she might not have had otherwise."



## ROWAN COUNTY Morehead Youth Development Center

The new Morehead Youth Development Center "2010 Greyhounds of Kentucky" calendars have been printed and are ready for distribution.

This full color calendar includes twelve greyhounds, three of which are currently in residence, as well as the Greyhound Fast Facts section, Farmer's Almanac Weather Forecast, and other inspirational sayings. The standard holidays and moon phases are noted, as well as the

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on page 5.

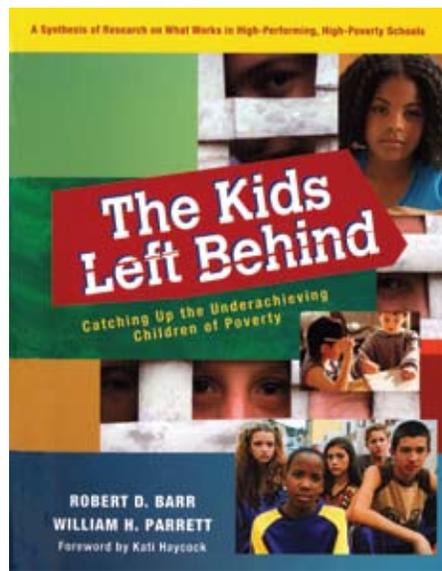
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**The Left Behind Kids** is an excellent comprehensive guide to successfully reach and teach underachieving children in poverty.



It synthesizes best practices from the most recent research to reveal an abundance of practical, usable strategies to implement at the district, school and classroom levels.

The authors focus on: the challenges of poverty in education, critical research on high-performing schools where children in poverty are catching up and succeeding, ways to maintain high expectations for all students and strategies for reorganizing time, space and transitions to benefit low-performing students.



For purchase information please contact:

The National Education Service  
 304 West Kirkwood Avenue, Suite 2  
 Bloomington, Indiana 47404-5132  
 Phone: 800-733-6786  
 Fax: 812-336-7790  
[www.nesonline.com](http://www.nesonline.com)

## Excerpt

*“A revolution is occurring in public education, and it has generated dramatic changes in our nation’s schools and classrooms. This revolution is shattering attitudes and beliefs that have existed for decades and focusing national attention on the need to educate all students effectively. With a high-quality education, almost anyone, regardless of race, gender, social class, or national origin, can gain access to economic prosperity and security. Without an adequate education, the promise of prosperity and security that is the foundation of a democratic society is out of reach. Without a high-quality education, a person can live in the richest nation on earth yet lack adequate job opportunities, housing, and health benefits, and he or she can too easily fall victim to crime, addiction, abuse, and other dangerous behavior. A high-quality education has become so vital that it is now viewed as an essential and guaranteed civil right.”*

Continued from page 4.

of dollars worth of greenhouse supplies and equipment.

- Kenton County Schools

Instructional Assistant Marilyn Howell has volunteered to provide expertise and supervision to the horticulture program.

- Facility maintenance employees Greg Webster, Doug Talbot and John Davis have provided expertise and manpower in helping to dig the pond and build a shed and a greenhouse.
- Most importantly students have become involved and want to be part of the work going forward in the program.

The program has grown to also include traditional horticulture as well. The program is now home to hundreds of fish, both koi and tilapia. A twenty



*The Land Grant College Aquaculture program bus from Kentucky State University helps to educate Kentuckians about the innovations and opportunities available in the aquaculture industry.*

greenhouse, a masonry classroom and most recently storage, is presently being converted into a classroom/lab and oxygen diffusers air pumps, water pumps, hoses, nets, a seine and other

scale, microscopes, pH meters, dissolved oxygen meters, water quality testing kits and more. A new cold frame greenhouse is being completed and will be used for both horticulture and aquaculture endeavors.

In addition, teachers have attended professional development regarding the incorporation of aquaculture into the science curriculum provided by William Bean of Kentucky State University. Fish will be able to live in large fiberglass/plastic tanks indoors thanks to the purchase of a state of the art filtration system that uses mechanical, biological and ultraviolet filtration to provide pristine water for the fish.

As with most fish stories, the aquaculture program at Northern Kentucky Youth Development Center just keeps on growing.



foot by thirty foot pond holding 13,500 gallons of water is home for the koi, a building that has been a

equipment are in use. Also, the program has equipment for an educational/working laboratory including a digital

KECSAC, in collaboration with the College of Education at Eastern Kentucky University, is sponsoring three Critical Issues Series Workshops for KECSAC educators and education students throughout the 2009-2010 school year. The first of the series was "Bringing the Classroom to Life" was on November 11th on the campus of Eastern Kentucky University and the next two workshops, both entitled "Critical Issues Series: Downtown to Down Home," will be held on March 16, 2010 in Bowling Green and March 17, 2010 in Richmond.

One-hundred twenty-two educators and students attended "Bringing the Classroom to Life" on November 11, 2009. The keynote speaker, Charles Beaman is a former middle and high school teacher, recently retired from the Metropolitan Nashville School System after serving for the last 30 years as an assistant principal and principal. Also an adjunct professor, Dr. Beaman has presented at numerous state and national conferences on motivating the marginal learner, effective classroom management and discipline strategies, stress and time management and innovative instructional practices. He consults frequently with schools, school districts and school organizations in the areas of school

## Critical Issues Series Bringing the Classroom to Life

and classroom management, school climate, and working with difficult-to-reach students. Dr. Beaman's doctoral dissertation focused on the nature of adolescents and a developmentally responsive curriculum for middle school students. Dr. Beaman has consulted with schools in Bermuda, Mexico, and Haiti. He draws heavily upon his background as a language arts teacher, university professor, assistant principal and principal and his work with educators abroad, particularly in Germany.

Dr. Beaman's presentation, "Bringing the Classroom to Life" really engaged the attendees. He was able to incorporate activities and audience participation that demonstrated concrete and



*Dr. Beaman presents Bringing the Classroom to Life on November 11, 2009 at the Perkins Conference Center on the campus of EKV.*

interactive tools for learning for alternative classroom settings. One attendee exclaimed: "from start to finish the energy was great and made you want to get back to the classroom!"

"Critical Issues Series: Downtown to Down Home," will be held on March 16, 2010 in Bowling Green and March 17, 2010 in Richmond. To register visit the KECSAC website, [www.kecsac.eku.edu](http://www.kecsac.eku.edu) or contact Katie Helton at: [katie.helton@eku.edu](mailto:katie.helton@eku.edu).

*One-hundred twenty-two educators and students attended the Critical Issues Series Workshop: Bringing the Classroom to Life on November 11, 2009.*



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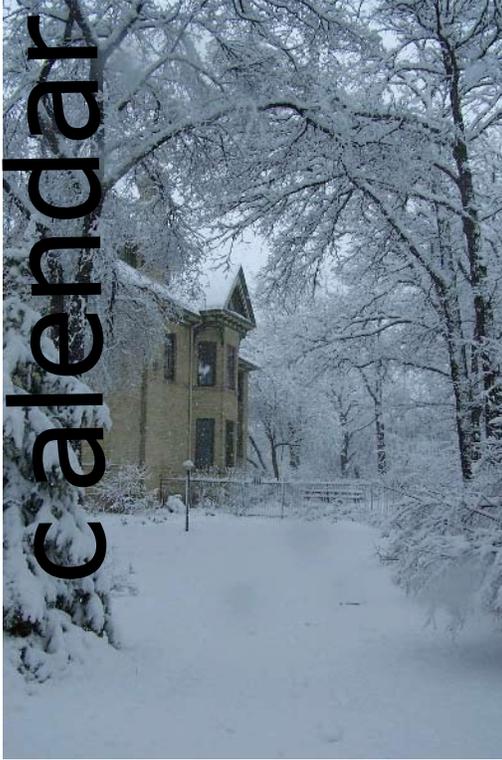
greyhounds' birthdays. Each calendar is only \$10 (plus \$2 for shipping). To purchase, please contact Ms. Valerie Kazez or Ms. Charlie Brown at:

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Office Technology Instructor  
Morehead Youth Development Center  
495 Forrest Hills Dr.  
Morehead, KY 40351  
(606) 783-8565 Ext. 126  
[valeried.kazez@ky.gov](mailto:valeried.kazez@ky.gov)



Does your program or district have news to share? Please submit vignettes, tid-bits, or articles for the Across Kentucky section of The Collaborative to:

[heather.carpenter@eku.edu](mailto:heather.carpenter@eku.edu)  
or call 859-622-5780.



# Professional Development

February 10-11

Co-sponsoring ECU College of Education  
Diversity Conference  
Perkins Conference Center, ECU

March 16

Critical Issues Series:  
Downtown to Down Home  
Bowling Green

March 17

Critical Issues Series:  
Downtown to Down Home  
Perkins Conference Center, ECU

## KECSAC Deadlines

January 2010

25<sup>th</sup> Second Quarter reimbursement  
MUNIS report due in to the  
KECSAC Central Office.

March 2010

15<sup>th</sup> ADM Count, due 25<sup>th</sup>

31<sup>st</sup> Deadline submission for new  
programs to apply for 10-11 funding.

### Information on Sexting

What is sexting? Sexting is sending sexually explicit text messages or photographs via mobile devices. Sometimes teens share the photographs voluntarily, but at other times teens may be coerced into taking or sending the photographs. Once the photos are sent, some kids use them to bully, harass, intimidate or embarrass victims online or via mobile devices.

*The Kentucky Center for School Safety's* Web site offers multiple resources on sexting. For more information, visit:  
[www.kysafeschools.org/sexting.html](http://www.kysafeschools.org/sexting.html)

### Science Pilot Program

NanoTeach is recruiting teachers for a year-long, nationwide pilot program starting in the summer of 2010. Using the Designing Effective Science Instruction (DESI) framework, teachers will learn to integrate nanoscience and technology content (NS&T) into their existing curricula. Through lessons and experiences that model the DESI instructional framework, participants will investigate dynamic NS&T content while delving into strategies that support effective science teaching.

For more information, visit:  
[www.mcrel.org/NanoTeach/Recruiting](http://www.mcrel.org/NanoTeach/Recruiting)

### StageLab Opportunities

StageLab, based in Louisville, is offering several upcoming professional development opportunities including "Approaching Shakespeare."

This workshop is designed for language arts and drama teachers and media specialists in middle and high school grades.

For more information, visit:  
[stagelablouisville.googlepages.com](http://stagelablouisville.googlepages.com)



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[www.kecsac.eku.edu](http://www.kecsac.eku.edu)

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# The Collaborative

## Call for Proposals

KECSAC is accepting proposals to present break-out sessions at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Alternative Strategies for Educating Students At-Risk Conference July 27-29, 2010 in Richmond, KY. We look forward to providing participants with hands-on training conducted by those of you who are doing the important work of educating students in alternative settings. The conference will cover a variety of topics, so proposals on any relevant topic are welcome. If you have found a great way to motivate your students, discovered successful techniques for managing difficult behaviors or developed exciting strategies for teaching a particular subject, we want to give you the opportunity to share those experiences with other educators.

The deadline for submission is April 1, 2010. Please submit proposals to the KECSAC office via mail, email at [Katie.Helton@eku.edu](mailto:Katie.Helton@eku.edu). Please include your name, as well as any co-presenters, your title, your program, the name of the workshop and a brief abstract.

Thank you for the work that you do and for helping up make this year's conference a wonderful experience for your fellow educators!