

Featured Speakers

Dr. Stephen J. Bagnato, a Developmental School Psychologist and Professor of Pediatrics and Psychology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, is Faculty Director of Developmental Psychology Interdisciplinary Training at the UCLID Center at the University of Pittsburgh, a Maternal and Child Health Bureau leadership education institute in neurodevelopmental disabilities. He is Director of Early Childhood Partnerships (ECP) at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, an innovative university-hospital-community consultation and research collaborative which promotes the use of "best practices" and advancements in the evidence-base in early childhood intervention. Within ECP, Dr. Bagnato directs the Pennsylvania satellite of the TRACE Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Assessment, a five-year OSEP-funded initiative to research and establish the evidence-base for promising early childhood assessment practices. In over 30 years of research, Dr. Bagnato has specialized in authentic curriculum-based assessment and program evaluation research strategies for young children at developmental risk and with neurodevelopmental disabilities. Dr. Bagnato has authored over 120 research and applied publications in the fields of early intervention, early childhood education, school psychology, developmental disabilities, and developmental neuropsychology. He has been the recipient of numerous professional research awards by the National Brain Injury Research Association, the American Psychological Association—Division 16, and was the 2001 recipient of the University of Pittsburgh Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Award for his activities in ECP. His latest publications include the third edition of the widely used resource text, *LINKING Assessment and Early Intervention: An Authentic Curriculum-based Approach* (2000; Brookes), and *The Temperament and Atypical Behavior Scale: Early Childhood Indicators of Developmental Dysfunction* (2000; Brookes).

Cyndi Pitonyak is a special educator who is particularly interested in working with teams of teachers and parents to support students with complex needs and/or problem behaviors in general education settings. She is the developer of the Supports with Imagination and Meaning (S.W.I.M.) project for Montgomery County Public Schools in southwest Virginia. Cyndi was a primary change agent in Montgomery County's move to inclusive special education services for all students in their neighborhood schools, which has been highly successful

for over 15 years. In addition to her work in Montgomery County, Cyndi teaches at Radford University and consults with school divisions nationally and internationally.

Dr. Kristie Pretti-Frontzcak is an Associate Professor in early childhood intervention in the Department of Educational Foundations and Special Services at Kent State University (KSU). Dr. Pretti-Frontzcak received her doctorate in early intervention from the University of Oregon and has extensive experience in preparing preservice and inservice personnel in recommended practices for working with young children and their families. She directs the Early Childhood Intervention Specialist Program at KSU, where she is responsible for preparing preservice teachers to work with children with disabilities from birth to age eight. Dr. Pretti-Frontzcak frequently provides training and technical assistance to programs interested in the Assessment, Evaluation and Programming System (AEPS), Activity-Based Intervention (ABI), and creating legally defensible and meaningful individualized education programs (IEPs). Her research centers on using authentic assessment practices for accountability and programming (specifically on the utility of the AEPS), effective approaches to working with young children in inclusive settings (specifically regarding the efficacy of an activity-based approach and the application of universal design for learning principles), and the link between assessment, individualized goals, and quality curriculum.

Who Should Attend

- ★ Early Childhood Special Educators
- ★ Early Childhood Educators
- ★ Paraprofessionals
- ★ Head Start, Title 1, and Even Start Providers
- ★ Childcare Providers
- ★ Administrators
- ★ Families
- ★ Providers to Virginia Preschool Initiative
- ★ Related Service Providers
- ★ Early Interventionists

For more information and **TO REGISTER** Please register online at www.ttaconline.org. Once on TTAC Online, click on your region, click on the Events tab at the top, and scroll down to Shining Stars 2007 – Early Childhood Conference. Click on the conference description and follow the directions for General Registration.

Additional questions may be directed to Laurie Comer at lcomer@gmu.edu or by calling 1-703-993-4496.

Shining Stars:

Charting the Future for Today's Children

Virginia's Fourth Annual
Early Childhood Conference

July 11th - July 13th, 2007
Ramada Plaza Resort Oceanfront
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Sponsored collaboratively by:

The Virginia Department of Education
The Virginia Department of Education's T/TACs
The Partnership for People with Disabilities
Virginia Division for Early Childhood

Shining Stars 2007 Tentative Schedule

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

12:30 pm – 1:00 pm Registration

1:00 pm – 1:30 pm Welcome

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm Opening Keynote Address
Dr. Stephen J. Bagnato
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

“The MisMeasure of Young Children: The Authentic Alternative for Assessment and Outcomes Research in Early Childhood Intervention Programs”

Dr. Bagnato will provide an overview of authentic curriculum-based assessment in early childhood intervention programs, authentic assessment and best practices, and using assessment results to describe progress in young children.

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm Vendors

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Second Keynote Address
Cyndi Pitonyak
Montgomery County, Virginia Public Schools

“Collaborating for Student Success: Inclusion Works! Making the Vision a Reality”

As a special educator, Ms. Pitonyak has been instrumental in supporting inclusive practices in a public school system in southwest Virginia for over 15 years. She will detail the important components of a collaborative learning community that benefits all young learners.

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Reception
Rhythm Project Steel Drum Band
Oceanside Patio, Ramada Plaza Oceanfront

Thursday, July 12, 2007

8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Session topics include:

- ★ Authentic curriculum-based assessment and program planning
- ★ Strategies for teachers who serve young children with learning challenges
- ★ Working with teams to support students with complex needs in general educational settings
- ★ Literacy curriculum in the early childhood classroom
- ★ Successful Inclusive Placement Opportunities for Preschoolers (IPOP)
- ★ A model of the individual transition conference for children moving from Part C to Part B services
- ★ Creating instructional activities with the preschool brain in mind
- ★ Milestones of child development related to the Foundations Blocks
- ★ Using a SmartBoard in the early childhood classroom
- ★ Adaptations and accommodations for young children with severe disabilities in inclusive programs
- ★ How elements of cultural diversity affect early childhood classroom practices
- ★ Integrating students with feeding issues
- ★ Addressing children who have sensory processing disorders and building multidisciplinary teams to support services
- ★ Addressing the social emotional needs in children with sensory processing disorders
- ★ Applying methods of Reggio Emilio to early childhood classrooms
- ★ Embracing the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) approach when supporting students with autism spectrum disorders
- ★ Integrating preschoolers with disabilities into a general recreation summer camp program

Thursday, July 12, 2007 (Continued)

11:45 am – 1:00 pm Lunch & Vendors

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm Vendors

Friday, July 13, 2007

9:00 am – 10:30 am Commonwealth Update
Kathy Glazer - Governor's Office,
Phyllis Mondak -
Virginia Department of Education

Update: The State of Early Childhood in the Commonwealth

10:45 am – 12:15 pm Closing Keynote Address
Dr. Kristie Pretti-Frontczak
Kent State University

“Inclusion or Inclusion Illusion?”

Teachers face a multitude of challenges when serving diverse groups of children in an age of accountability. Dr. Pretti-Frontczak will present day-to-day strategies designed to help teachers with the challenges they face and allow them to keep their focus on what matters most for young children.

Location and Lodging

The conference will be held at the Ramada Plaza Resort Oceanfront, 5700 Atlantic Ave., Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23451. A block of lodging rooms has been reserved with special conference rates of \$145 (non-oceanfront) to \$165 (oceanfront) for the nights of Tuesday, July 10th through Thursday, July 12th. Please make reservations by calling the Ramada Plaza Resort Oceanfront at 1-800-365-3032. Identify yourself as part of the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE. To receive this special conference rate, you must make your reservations by June 18, 2007.