

The Collaborative



Volume XVIV Issue IV Summer 2012

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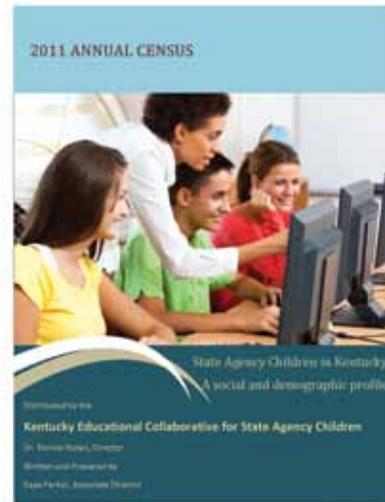
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Our Kids

• KECSAC has revamped the Annual Census to provide even more data about the children we serve. Census Day, December 1, provides a “snapshot” of the demographic make-up of children in state agency education programs on a given day. The results reflect the wide diversity of both programs and students being served in our 99 education programs in 54 school



districts across the Commonwealth. We serve over 13,000 students annually.

State agency children are one of Kentucky's most needy and unique populations of students. These students are in the custody or under the supervision of one of Kentucky's state agencies and

are usually educated in non-traditional settings, such as group homes, juvenile

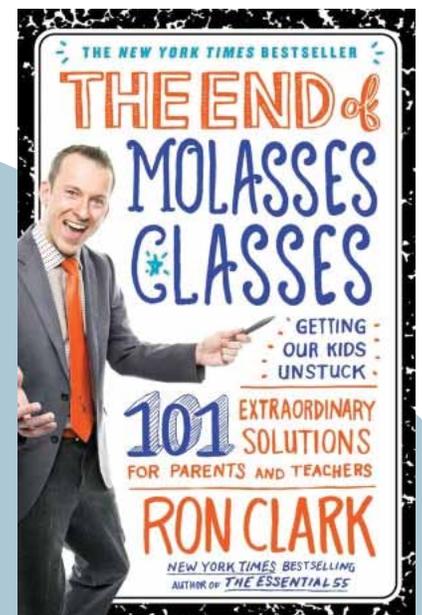
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Sneak Peak: KECSAC's 11th Annual Alternative Strategies for Educating Students At-Risk Conference

KECSAC will host the 11th Annual “Alternative Strategies for Educating Students At-Risk” Conference July 24-26, 2012 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, Debbie Silver Ed.D., is truly a “teacher’s teacher!” She is an award-winning educator with 30 years of experience as a classroom teacher, staff development instructor, and university professor. Her numerous recognitions include being named the 1990 Louisiana State Teacher



A copy of Ron Clark's book, The End of Molasses Classes: 101 Extraordinary Solutions for Parents and Teachers, will be given to the first 350 conference attendees.

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Director's Corner



Director, Dr. Ronnie Nolan

Her name was Mrs. Brown and she was my fifth grade teacher. I remember her so well because she was the only person in my life who thought, maybe, just maybe, I was an artist. I wasn't particularly creative, I didn't paint, or play music, or write great prose, but she thought I was amazing. She told me. She loved my drawings, as simple as they were, and she encouraged me to follow my passion, which at the time was recreating country meadows surrounded by split rail fences with an occasional covered bridge in the background. It was Maya Angelou who said, "it's not what you say or do, it's how you make them feel that matters." And I felt like an artist.

A few weeks ago I was traveling across Kentucky, visiting programs and I had the great opportunity to spend some time in a classroom in Rowan County

at the Sunrise Children's Home. It was a beautiful day and the school was set on a picturesque hillside, with rolling fields out in front of it and a beautiful forest just behind it. The outside was amazing, but the inside of that classroom was really alive, with rambunctious discussions about science and anatomy and life cycles and the occasion crow of a rooster. I was startled, I readily admit, when I first heard it and the students who filled the room laughed as the rooster crowed again. I suppose in all the discussion about the life cycles of chickens, the fertilization of the eggs, the incubation period and other incredibly interesting topics, that I missed the rather obvious real life rooster sitting in a box just outside the classroom area. What I didn't miss was the sheer delight the students took in learning about that rooster and the challenging discussion that took place while I made my way around the classroom.

The students' faces were filled with sheer delight, bewilderment, and curiosity and eagerness to get involved in the discussion. The teacher led them through a lesson plan, taking time to meet their individual needs, while keeping them on track. I imagined that many in that classroom felt the same kind of joy I felt in the fifth grade when Mrs. Brown did the same thing for me and my classmates. The teacher not only said the right things, did the right things, but

she also made them feel something—a desire to learn, a passion to explore and a challenge to reach higher expectations.

I left that hillside, drove the few hours back to my office, thinking about the rooster, the innovation the teacher had in bringing to life her science lesson and the looks on the faces of those students as she delivered a great lesson in life. Each day, in nearly 100 programs across the Commonwealth, we have teachers who are doing the same thing, in a multitude of ways. They may not have a rooster in their classroom, but I feel confident they are making a difference in the lives of their students; they are challenging them to achieve at high levels academically and socially and they are changing lives. They are not only making our students "feel" the right thing, they are also saying and doing the right thing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Nolan".

Dr. Ronnie Nolan
KECSAC Director



of the Year and the 2007 Distinguished Alumnus from the College of Education at Louisiana Tech University. Along the way she has taught almost every grade level and most every kind of student. Dr. Silver is the author of the bestselling book, *Drumming to the Beat of Different Marchers: Finding the Rhythm for Differentiated Learning*. She is co-author of *Because You Teach* and *Middle School Matters*.

Jason Gibson, who has served as a behavioral consultant, providing systems analysis, staff development, and crisis intervention for children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral needs throughout Kentucky and the surrounding states, will be the keynote speaker on the second day of the conference. Mr. Gibson holds bachelor and master degrees from Appalachian State and Florida State and has completed graduate work at Southwestern Seminary. He is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Kentucky writing his dissertation entitled *The Efficacy of Online Professional Development to Increase Implementation of Stimulus Preference Assessments*.

Ron Clark will close the conference on the third day. Mr. Clark is a true innovator in education, having turned around schools in both rural North Carolina and inner city Harlem, New York. He is the author of the New York Times Bestselling book *The Essential 55*, *The Excellent 11*, and most recently, *The End of Molasses Classes: 101 Extraordinary Solutions for Parents and Teachers*. A copy of the latest book will be given out to the first 350 conference attendees.

Most recently, Ron Clark has founded The Ron Clark Academy, an inner-city school serving students from across metro Atlanta. The privately-funded

institution is unique for its innovative teaching methods and curriculum based on worldwide travel. Each year the students, grades 5 through 8, apply their in-class lessons to international adventures. And, by the time of graduation, each child will have visited six of the seven continents. Teachers from around the world visit the Academy to observe the innovative and “out-of-the-box” methods for achieving student success.

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: “We’ve got record registration this year! We’re so excited to bring in a really engaging group of speakers. In between amazing keynotes, participants will get to learn hands-on strategies from their colleagues and other experts in the field of educating at-risk students. We always aim to make this year’s conference even better than the last!”

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.



Keynote speaker on day 1:
Debbie Silver



Keynote speaker on day 2:
Jason Gibson



Keynote speaker on day 3:
Ron Clark

For the fourth 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.

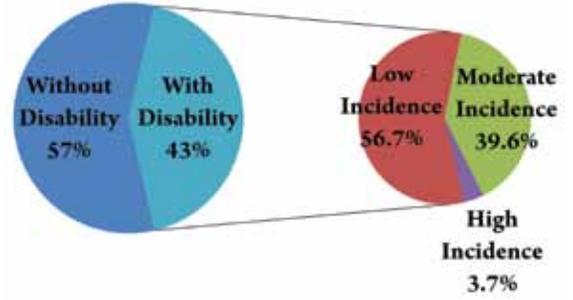
justice detention centers, mental health day treatments, residential treatment programs, community based shelter programs or hospital settings. Other characteristics of state agency children include a history of low school performance, a history of substance abuse in the family, a history of abuse and neglect, behavioral and emotional issues, and poverty.

The data also shows that a significant number of our students have an identified disability, making our work even more pertinent at this

economically dubious time. In presenting this data, we hope it will be beneficial to state policy makers, school officials, program directors and other professionals in their efforts to develop educational plans for state agency children.

A printed copy of the census will be mailed to every program in the coming weeks and the online edition can be found on our website:

www.kecsac.eku.edu/publications



Disabilities by Incidence Category for State Agency Programs

Healing through Art



Aiden Wells, 16, holds his submission to the High School Artist Project entitled Harlequin Jack and Absinth Bunny.

Excerpted & Reprinted with permission from The Advocate Messenger by Bobbie Curd

Aiden Wells never thought he'd be used as a glowing example of anything. A 16-year-old with behavioral problems that forced him out of his home school, he's attended Bruce Hall Day Treatment for the past year to help him learn behavior management skills. Standing in a hallway, he holds his painting, a replica of "Harlequin Jack and Absinth Bunny," while Principal LuAnne Littlefield snaps a photo. Wells wears a wide grin.

"Although Aiden comes off like he doesn't take things seriously, we've found through this that he's a deep thinker," Littlefield says. She describes how surprised she was after Wells was given the assignment for the High School Artist Project.

Wells researched and found the painting, originally done by singer Marilyn Manson. It spoke to him, Littlefield says. "It was amazing to hear him talking about the meaning behind this painting, analyzing it," Littlefield says. "He discussed with me how it could be taken as a statement about the animal pulling

the man out of the hat, and what if the animals were in control."

"There's two other big 'class clowns' I know here are really attached to their paintings," Wells says. "They become silent whenever they paint, they focus." Wells says painting has helped his anger — a lot. "It's very calming," he says, explaining that he's able to distract himself with the art, taking his frustrations out on the canvas. Then leave them there. "It's almost a weird feeling to paint ... there's no rules. You do what you want," Wells says. "There's a freedom to it that I can't explain."

Wells has talked his mom into buying canvases and paint so he can continue at home. He plans on doing a portrait of a musician next, or maybe even some freestyle painting — whatever's on his mind at the time, he says. "I definitely think a project like this is very important," he says. "Art is very important to learn. Maybe more than a lot of other things we focus on in school. I want to keep doing this."

KECSAC presents the 11th Annual
**Alternative Strategies for
 Educating Students At-Risk**

A Conference for Educators in Alternative Settings

July 24 - 26, 2012

Richmond, KY

Visit www.kecsac.eku.edu
 for more information!

KECSAC
Deadlines

June 2012

30th End of fiscal year. School Districts
 have until July 15th to submit the final year-
 end MUNIS report.

July 2012

School districts will receive year-end
 reimbursement for 11-12 school year.

16th Deadline for end-of-year MUNIS
 reports due in the KECSAC Central Office.

**Professional Development & Events Calendar
 2012-2013**



2012

- July 24-26 **11th Annual Alternative Strategies for Educating Students At-Risk Conference**
Perkins Conference Center, EKU
- August 28-29 **New Educators' Training**
Perkins Conference Center, EKU
- September 7 **Fall Statewide SACSAA Meeting**
Elizabethtown
*Required for KECSAC Administrators
*We are unable to offer EILA Credit for this meeting.
- October **Teaching in Action Series: Onsite PD**
- October **Where the Heart Is:
Building Enhanced Services for Transition**
- October 10 **Innovative Strategies Series**
Western KY Regional Location
- November 14 **Innovative Strategies Series**
Jefferson County Regional Location

2013

- February **Teaching in Action Series: Onsite PD**
- March 8 **Spring Statewide SACSAA Meeting**
Regional Video Conferencing Locations
*Required for KECSAC Administrators
*We are unable to offer EILA Credit for this meeting.
- March 21 **Innovative Strategies Series**
Eastern Kentucky Regional Location
- March 28 **Innovative Strategies Series**
Southcentral Kentucky Regional Location
- April **Co-Sponsoring ECU College of Education
IDEAS Conference**
Perkins Conference Center, EKU
- April **Teaching in Action Series: Onsite PD**
- KECSAC Live Series: Online Training Topics**
The KECSAC Program Improvement Process
Closing the Achievement Gap

Make sure to check our website for updates to the PD calendar!

104 Case Annex · Eastern Kentucky University · 521 Lancaster Avenue · Richmond, KY 40475
 Phone: 859.622.6552 · Fax: 859.622.8051 · www.kecsac.eku.edu

Across Kentucky



BUTLER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT Green River Youth Development Center

The students at Green River Youth Development Center have been very busy during the past couple of months! A major goal of the Green River School is to expose students to as many different educational opportunities as possible, which in turn, will motivate them to raise their expectations when making their own educational and social choices.

In science class, students have been designing and building bridges for a regional competition. Each student creates his own bridge design and then builds it to meet certain standards specified by Western Kentucky University. This year, the school submitted 16 bridges to the competition which was hosted by Stupp's Bridge Building Company in Bowling Green, KY. The school took six students to the competition, where it placed first overall in the team competition. Eight students' bridges placed in the top 20 overall. This was the first time that the Green River School won the overall competition after placing runner-up three times in recent years! There were ten other high schools in the area that were in the competition.

The English and history classes have been collaborating over the past couple of months on units relating to World War II with emphasis on the Holocaust

and its negative effects on the world. As a culminating activity, students were taken to the General George Patton Museum of Leadership at Ft. Knox to view vintage equipment and learn about the General. During the month of February, both classes discussed the Civil Rights movement and the impact of the Harlem Renaissance on American society. The students were introduced to the art, music, literature, and important historical figures of the period.

In Math class, the students have been working through Dave Ramsey's student financial program which has introduced them to many different ideas and thoughts about money and credit. It has created much excitement as they have learned many new vocabulary words, analyzed credit reports, and learned how to study *The Wall Street Journal*. The students have also been discussing family planning and the negative effects of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs on their lives and the lives of their family members. David Parnell will wrap up the unit in late March by speaking to the students about the devastating effects of Meth and child abuse on individuals and families through a meaningful presentation entitled "Slaying the Dragon."

The aquaculture program is up and running, and the facility is ready to start raising catfish. This program teaches the students about this innovative method of farming that is expected to grow in the 21st Century. The school has had an agricultural class since 1989 and now

has two functional greenhouses that continue to provide the facility with methods to make money and teach the students about food production as well as food distribution systems.

The facility has recently hosted the *Animal Tales* program, *Hooked on Science* program, speakers from the *Reach for your Dreams* program, and speakers for health education at the facility to continue working with the young men about the importance of good choices, good character traits, and health education and diet. The staff at the Green River School believes in "students first," and that you can raise student expectations by exposing them to new things that might make a difference in their lives for the future.

FAYETTE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT Fayette Regional Juvenile Detention Center



Emmanuel Martinez & June Cort

Emmanuel Martinez recently completed a lovely mural in the hallway of Fayette Regional Juvenile Detention Center (FRJDC) in Lexington. Mr. Martinez is

a painter, sculptor, and muralist who lives in Morrison, Colorado, and three of his pieces are in the permanent collection of the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. As an adolescent, Mr. Martinez was an at-risk youth, and he was incarcerated in a juvenile detention center much like FRJDC.

Mr. Martinez recognized the students who assisted in painting the mural in the ceremony. The mural in the school hallway is an illustration of the mission and vision for FRJDC. The mural is entitled "Education Generates Choices."



Emmanuel Martinez's mural is entitled "Education Generates Choices." Students and staff helped to complete this mural in the hallway of Fayette Regional Juvenile Detention Center.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT
The Academy**

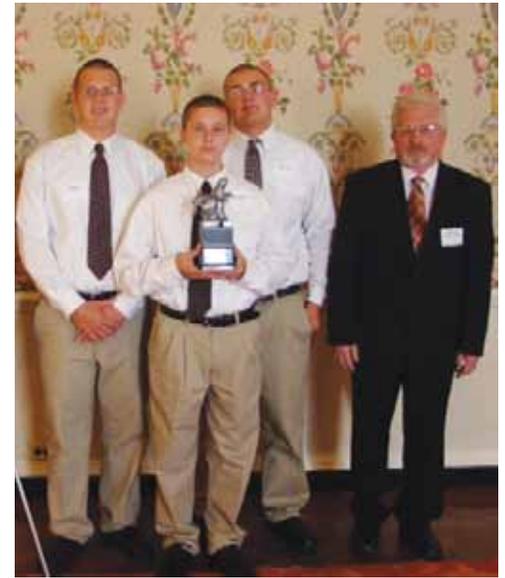
The Academy students and their teacher, Mr. Lee McIntosh, were honored on Thursday, May 19, in Louisville at the Pendennis Club for placing 1st in the Region and 3rd in the state in the Stock Market Game competition. The Kentucky Council on Economic Education Stock Market Game Awards banquet was hosted by Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis-Louisville Branch.

The winning team members are Billy Bailey, Logan Doss and Dale Allen. Over the spring semester, they researched companies, made investment decisions, and created their portfolio, investing \$100,000 in imaginary money in stocks and mutual funds. The team's winning portfolio reflected a final value of \$102,159. The students received certificates, t-shirts, and a Bull/Bear school trophy.

Throughout the year, over 6,749 students and 216 teachers participated in these investment education competitions hosted by the Kentucky Council on Economic Education and sponsored

statewide by Hilliard Lyons and Republic Bank. These competitions involve an interactive program and internet simulation for students in grades 4-12 to learn about investing, finance, and our American economic system. Teachers are provided with educational resources to teach students about risk and reward, the stock market, and other economic terms. "The program is used to enhance math, reading, writing, research, and technology skills, giving students a real-world experience while learning about the stock market," said Susan Sandage, Kentucky Stock Market Game

Coordinator. "The competition makes it fun for the students and makes them eager to learn," she said.



The winning team members Billy Bailey, Logan Doss and Dale Allen with their teacher Mr. Lee McIntosh

**WOODFORD COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Safe Harbor Academy**

Safe Harbor Academy in Versailles, Kentucky held an assembly on May 21st entitled "Finishing the Race." The focus of this assembly was to provide students an opportunity to meet and greet with some different groups and/or agencies that may be of assistance to them after graduation. Some of the groups that attended were recruiters from the University of Kentucky and Sullivan University as well as the local health department. In addition to having two former students speak, Hassan Davis, the Acting Commissioner of the Department of Juvenile Justice, was the keynote speaker.

Do you have something to brag about? We want to hear from you!
Please send submissions for *The Collaborative* to:
heather.carpenter@eku.edu
or call 859-622-5780



KECSAC

104 Case Annex

Eastern Kentucky University

521 Lancaster Avenue

Richmond, Kentucky 40475

452383

Comments: Contact the editor at

(859) 622-5780 or email

heather.carpenter@eku.edu

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New Educators' Training

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August 28-29