

# What's Happening at SECA

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## New Public Policy Resources from SECA

The Obama administration is developing new initiatives on many fronts that impact children and families. In order to make the "complex" more understandable, SECA is developing Public Policy briefs on different topics to help you unravel what is really happening. Check the "announcements" regularly on the home page of the SECA website to find out what's new on the Public Policy page.

## SECA Board Holds Its Summer Meeting

On June 27-30, 2009, the SECA Board of Directors held its second meeting of 2009 in Little Rock, Arkansas.

During the meeting, the Board developed the components of a strategic plan for 2010. This plan included the goals of:

- **Increasing the membership** of SECA and **enhancing the visibility** of SECA in our region and among our members.
- Providing **appropriate and strong professional development** to the membership.
- **Enhancing and strengthening SECA's role in advocacy** for children and families

of the South.

- **Developing new and emerging leaders** and supporting current leaders.

The plan is being refined and will be formally adopted on an **October 2009** conference call of the Board. At that time it will be presented to the state affiliates and the membership. Within this plan, there are some common themes:

1. We'll need your support (state and local affiliates) to help us inform and design program initiatives.
2. We'll be making some changes in current program designs to more effectively utilize

our financial resources and to keep our operat-



ing costs as low as possible.

3. The website and the Internet will be used as a vehicle to provide member access to many of our new and expanded programs.
4. Our focus will be on connecting with our members and supporting our state and local organizations.

*It's going to be a great 2010 for SECA!*

## Former SECA Executive Director Headed to CDF

**Dr. Cathy Grace**, former Executive Director of SECA, has accepted a new position as the **Director of Early Childhood Policy for the Children's Defense Fund** in Washington, DC., effective July 1, 2009.

Dr. Grace was Director of the Early Childhood Institute of Mississippi State University and has been instrumental in developing early childhood professional development programs in the state of Missis-

sippi. She has also been actively involved in developing disaster preparedness plans for early childhood programs when disasters such as Hurricane Ike occur. Congratulations to Cathy on this new chapter of her life!

## Sister Roberta Bailey Celebrates Her Golden Jubilee

Sister Roberta Bailey celebrated her Golden Jubilee (50 years of service) as a Benedictine Sister in May 2009.

Mary Margaret Bailey entered the Benedictine Sisters of Florida on June 5, 1957 as a postulate and on December 16, 1957 entered the novitiate and received the name Mary Roberta of the Immaculate Heart. She made her permanent commitment to the order in 1962.

After teaching in elementary schools for 10 years, she entered the world of

early childhood with Montessori certification. She founded two Montessori schools, worked with infants through 5-year-olds, taught early education courses at three colleges and child care courses to teen parents. She was also a Governor's appointee to Florida's Universal Pre-K Commission.

Sister Roberta currently serves as the Florida representative on the SECA Board of Directors, and we congratulate her on a lifetime of service to families and children in the South..



Lourdes Milan, former SECA Board member from Florida, and Sister Roberta

## Beverly Peden Honored Upon Her Retirement



Beverly Peden (the lovely lady in the pink) recently retired as Director of the Crossgates United Methodist Children's Center in Jackson, Mississippi after 16 years of service to the children and families of that community.

The church honored Beverly with a reception that included church members, families who currently use the center and families whose children attended the center in the past. Her colleagues (program directors) from the area and her family and friends also attended.

A special guest at the event, Dr. Janie Humphries, SECA President-Elect was a surprise attendee. Janie (the lady shaking Beverly's hand) came from Ruston, Louisiana to honor Beverly on her special day.

Beverly serves as the representative of the Mississippi Early Childhood Association on the SECA Board of Directors and is active with the Association and a variety of state initiatives. Although Crossgates will miss Beverly's leadership and talent in their day-to-day operations, we know Beverly will stay involved and engaged in bettering the lives of Mississippi's children.

## Need a program for your next meeting?

**SECA has developed a short program about the Association that is available to state and local affiliates and chapters.**

The program kit includes:

- A copy of the SECA DVD that tells you about SECA and what the Association means to members.
- A SECA game that will test your knowledge about our history and services (including an answer sheet!)
- A resource request form that you can complete and send to the SECA office for free handouts and giveaways, including copies of *Dimensions of Early Childhood* and the *SECA Reporter*.

We'll also post the kit on the website at [www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org](http://www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org) so it will be easy to access.

If you would like to request a kit, send a request to [info@SouthernEarlyChildhood.org](mailto:info@SouthernEarlyChildhood.org).

## SECA's Next President Retires from Louisiana Tech

Dr. Janie Humphries is retiring this summer from Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana. LA Tech is losing a treasured member of the faculty, but SECA is gaining a President in 2010 and 2011.

Janie started her career at Louisiana Tech as a professor of Human Ecology in 1987. During her 22 years at Tech, she touched numerous lives and helped to build an outstanding early childhood program at the University. James Liberatos, dean of the College of Applied and Natu-

ral Sciences stated that "Janie was unique in that most of her classes were half human ecology students and half education



students. Her position will be hard to fill."

Laura Chestnut, director of the Early Childhood Education Center and Janie's first graduate student said that Janie helped her 20 years ago and is still helping her today. The reception honoring Janie was held at the Early Childhood Education Center and donations made in Janie's honor will build a new outdoor play space for the Center.

## "Hats Off" to Beverly Oglesby!



Beverly Oglesby (the lady in white), our SECA President in 2004 and 2005, Bev-

erly Oglesby recently retired after 38 years as an elementary teacher at S. Bryan Jennings Elementary School in Orange Park, Florida. Her co-workers and parents of students threw a "Hats Off to Beverly" picnic in her honor on Sunday, May 17, 2009 at the school.

The invitation asked guests to celebrate Beverly's 38 years of dedication to education as she took her "educator" hat off for the last time and, in honor of the occasion, many of the guests came decked out in their favorite hats. Happy Retire-

ment to Beverly, and you look great in that hat!



## Our Student Web Page: We'll Post *Dimensions* Articles for Faculty

During our website re-design, we made some decisions about content that would be useful to our members and the constituencies that we serve.

We have designed a student page that is designed to be a resource for our student members. Currently, the page includes information about

where to go for information about teacher certification requirements.

Another feature we've built in is the ability to post articles on that page.

**We'll post any of the *Dimensions* of Early Childhood articles that are requested by faculty for free access to our student members.** (In order to

access this page, students must be members and have a member ID.) We can post PDF's of the last 5 years of *Dimensions* articles, so just let us know. If you'd like to request that an article be posted, contact

**[megansullins@southernearlychildhood.org](mailto:megansullins@southernearlychildhood.org)**

We're working to support our "emerging leaders" and SECA members.

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The Voice for Southern Children

We're on the web!  
[www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org](http://www.SouthernEarlyChildhood.org)

Southern Early Childhood Association



### **2009 SECA Board of Directors**

**Georgia Lamirand (OK) , President**

**Janie Humphries (LA), President-Elect**

**Dee Ard, AL State Representative**

**Dr. Joanna Grymes, AR State Representative & Prof Dev Chair**

**Sister Roberta Bailey, FL State Representative**

**Beth Parr, GA State Representative**

**Kathy Attaway, KY State Rep, Secretary & Membership Chair**

**Cindy Ramagos, LA State Representative**

**Beverly Peden, MS State Representative**

**Susan Carrigan, OK St Rep, Vice-President & Leadership Chair**

**Crystal Campbell, SC State Representative**

**Debbie Ferguson, TN State Representative & Financial Officer**

**Judy Carnahan-Webb, TX State Representative**

**Toni Cacace-Beshears, VA State Representative**

**Melanie Clark, WV State Representative**

**Dr. Herman Knopf, (SC), Member-at-Large & Public Policy Chair**

**Carol Montealegre (FL), Member-at-Large**

*Go to the SECA website for e-mail addresses for the Board.*

## SECA 2010—The Early Childhood Years: A Time of Opportunity

SECA 2010 comes to Little Rock, AR on January 21-23, 2010, and we've got a stellar line-up for you in both speakers and events. The conference will be held at the Peabody Little Rock Hotel and the Statehouse Convention Center in the heart of downtown Little Rock.

### **OUR KEYNOTERS**

**Ellen Galinsky** , President and Co-founder, of the Families and Work Institute is a leading authority on work family issues. At the Institute, Ms. Galinsky is directing the *Mind In the Making (MITM)* project that is exploring the science of early learning. This project includes a science show, videos for families and Learning Modules for Early Childhood Teachers.

She is also writing a book on learning skills entitled, *Seven Essential Skills*, that will be published in 2010.

**Dr. Linda Carson** is the Ware Distinguished Professor at West Virginia University and the Director of the West Virginia Motor Development Center. As a Professor with many years of teaching experience and expertise in childhood motor development, she has developed the nationally recognized children's health program, *Choosy Kids*, that incorporates nutrition, active learning and movement for young children. She is the lead trainer for an obesity prevention initiative for the national Office of Head Start.

**Donald Davis** ,*Storyteller*, was born

in a Southern Appalachian mountain world rich in stories. Davis grew up hearing gentle fairy tales, simple and silly Jack tales, scary mountain lore, ancient Welsh and Scottish folktales, and, most importantly, nourishing true-to-life stories of his own neighbors and kin. He is a retired Methodist minister and former Chair of the Board of the National Storytelling Association. For Davis, "storytelling is a way of giving and living life."

We're bringing back the educational tours for SECA 2010 and you'll find information about them in the spring/summer *Dimensions of Early Childhood* that will be on its way to you by the middle of July.

You don't want to miss SECA 2010!