



## Washington Association for the Education of Young Children

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### Report for Governing Board December 2009

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**Our Mission:** We provide services to members and advocate for policies that enable individuals and businesses to provide high-quality early learning experiences for young children.

**Promoting Quality:** We think about, research, publish and disseminate information about what creates a high-quality early learning environment.

"Going to AEYC meetings always inspire me. The participants always have a way of inspiring child care staff [members] by teaching...and keeping us informed. It is great to get together with other child care workers and see how they are solving problems."

-Eastern WA AEYC Member

### Annual Conference

**2010:** Conference is October 13-16 in Spokane. Conversations are continuing with the Washington State Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (WSASCD). Please contact Michelle at [michelle@waeyc.org](mailto:michelle@waeyc.org) or (253) 854-2565 x14 if you or your affiliate wants to be involved with a conference project or with planning, especially with publicity, programming, or sponsorship development. Please keep in mind that if you're thinking of suggesting or promoting an activity or event during conference, that the discussion has to happen and decisions made BEFORE April 30<sup>th</sup>. **The deadline for anything going into the brochure is May 31st.**

**2009:** WAEYC thanks all our board members who contributed to a successful conference! 1008 registrants, and nearly 200 more presenters, volunteers, exhibitors, and supporters participated. Of our registered attendees, 21 percent (214) responded to an overall conference evaluation.

- 80% of respondents reported that as a result of attending conference, they have an expanded understanding about the issues and conversations happening across the state and within the field.
- 77% shared that through attending, they feel more connected to other professionals.
- 76 % answered that as a result of their attendance, they are more aware of opportunities for collaboration and other existing resources and services that will support their work.
- 91 % reported they can apply information learned at this conference to the diversity of families they serve.
- 91 % reported an increase in knowledge and/or skills as a result of attending the conference.

One of our attendees shared this: *"I look forward to the WAEYC conference each year. The staff are friendly and accommodating . . . ; the conference always well-organized; and the classes timely, relevant, and rooted in best practice. The presenters inspire and energize us. I personally come away with techniques and the knowledge I need to be a better teacher and a more compassionate individual."*

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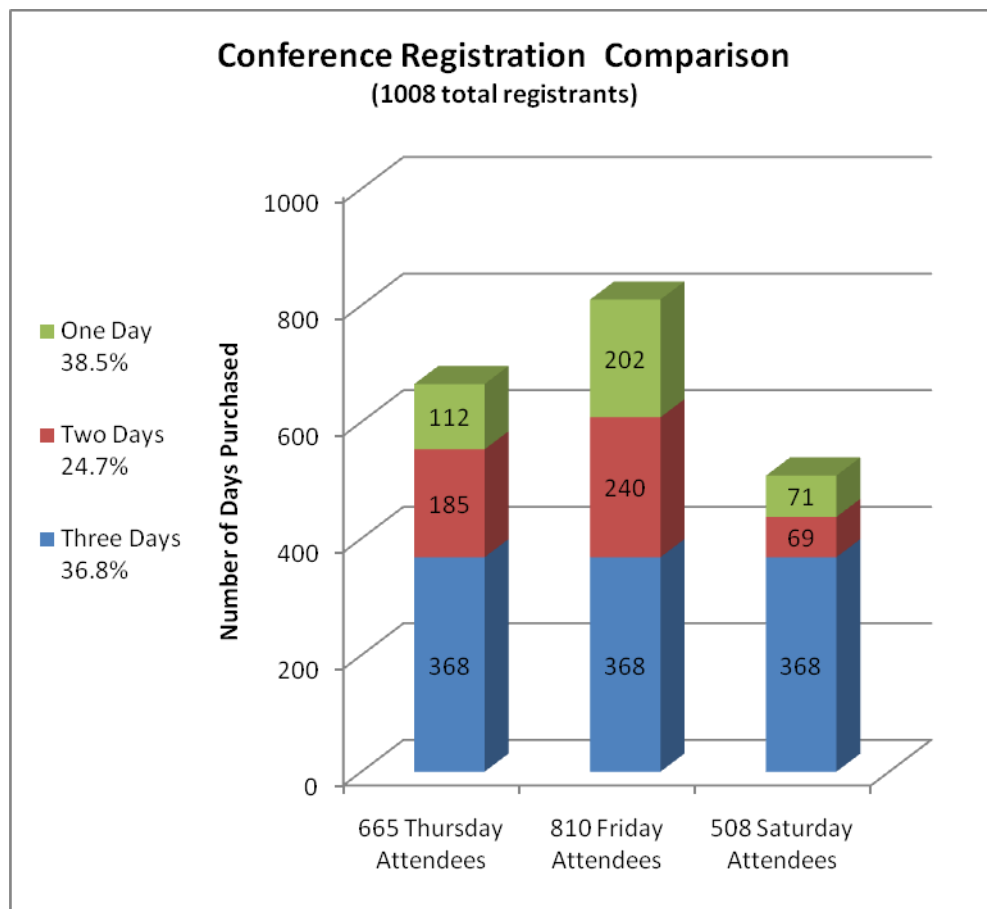
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*Promoting excellence in early learning*

Overall and session evaluation summaries will be available soon at [www.waeyc.org/conference.htm](http://www.waeyc.org/conference.htm). Following is financial and registration data.

	2009-10 Bellevue*	2008-09 Tacoma	2007-08 Yakima	2006-07 Bellevue
Revenue	\$221,484.25*	\$221,215.90	\$182,750.92	\$172,451.10
Expenses	<u>\$177,199.06*</u>	<u>\$221,195.60</u>	<u>\$108,783.35</u>	<u>\$125,034.98</u>
Profit	\$42,285.19*	\$20.30	\$73,9677.57	\$47,416.12
Attendees	1008	1000	759	1110

\*numbers not final until end of fiscal year.



### Early Learning Plan

The draft statewide Early Learning Plan and recommendations to Governor Gregoire for getting started on the plan in 2010 were made public December 1<sup>st</sup>. The draft plan, which focuses on children from birth through third grade, calls for building a statewide early learning system over the next decade that will not only ensure school readiness and success for all children in Washington State but also coordinate the different systems that touch children in their earliest years.

Both the draft plan and the recommendations are at [www.del.wa.gov/partnerships/elac/elp.aspx](http://www.del.wa.gov/partnerships/elac/elp.aspx) along with a public survey. Additional public outreach to gather input on the draft will occur throughout the winter. The plan will be finalized next spring. WAEYC leaders should pay particular attention to Recommendation #4: "Invest in and Strengthen Support for Providers and Teachers" and in the Early Learning Plan, "Ready and Successful Early Learning Professionals" outcomes and strategies (pages 84-89) and the registry strategy on page 95. These sections relate most directly to our vision of and work toward early learning professionals being well-qualified, competent, and highly compensated and programs being of high-quality.

### **Protect Early Learning!**

Thank you to all who asked Governor Gregoire to protect early learning! The \$2.6 billion budget gap looms large as the Legislature gears up to reconvene on January 11<sup>th</sup> for a short (60-day) session. The governor is expected to release her 2010 supplemental budget proposal early in December with major cuts. Most early learning investments in our state are supported by federal dollars, with the exception of ECEAP. Given the budget deficit, most state investments in early learning are in serious jeopardy. In particular, ECEAP slots and support could be cut significantly and state funding could be eliminated for child care resource and referral and the Career and Wage Ladder. Changes to subsidy eligibility and/or co-payments are likely to also occur. With increased TANF caseloads, the TANF box (which includes child care subsidies) is \$35 million over budget. Our primary message to the Governor and legislators this session is to protect current state and federal investments in early learning.

### **NO on Initiative 1033**

Thank you to all who voted no and contributed to the No on I-1033 campaign. If passed, it would have had far-reaching and painful consequences slowing our state's economic recovery and halting our state's progress on investing in children.

***Supporting Professionalism:** We promote program quality & professional qualifications and compensation*

*"AEYC's promote the value and necessity of early childhood programs and trainings. I am proud to be associated with this organization. Thank you for taking the time to put together a local chapter that is able to serve our community."*

*-Puget Sound AEYC Member*

### **STARS Scholarship Reimbursement**

Effective January 1, 2010, the continuing education reimbursement will be one award every calendar year up to \$150 for Early Childhood Education college courses or up to \$75 for other STARS continuing training. The STARS 20-Hour Basic Training reimbursement will remain up to \$150 (one-time award). The new application will be posted 1/4/2010 at [www.stars.del.wa.gov](http://www.stars.del.wa.gov). It will be a "fillable form" as many of the STARS forms are now.

### **NAEYC Resources**

In addition to position statements, NAEYC publishes resources to be used for self-study as well as in courses and training sessions. The following resources are at [www.naeyc.org/ecp/resources](http://www.naeyc.org/ecp/resources). NAEYC's position statements are at [www.naeyc.org/positionstatements](http://www.naeyc.org/positionstatements).

- **Good Toys for Young Children** contains information on selecting the safest and most appropriate toys for young children.
- **Code of Ethical Conduct PowerPoint presentation and other resources** can assist professional development specialists conducting sessions on understanding and using NAEYC's *Code of Ethical Conduct and Statements of Commitment*.

- **Early Learning Standards Self-Assessment and Planning Tool** can be used in the process of developing or revising early learning standards. It is based on the position statement, "Early Learning Standards: Creating the Conditions for Success"
- **Self-Assessment and Planning Tool for Curriculum and Assessment** can be used to compare a program's written curriculum and/or child assessment system with the position statement "Early Childhood Curriculum, Assessment, and Program Evaluation"

### NAEYC Accreditation

**Criteria Review:** A review is now underway, scheduled for completion in 2011, of the accreditation criteria and procedures. The goal is to streamline and simplify the criteria and their assessment wherever possible, making sure that the process continues to provide an accurate and reliable measure of program quality. One of the most controversial and most misunderstood areas in the accreditation process deals with staff qualifications. The level of staff qualifications in the candidacy requirements and in the criteria will both be reviewed as part of the criteria review process.

**QRIS:** Currently there are 19 statewide Quality Rating and Improvement Systems and a growing number of states are in the process of creating or piloting new systems. Of the 19 systems, 17 have included NAEYC Accreditation in some way. In nine states, programs must be NAEYC accredited to reach the top level of the state's QRIS. NAEYC's public policy department has been instrumental in supporting states in their QRIS development. President Obama's proposed Early Learning Challenge Fund, if approved by Congress, is expected to provide additional resources to states for expanding QRIS.

**Resources:** As of July 31, 2009, 178 programs in Washington were engaged in the NAEYC Accreditation process and 86 were accredited. NAEYC provides a number of resources for accredited programs and those engaged in the process. Go to [www.naeyc.org/academy](http://www.naeyc.org/academy) and click on "Get Help & Resources".

### Inclusion and Transitions

Establishing partnerships between Early Childhood Special Education and community-based early childhood programs can help ensure that inclusive environments exist and seamless transitions happen for children with special needs. This school year, the Early Childhood Inclusion Project is providing district-based Early Childhood Special Education programs an opportunity to take a leadership role in building and strengthening relationships with their local early childhood community programs. Applications are available from WAEYC's homepage; the deadline is extended to December 18<sup>th</sup>. The Inclusion Project is funded through OSPI [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)] and is administered by WAEYC and ESD 105.

**Facilitating Member Connections:** *We enhance learning and sharing connections among early childhood professionals.*

"I am truly grateful for the connection with other Early Childhood leaders. There are many times that you do feel alone in the field and getting ideas, tips or even just sharing experiences is so vital. Thank you so much for providing this wonderful connection."

-East Sound AEYC Member

### Growing Connections for Affiliate Chapters

After a successful first Growing Connections for Affiliate Chapters, planning is in process for the next Growing Connections. The next webinar will take place January 20<sup>th</sup> 6:30-7:30 and will feature the planning and successes of one affiliate chapter, as well as show affiliates how to utilize some practical, web-based tools in their outreach and event-planning.

## Leadership Opportunities

**WAEYC Board:** The Governance Subcommittee of the Advancement Committee is seeking nominations for the following Governing Board positions: Vice President, Treasurer, NAEYC Affiliate Council Rep, and Member-at-Large. Terms are 2 years. In January, an application will be posted on the WAEYC website, along with job descriptions. Applications are due March 15<sup>th</sup>; the slate of candidates will be presented to the Governing Board for approval in April and ballots distributed to members in May.

**Collaborative Leadership Institute:** CLI is a 10-month leadership development program for early learning leaders in Washington State. WAEYC is a sponsor; we encourage state and local AEYC leaders to apply to be in the March-November 2010 cohort. Here's what a past graduate said about the experience: *"The . . . months of involvement with the CLI have been enlightening. I'd even go so far as to say it's been life-changing. . . The whole concept of leadership is different for me now. I [have learned] that leadership is a great deal of self knowledge and reflection mixed with an even greater amount of listening with your heart. It's also about taking seriously the responsibility to be a leader for the sake of others, not for yourself."* Applications are available at [www.wsaheadstartecep.com/cli.html#apply](http://www.wsaheadstartecep.com/cli.html#apply) and will be accepted through **January 14<sup>th</sup>**.

**NAEYC Positions:** Leadership positions within NAEYC are a great way to get involved and help shape the future of early childhood education. **The Council for NAEYC Accreditation** is seeking candidates dedicated to promoting early childhood quality through program accreditation to serve three-year terms beginning September 2010. Applications are due April 1, 2010 and will be available in January. Go to [www.naeyc.org/getinvolved](http://www.naeyc.org/getinvolved) for information about this and other leadership opportunities.

## Administrative Operations

**Audit:** Our annual audit by Watson and Associates is being finalized. The audit report will be reviewed by the Executive Committee at their January meeting and reported on at the February Governing Board meeting.

**Lease:** WAEYC's lease expires March 31, 2010; staff is negotiating a new lease with the landlord. We currently sublease nearly 300 of our nearly 4000 square feet to the Washington State Association for Head Start and ECEAP.

### **Please Mark Your Calendars!**

<b>February 9</b>	<b>Affiliate Council Meeting, Conference Call 6:30-8:30pm</b>
February 1-3	NAEYC QRIS Meeting and Public Policy Forum Washington, DC
<b>February 25</b>	<b>Governing Board Meeting, Conference Call 9:30-11:30am</b>
<b>April 17</b>	<b>Affiliate Council &amp; Governing Board Meeting, Kent, WA</b>
<b>May 22</b>	<b>Governing Board, Conference Call 9:30-11:30am</b>
<b>June 3</b>	<b>Affiliate Council Meeting, Conference Call 6:30-8:30pm</b>
June 6-9	National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development, Phoenix, AZ
June 24-28	Western State Leadership Network (WSLN), Near Salt Lake City, UT
<b>July 16-17</b>	<b>Affiliate Council &amp; Governing Board Retreats</b>