

The Collaborative



Volume XVIII Issue IV

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KECSAC's 10th Annual Alternative Strategies for Educating Students At-Risk Conference

• KECSAC will host the 10th Annual "Alternative Strategies for Educating Students At-Risk" Conference July 19-21, 2011 at the Perkins Conference Center on the campus of Eastern Kentucky University. The conference is designed to provide educators and administrators who work with state agency children and other at-risk students the skills and resources they need to adequately meet the various challenges they face in the classroom. It will highlight instructional strategies, curriculum innovations, assessment techniques, enrichment activities and service projects that may help to bridge treatment and education in KECSAC programs and motivational tools for working with students at-risk.

The opening keynote, Carissa Phelps, is a youth advocate and former at-risk youth. She was able to overcome her traumatic experiences and graduate from UCLA in June 2007 with both an MBA and a JD. Today, she is a national spokesperson on issues of youth homelessness for Virgin Mobile's RE*Generation campaign and the founder of her own non-profit that focuses on community economic development in Fresno, California.

Drs. Harry and Rosemary Wong, master educators and authors, whose techniques have been adopted by thousands of educators for success in their schools and classrooms, will be the keynote speakers on the second

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Reality Fair 2011

Harden County Day Treatment (HCDT) staged a "Reality Fair" that enabled students to gain hands on experience with paying bills and balancing a theoretical budget. For a couple of months, HCDT students worked diligently, learning how to budget as well as how to save money.

The curriculum reviewed the need to budget your money, what it costs to maintain a household, the importance of wise financial choices, what it costs to raise a child, what type of education it takes to get the job you want, how the

type of job you have affects how much money you will make, and much more. Larri Housh, HCDT Math Teacher, worked very closely with Bonnie Jolly from the Cooperative Extension Service in Hardin County to bring in volunteers from the community to set up their "reality" booths and "sell" their services. Participants included NRECC, a telephone company, Medical/Dental offices, a car dealer, Walmart & more). The three hour event, combined with the months of preparation, gave HCDT students with an enriching experience that they will draw on for a lifetime.



A theoretical storefront for a clothing retailer at "the Reality Fair" at Hardin County Day Treatment. Students bought clothing, household goods, food and entertainment all while maintaining a realistic budget for the careers they aspire to.

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Director's Corner



Director, Dr. Ronnie Nolan

I remember only a few things about my dad. I was seven years old when he passed away at our little trailer on the side of a hill in Chop Bottom Hollow (holler) in Clay County. Just a few days ago I traveled to Manchester to visit his gravesite in that same holler and spend a little time with the man I didn't really know that well. I know he liked Zero candy bars, and so did I (still do). I remember that he used to bring one home to me every now and then when he came home from a lengthy delivery on his semi-truck. I also remember my sister and me sneaking out of bed, after he thought we were asleep, and hiding behind the large wood burning stove in our living room so we could watch television with him. I remember that he loved salted peanuts in his Mountain Dew. Other than that I don't remember very much. It's been a long time and I

was really young and, in all fairness, he was on the road a lot. As Father's Day quickly approaches I thought it appropriate to reflect on my own life and the lives of our state agency children, many of whom were also raised in a single parent home.

When I travel across the Commonwealth these days and meet students from every walk of life, from hollers to inner city streets, I see a lot of myself. I often see the sadness that I experienced. I see the anger of not understanding what is happening to them or why. I also see the joy in their eyes, the happiness in their faces and the promise of a great future. I marvel at the determination they have, a drive to succeed when it seems all odds are against them. When I sometimes compare my childhood to theirs, I admit, I was lucky. I had a strong support system in my extended family and my mom was extremely protective and encouraging. She taught me that education was essential, that family matters and that self-respect was necessary and expected. She gave me the tools to deal with the emotions I felt at the loss of my dad and she was there to guide me through some pretty terrible hurdles. Not all of our children have been so lucky. Recently, I have been talking to legislators about our kids, about the issues they face and

the obstacles they have to overcome and I remind them that these are our kids, they belong to us. We have a moral and ethical obligation to provide for them because we decided to interject on their behalves. We decided that it was in the child's best interest that we, as a state, as a community, take responsibility for them. As we continue to navigate our state policy debates, our priorities as a nation and our responsibility to our children, I hope we remember state agency children. I hope we continue to think about the countless children in our state who need a hand up, who need us to look out for them, who needs us to step up to the plate and do what is right. I look back at my life now, at the many opportunities I had, the many chances I got as a child and I am proud of the work I do, of the life I lead and of the children I have the great opportunity to serve. I think in some way my dad would be pretty pleased with that too.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronnie Nolan', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Ronnie Nolan
KECSAC Director

KECSAC Updates: Listen to the Children

The *Listen to the Children* research team has completed ninety-nine student interviews thus far at nine KECSAC facilities across the Commonwealth. In total, the research team hopes to complete one-hundred-forty interviews with students representing almost every kind of program in the KECSAC family by the end of June.

The interviews will provide background information about state agency children, their adversities, goals and expectations regarding their education. Information gained through this research will be used to inform state policy makers about the intense needs of this population of students and guide future initiatives aimed at improving the educational and treatment services provided to state agency children.

Children in the care and custody of the Commonwealth of Kentucky have unique emotional, physical and educational needs. No one understands this better than the children themselves. *Listen to the Children-Voices that Beg to be Heard* is a research project designed to provide these children an opportunity to voice the successes and barriers they have encountered while receiving educational services at a state agency children's program.

day of the conference. *The First Days of School: How to be an Effective Teacher*, by the Wongs, is considered one of the seminal works in classroom behavior management.

Dr. Ruby Payne will close the conference on the third day of the conference. She is an education expert and trainer whose research based strategies help educators find creative and practical solutions to working across socioeconomic lines and toward building sustainable educational communities.



Carissa Phelps



Drs. Harry & Rosemary Wong



Dr. Ruby Payne

As part of registering and attending the conference, participants will receive a copy of Harry and Rosemary Wong's book, *The First Days of School: How to be an*

In an effort to "be green" KECSAC will be giving every participant a CD containing the lecture hand-outs, training material and additional resources that they will be able to utilize long after the conference is over.

KECSAC's Professional Development Coordinator, Katie Helton asserts that "This year's

conference will feature not only renowned keynote speakers, but exciting and valuable breakout sessions on topics such as the new Kentucky Common Core Standards, incorporating iPads into the classroom, using photography clubs to reach at-risk youth, innovative

ways to expand learning outside of the classroom and many more."

Keeping within the tradition of the conference, a three credit hour graduate course will be offered that provides a comprehensive review of research-based best practices that can ensure all students learn effectively and achieve high academic standards, including at-risk students in alternative settings. This course will examine successful teaching strategies, training for school teachers and staff, successful at-risk

curriculum and instructional designs, school climate issues, building student relationships, special education issues, and a variety of educational resources. You must be admitted to Eastern Kentucky University's graduate program in order to register for the course.

Effective Teacher. For the third year in a row, thanks to the generosity of KECSAC's State Agency Partners, the conference fee of \$150 will be waived for all participants. KECSAC recognizes that districts are facing fiscal challenges, and to make quality professional development available to as many educators as possible, we are happy to offer this conference free of charge.

KECSAC Reading Corner



As part of registering and attending the conference, participants will receive a copy of Harry and Rosemary Wong's book, *The First Days of School: How to be an Effective Teacher*, one of the seminal classics in the area of classroom behavior management.



For purchase information please contact:

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Morehead Youth Development Center's Chapter of Future Business Leaders of America Competes Regionally and State-wide!

Students in Mrs. Kazee's Office Technology class at Morehead Youth Development Center are members of FBLA. FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) is the core student organization for high school students enrolled in business courses across the nation. They are currently the only DJJ students with a Kentucky FBLA chapter.



Jelishia, Lanita, and Savana (not shown - Shelbi)

As members they were able to compete in the regional conference against area students in various events. Office Technology students created their own individual name tag using the theme "FBLA Adventure of a Lifetime." Two students took home site tests in Computer Applications and Word Processing II a few weeks before the Regional Conference date. Groups also competed in-house for the Bulletin Board event using the same theme. The winners went on to compete at the regional level. Students spent some time preparing for the event discussing appropriate business attire and going over the rules and regulations. The students were encouraged to use professional protocol and behavior including language, diction, poise, and presentation.

Four students attended the Region Five FBLA Conference at Morehead State



Jelishia presents MYDC's posterboard regarding name tags.

University on March 10, 2011. While there, along with the Bulletin Board and Name Tag entries, two students competed in Business Math and Business Communications. They joined in the welcoming program, observed a few competitive events, and stayed for the awards ceremony. The MYDC Bulletin Board won 4th place in the region!

While visiting Morehead State University, they also dropped by to visit Dr. Rodney Stanley, Associate Professor of Applied Engineering and Technology and husband to Donna Stanley, MYDC head teacher. He and several community volunteers, including MYDC paraprofessional Carol Butler, are in the process of building several miniatures depicting Fort Boonesborough and other colonial era scenes to be displayed at the Fort Boonesborough museum when completed. The girls were awestruck as they considered the detail work required for the tiny figures and artwork.

Finally, MYDC students were invited to attend the State FBLA Conference at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville on April 12, 2011 to submit a Bulletin Board for competition. There they observed the student competition in Public Speaking as well as campaign presentations for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, Historian, and Parliamentarian for the state-wide offices. Later that evening they attended the opening ceremony where all in

attendance recited the FBLA creed, heard about the Shoes for Haiti project, watched a video presentation on "FBLA - A Year in Review", and were challenged by both the state Phi Beta Lambda president (the sister college organization) and Mr. John Marks, Executive Director of the Office of Career and Technical Education and Workforce Development Cabinet.

The highlight of the evening was the special speaker, Mr. Reggie Kelly, tight end for the Cincinnati Bengals football team. He inspired the students to work hard and "prepare to be unthinkable." This was a great experience for all the students involved. One student stated that "No matter where you come from you can be successful if you try your hardest." While another said that "[this experience] has taught me that self-discipline and hard work pays off." Mrs. Kazee hopes that they will continue working with FBLA upon completing the program at MYDC and transitioning to other schools. "While the students may not have taken home any trophies this year," Mrs. Kazee remarked, "just making an effort to stand up and participate is a big step for these girls. I am proud of them for their willingness to try. It's totally worth the effort!"



Mr. Reggie Kelly, tight end for the Cincinnati Bengals football team

WRJDC Receives VSA Arts Inclusion Award

The Warren Regional Juvenile Detention Center has received an award through VSA Kentucky to bring in a visual artist to work with students at the Center. Teacher, Dr. Rebecca Painter applied for and received an Arts Inclusion Program award which brought Patricia Ritter of Cumberland County to WRJDC. A Roster Artist with VSA Kentucky, Ms. Ritter led the students in studying a unit on murals and artists from around the world and helped them design and paint a mural in the facility with the theme of "Transformation."

VSA Kentucky is a statewide, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting arts, education and creative expression

for all, with an emphasis on persons with disabilities

"Ms. Ritter has worked in our Center previously and we look forward to welcoming her back. She is a dynamic teacher and enjoys sharing her talents with students" Ms. Painter said. "This is our second Arts Inclusion award and we want to thank VSA for providing this wonderful opportunity."

This project allowed WRJDC's students to use their tactile and kinesthetic learning styles in a concrete and productive manner. The goal was to produce a mural with a popular theme that will address some social issues unique to detention. We used the AVATAR movie to focus on the theme of bullies.



Ms. Ritter and Ms. Sandra Poteet, a WRJDC youth worker, mix paint for the mural.

When a student enters detention, they come in with a colorful past that has produced some serious issues. The goal of the mural was to have a visual representation that would serve as a reminder that this process is a transitioning from one point to another. WRJDC encourages students to take it one step at a time in order to protect them against being overwhelmed.

The finished mural has two quotes: "Begin with the end in mind," and "I will cross my bridges as I come to them." These quotes are reminders of life's transitions.



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Some of the student reflected on the Reality Fair & Personal Finance Coursework:

"The most important thing it taught me is how important it is to be responsible and that you don't always need the best stuff on the shelf."

Ivan I.

"The Reality Fair helped me understand how hard and important budgeting money is. It also helped me see what

my parents stress about and why saving money is important."

Lori W.

"It made me realize I need to get a good education because life is expensive, especially when you have kids. I also learned that it is a very important thing to budget to see how much you can spend each day and if you have enough money to get what you need."

Irvin U.

Budgeting and financial literacy are crucial skills for the 21st Century and this course and "Reality Fair" definitely gives the students at HCDT a leg up in the real world.

10th Annual Alternative Strategies for Educating Students At-Risk Conference

Perkins Conference Center, ECU

Featuring:
Carissa Phelps,
Youth Advocate and Former At-Risk Youth

Drs. Harry & Rosemary Wong,
Master Educators

Dr. Ruby Payne,
Education Expert and Trainer

July 19-21, 2011



KECSAC Deadlines

July 2011

- School Districts will receive year-end reimbursements for the 10-11 school year.
- 15th Deadline for end-of-year MUNIS reports due in the KECSAC Central Office.

Programs Across Kentucky



**BUTLER COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Green River Youth
Development Center**

a regional science competition this year as “simply smashing.” Basically, he says, “you design a bridge using geometrical shapes that benefit weight holding... and then you break them.” Of course, if real bridge builders did that, we’d have some nasty disasters on our hands. But for Christian, breaking bridges was part of his strategy.

The rules for the contestants were to build a lightweight wooden bridge 30 centimeters long with a weight of under 25 grams that could carry a heavy load. Students learned that efficiency of the bridge was most important. The competition was held, appropriately enough at STUPP Bridge Company.

The top two finishers in the high school division were winner Triston Elmore of Butler County High School and

runner-up Christian Wagner of Green River School, both will advance to the International Bridge Building Contest to be held April 30th in Chicago, IL.

A hush fell over the crowd as the judges counted out the weight placed in a



A judge tests the weight bearing capacity of Christian Wagner's design.

Christian Wagner, a teen from Louisville, Kentucky enrolled at Green River School, characterized the challenge of building a model bridge for

bucket hanging from Wagner's 19.9 gram bridge. When the total count was finished Wagner's bridge had held 80.2 pounds giving him runner up status in efficiency.

Doug Jenkins, one of the co-directors of the regional competition, said the contest is creative competition that helps students build skills for the future. "Our goal is to spur interest in engineering and science" Jenkins said. Ben Annis, science teacher at Green River said, "It gives my students a real hands on application of mathematics and design and lets them learn by doing." The event was organized by the Barren River Imaginative Museum of Science and sponsored by the Scott, Murphy and Stupp Bridge Company and by the Western Kentucky University Department of Architectural and Manufacturing Sciences. Thirteen schools competed with 118 middle school and 80 high school students building bridges. Green River School had 23 bridge entries with five scoring 1000 or better in efficiency.

**CLARK COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Clark County Day Treatment**

Clark County Day Treatment's Chess Team continues to compete and triumph against stacked odds at the regional and national level! After coming in second place at the Northern Kentucky Chess Tournament (where teams from Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio all competed with each other for regional rankings), CCDT's team went on to Nationals in Nashville April 29-May 1, 2011. CCDT's chess coach and teacher Greg Hollon stated that "out of 316 teams across the nation, we finished 9th, beating out teams from New York, Chicago, and Cleveland. We were competing against teams 4-times our size and still beat them. Our students are still excited about it." He also remarked that when new students enroll at the school, they gravitate towards the chess program. "The students eat, sleep,

and breathe chess when they have a spare moment. They are all asking when the next tournament will be."

**FAYETTE COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Fayette Regional Juvenile
Detention Center**



Congratulations to Ann Lyttle-Burns who graduated from Eastern Kentucky University's doctoral program in Educational Leadership in May 2011. Her dissertation was entitled "Factors that Contribute to Student Graduation and Dropout Rates: An In-depth Study of a Rural Appalachian School District." Reflecting on her experiences, she stated: "It has been a long and rewarding journey for me. When I look back at the mountain that I crossed, meaning those things in my life that could have held me back such as race, gender, poverty, and being an Appalachian first generation high school and college student; I feel very fortunate! I really feel blessed! I give credit to my students in KECSAC programs over the years. They have been my inspiration for not only the focus of my research, but seeing how they cope with barriers in their lives as well. Knowing their stories and how they persevere with their barriers inspires you to do better personally. They are turning their stumbling blocks into stepping stones and moving forward every day! I feel that this is only the beginning of my journey. I am currently working on

publishing my research and have been fortunate to present the work nationally. It has been wonderful! I am dedicated to the mission of reducing our dropout rate in this state. Our students in our KECSAC programs come to us at-risk of dropping out of high school. I hope to use my work to increase our graduation rates for our students, which I hope will improve the well-being of our community here and our commonwealth."

**JESSAMINE COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT
The Providence School
Written by Iva DeMoss, archer and
journalism student**

"I enjoy seeing kids achieve on a daily basis," says Eric Sowers, six year coach of The Providence School archery team. Over this period of time, the team has been to Orlando once, and received recognition at regional and state level multiple times. When asked what makes Sowers an effective coach, Coty Clifton, four year member of the team said, "His sense of humor—he's always got something funny to say."

This past regional tournament which was held on March 5th, the team placed third, fortunately, they qualified to go to state. If Providence can pass the state and national hurdle, they will go on to the World Competition in Orlando, Florida. Will they succeed? Coach Sowers believes that they can, he states, "if they can transform from kids who shoot bows to a team with a goal they can reach the World Competition!" But there is more to the archery program than shooting. The archers learn important skills they can use all through their lives. "I think they learn the value of hard work, the concept of being part of a team, focus, and determination," says Coach Sowers. From plaques to medals, trophies to ribbons, from Nicholasville to Louisville and eventually to Orlando, one thing is clear: The Providence School Archery team is shooting for success.



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