

# The Collaborative

Fall 2005

Volume XIII, Issue I

## New Programs Highlight Need for an Increased SACF Allocation



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*Lexington Mayor Teresa Isaac speaks at the dedication of Lexington Day Treatment, a newly constructed juvenile justice detention center.*

**W**ith the addition and the expansion of educational programs that serve State Agency Children, resources to meet the growing demands are at a premium. The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government opened a newly constructed day treatment program in September, and the Department of Juvenile Justice opened a newly constructed Juvenile Detention Center in Lexington in October 2005. The Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice is in the process of completing work on several other programs for state agency children in various locations throughout the Commonwealth. The Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children (KECSAC) continues to receive calls and letters of interest in starting new programs or expanding current ones. Applications for new programs have already been received for the upcoming year, further stretching the resources currently available to provide a quality education for our state's most needy children. Programs are expanding to meet the increase in state agency children while the funds allocated to meet those needs are not progressing in a comparable manner.

The Kentucky General Assembly established The State Agency Children's

Fund (SACF) in 1992 with the passage of Senate Bill 260. KECSAC was also established at that time with the primary purpose of providing local school districts supplementary funds to assist them with expenditures incurred while providing educational services to state agency children served by programs in their districts. Prior to KECSAC, the education needs of state agency children had not been specifically addressed under the sweeping changes of the Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990. Since the inception of KECSAC, there has been much improvement in the availability of resources, the quality of education delivery, and access to on-site education facilities conducive to quality learning. However, much more is needed to enable our state agency students to move to proficiency by 2014.

Since 1997, the annual average rate of increase in state agency children in need of educational funding has been 2%. Recent KECSAC census data gathered from school district surveys indicated that over 18,000 state agency children were served during the past year. KECSAC has not received an increase in its annual allocation since 1997. KRS 158.135 Section (3) states "The General Assembly shall, [if possible], increase funding for the education programs for state agency children by a percentage increase equal to that provided in the biennial budget for the base funding level for each pupil in the program to support education excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) under KRS 157.360.....".

As the state agencies that serve children continue to open new programs, and school districts continue to expand education services for state agency children, the need to increase the allocation to the State Agency Children's Fund becomes more critical.

## Professional Development Events

### Collaboration Workshop

**December 2, 2005**

Perkins Conference Center  
Eastern Kentucky University

### 5th Annual Diversity Conference

**February 8-9, 2006**

Perkins Conference Center  
Eastern Kentucky University

### Western Region SACSAA

**March 1, 2005**

University Plaza - Bowling Green

### Eastern Region SACSAA

**March 3, 2005**

Perkins Conference Center  
Eastern Kentucky University

## Creative Environment Encourages Thinking

A creative classroom is a place where students are encouraged to engage in critical thinking and problem solving. It's a place where students can feel free to question information and to take risks as they explore new concepts and ideas.

Consider adapting the ideas that some veteran teachers use to encourage creativity and critical thinking in their classroom:

- **Reduce the focus on grades.** Encourage students to take risks. Give credit for participating as well as for having the correct answers. When you must assign grades, let your students

know why you assigned the grades you did and what they can do to grow and improve.

- **Follow up lectures and demonstrations** with plenty of opportunity for students to try out their own ideas. They will be much more engaged when they are challenged to think for themselves.
- **Provide Focus.** Students need to know what the learning objectives are – even if they have the freedom to discuss the path they will take to get there.
- **Ask open-ended questions.** Phrase questions so there are no obvious, clear-cut answers. Avoid tendency to provide an-

swers yourself when they are not forthcoming. Help your students understand that what they think is important.

- **Teach your students** how to use problem-solving strategies. Rather than providing the answers, show the students what they can do to find the answers themselves.

Exert from *Better Teaching: Tips and Techniques to Improve Student Learning*. April 1, 2005.

Sources: Marvin Bartel, "Nine Classroom Creativity Killers," Goshen College, [www.goshen.edu/art/ed/creativekillers.html](http://www.goshen.edu/art/ed/creativekillers.html); "Thinking Skills: How Parents Can Help," National Education Association, [www.nea.org/parents/tools/thinking/html](http://www.nea.org/parents/tools/thinking/html)



2006

### Kentucky Teaching and Learning Conference

- \* March 9-11, 2006
- \* Kentucky International Convention Center  
Louisville, Kentucky

For more information:  
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[thelma.whiteside@education.ky.gov](mailto:thelma.whiteside@education.ky.gov)

### The Collaborative

Volume XIII, Issue I  
**Desktop Publisher**  
Kaye Parker

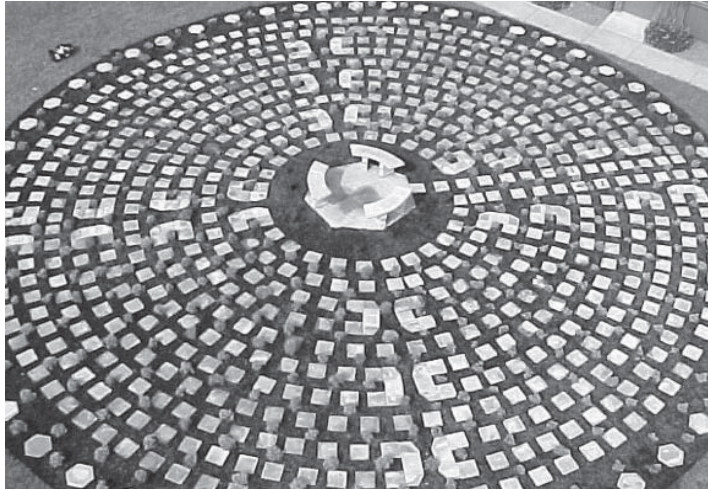
**Technical Advisor**  
Dr. Norman W. Powell

**Printing**  
Eastern Kentucky University Press

**The Collaborative**  
is published quarterly and provided at no cost to the readership. For more information contact KECSAC at:  
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## Green River Students Build Labyrinth

Students at Green River School, the educational division of Green River Youth Development Center in Butler County, took a “hands on” approach to vocational learning this past summer. Teachers, Mr. Steve Jones and Mr. Mike Cardwell, involved the students in building a labyrinth. By definition, a labyrinth is an intricate structure of interconnecting passages through which it is difficult to find one’s way. It is a maze formed by paths, designed to soothe the people and help them relax.



The labyrinth built by Green River students is 57 feet in diameter with 11 circuits of stone and 1,100 feet of walkway. Students built a 7-sided 2 x 4 mold used to build the concrete form at the center of the labyrinth. Different colors and shapes of walking stones finished the walkway going around and into the labyrinth. Pea-gravel filled the space between the walking stones.

To cut the stone used in the pathways and on the turns, students built a jig out of wood. The jig served as a guide when cutting the hexagon shaped stones used in creating the pathway turns. Each quadrant of the labyrinth consists of approximately 165 square stones and 7 turns.

After tiling and smoothing the area, students used string to level the ground before laying fabric over the area. Students then began laying

the stone in the correct spot, using the vanishing point as the point of reference.

Students differentiated the four quadrants by using different colored stone: two red quadrants and two gray quadrants. Students planted plants to further distinguish the four quadrants. Blue Star Juniper was planted in the two gray stone quadrants, and

Rhine Gold Juniper was planted in the red stone quadrants. Concord Barberry was placed in the center section. Once the plants were planted, students mulched around the stones and plants. Three concrete benches were placed in the center section of the labyrinth to create a relaxing place to begin and end the journey through the labyrinth. Funding for this special project was provided in part by a service-learning grant from Butler County Schools.



## Halloween Night

Halloween night is finally here

Children beware there is much to fear

There are witches and ghosts that fly around

There are creepy critters that crawl on the ground

People rise from their graves to come out this night

So whatever you do stay out of sight

What I am scared of the most you will never believe

Is the spooky things coming after me

If you're afraid of all these things

Stay inside cause it's Halloween night



## Professional Development

**E**ighty-three educators and administrators new to KECSAC programs attended the two-day New Educator's Training on September 7 - 8, 2005, at the Perkins Conference Center in Richmond. Attendees were treated to motivational speakers who shared personnel messages ranging from overcoming negative stereotypes of



*Educators listen as Stacey Thompson and Brian Mattingly offers instructions for making soda pop.*

poverty, to meeting the challenges of a classroom, to raising awareness of the gang phenomenon and how it influences our schools.

In addition, attendees were given educational tips on teaching students at-risk. Stacey Thompson and Bryan Mattingly, teachers at Ramey-Estep High School in Rush, Kentucky, demonstrated ways to make science exciting, such as making carbonated soda pop from sugar, water, food flavoring, and dry ice. Dr. Karen Frohoff, Director of Special Education for Madison County Schools, demonstrated math concepts using M&M's and paper airplanes. Phil Davis, creator of Decisions™, The Drug Prevention Game, taught educators ways to use the game to facilitate



*Hasan David discusses ways to empower youth at-risk.*

discussions with youth regarding drugs and other dangerous behaviors. Each attendee took a Decision™ game back to their respective program.

New Educator's Training was two days crammed full with tips and strategies designed to provide those educators with a strong foundation for working successfully with state agency children.



## Constitution Day Celebration

**S**tudents of Owensboro Day Treatment held a special ceremony in honor of Constitution Day on Friday, September 16, 2005. The students gathered outside to hear a short description of the purpose of Constitution Day and then recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the Preamble to the Constitution together. The students also released red, white and blue balloons in recognition of Constitution Day. The balloons held cards asking people who find them to call in and report their location. Students will map the locations as part of a map project. Other activities on Constitution Day included several word related puzzles and a special movie related

to the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. Teacher, Michelle Ruckdeschel and Youth Worker, Andrea Ratliff, coordinated the special event.



*Students and staff release balloons in celebration of Constitution Day.*

## Guiding Words

**A**ccording to Kentucky Education Commissioner, Gene Wilhoit, there are three words that should guide all educators interested in challenging students and moving them to higher academic levels:

- Rigor
- Relevance
- Relationship

For the Commissioner's complete comments on the sense of urgency about 2014 goals, visit: [www.education.ky.gov/KDE/HomePageRepository/Publications/Kentucky+Teacher.htm](http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/HomePageRepository/Publications/Kentucky+Teacher.htm)

## Summer Fun at Morehead Youth Development Center

Students at Morehead Youth Development Center had a busy summer. From performing monologue before a school assembly, to celebrating Smokey the Bear's birthday, the girls enjoyed a summer of fun activities. Speaking before a large group can be intimidating for most of us, but, after careful practice, the students learned to overcome the nervousness and realized "it wasn't so hard" after all.

During a week long unit, students were introduced to scrap booking as a fun way to organize memorabilia from important events in their lives. Girls discussed themes, colors, and layouts using a variety of sample pages as models. Each girl created one 12 x 12 sheet and wrote a journal entry explaining the importance

of the page. The completed sheets were placed in a scrapbook, which was judged by the staff for creativity, neatness, and journal writing.



*Smokey the Bear, accompanied by a state park ranger, celebrates 61 years as a national symbol of fire safety with students at Morehead Youth Development Center.*

The last day of summer school was also Smokey the Bear's 61<sup>st</sup> birthday. As a fun way to close out the summer classes, students hosted a birthday party for Smokey. Accompanied by a state park ranger, Smokey came to the school to celebrate 61 years of fighting forest fires. Mrs. Henderson, the school cook, baked a special cake for the occasion. Smokey posed for pictures with each girl, and then gave each a bag of Bear memorabilia. After a brief introduction by the park ranger, the students asked questions about Smokey's life-long dedication to the nation's forestry service. After Smokey left, students participated in group activities that explored Smokey's long history. Students were surprised and impressed to meet their "famous" guest.

## Grant Information

With the ever-increasing cost of education, schools are seeking funding sources outside of the school district to fund some critical education programming. The Kentucky Department of Education provides a list of grant related resources on their web site. Below are just a few of those links.

### Quick Overview of the Grant Writing Process

#### Basic Elements of Grant Writing

- <http://www.cpb.org/grants/grantwriting.html>
- [Grant Proposal.com](http://www.grantproposal.com)
- <http://www.grantproposal.com/>

### How To Write A Proposal

#### Developing and Writing Grant Proposals

- [http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.GRANT\\_PROPOSAL\\_DYN.show](http://12.46.245.173/pls/portal30/CATALOG.GRANT_PROPOSAL_DYN.show)

#### A School Grant Writer's Guide To Planning a Competitive Proposal

- <http://www.csc.cps.k12.il.us/grants/ERPguide/guide.pdf>

#### Writing a Successful Grant Proposal

- <http://www.mcf.org/mcf/grant/writing.htm>

### Samples of Successful Proposals

#### School Grants: Index to Grant Proposals

- [http://www.schoolgrants.org/Samples/samples\\_index.htm](http://www.schoolgrants.org/Samples/samples_index.htm)

**Grants Alert** informs educators about education grants and funding sources that include corporate, federal and state grants.

- <http://www.grantsalert.com/index.cfm>

**Faith-Based and Community Initiatives** lists federal grant opportunities of interest to small faith-based and community groups. These grants are offered by multiple federal agencies.

- <http://www.whitehouse.gov/government/fbci/grants-catalog-index.html>

**The Kentucky Arts Council** is a state agency in the Commerce Cabinet and offers several Arts In Education grants to schools and communities.

- <http://artscouncil.ky.gov/Education/schprg.htm>

For more links go to:

<http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Administrative+Resources/>



## SACSAA Update

**K** ECSAC school administrators from across the state gathered at the Galt House East in Louisville, Kentucky to attend the annual statewide SACSAA meeting. The meeting was held in conjunction with the 11<sup>th</sup> Safe Schools Conference on September 20, 2005. Eighty-six administrators were on hand to congratulate the winners of the outstanding educator awards, awarded yearly by SACSAA. Every spring, SACSAA membership is asked to nominate educators in one of four categories: administrator,



*Jerry Spaeth, Teacher of the Year.*

teacher, vocational teacher, and support staff. This year's Administrator of the Year award was presented to Ruthanne Dobbins of Fayette County Schools. Ms. Dobbins has dedicated her entire professional career towards providing quality educational services, both in the classroom and in administrative positions, for students in Fayette County.

Jerry Spaeth, a Language Arts teacher at Northern Kentucky Youth Development Center in Kenton



*Ruthanne Dobbins, Administrator of the Year.*

County, was named Teacher of the Year. Mr. Spaeth, a master teacher dedicated to updating his knowledge and methods of teaching, is committed to the students he serves. Jason McAllister, of Ashland Day Treatment in Raceland-Worthington Independent Schools, was also presented a Teacher of the Year award. A man who goes beyond the requirements of a good teacher, Mr. McAllister has positively affected the students and his fellow teachers his program. Outstanding Support Person of the Year is Virginia Flynn from the Kentucky Baptist Home for Children (Southern Region Shelter) in Pulaski County. The student



*Virginia Flynn, Support Staff of the Year.*

who nominated Ms. Flynn said, "She never gets frustrated with any of us. She laughs spontaneously, has a beautiful smile, and is a great listener."

Dr. Steve Hyndman, Coordinator of Educational Technology at Eastern Kentucky University, presented *KECSAC On-Line*, a discussion board created specifically for KECSAC administrators and educators as a quick and efficient means of communicating with other educators who work with State Agency Children (SAC). Effective collaboration is important to success when treating and educating SAC.



*Jerry McAllister, Teacher of the Year.*

To foster collaboration, KECSAC hosted a round table discussion, with six panelists from various types of programs, designed to share successful strategies that allow education and treatment staffs to work together for the best interest of the youth. The day long meeting provided an opportunity for SACSAA members to network with and gain motivation from other educators.

### Did you know the most prevalent diagnose of children in foster care are:

• Mood disorders and depression	• Oppositional defiance disorders
• Post-traumatic stress disorder	• Adjustment disorder
• Conduct disorders	Source: American Psychiatric Association. (2000) Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition (DSM-IV). Washington, DC: Author.

## What's Up with District News

### Wolfe County

#### Dessie Scott Children's Home

Students at Dessie Scott Children's Home realized other people in the world have needs greater than their own and decided to do something about it. During a basketball Shoot-a-Thon held on October 14, Dessie Scott students raised \$400 for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Students contacted sponsors who agreed to pay a certain amount of money for every goal made. Different spots on the gym floor were assigned different values. Each participating student was allowed 20 shots within a 90-second time frame. When the shooting stopped and the money collected, students had earned \$400 to help ease the suffering of the hurricane victims.

Students have also adopted an American Soldier in Iraq. In addition to the many letters the students have written, they also sent him \$50 worth of "goodies" purchased with their own money. The soldier responded by sending pictures of himself on duty in Iraq to the students. The principal, teaching staff, and treatment staff at Dessie Scott are proud of these students and the humanitarian efforts they have displayed towards victims of one of the worst natural disasters in our country's history, and toward soldiers on duty in Iraq.

### Washington County

#### Care Academy

Music holds a special place for students at Care Academy. Recently the Academy Praise Band played a special concert at a local church. Members of the band include Mr. Matt on keyboard and vocals, Matt

on guitar, Alec on bass, Brandon on vocals, and Ryan on drums. The group plays a variety of hymns including *I'll Fly Away*, *Heart of Worship*, and *Give us Clean Hands*.

Members of the church welcomed the Praise Band. After the concert, church members presented the band with an audio recording of the concert. Listening to the tape as they traveled back to Care Academy, the band was thankful for the opportunity to play their music and looks forward to future musical opportunities.

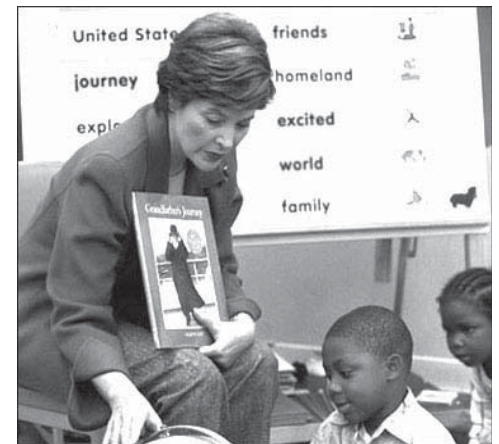
Care Academy students did not have to wait long. On August 27, *Detour 180*, a Christian rock band from New Zealand, came to Care Academy for a concert. Academy students embraced the music and the message of *Detour 180*. Two students, Stephanie and Brandon, competed in a half-court basketball shoot, trying to win a CD. Although Stephanie won the competition, *Detour 180* presented both students with a copy of their CD. After the concert, *Detour 180* band members mingled with the Academy students, sharing their message of Christian love. It was a great experience for Care Academy students.

### Kenton County

#### Northern Kentucky Youth Development Center

The Northern Kentucky Youth Development Center (NKYDC) received the Laura Bush Foundation Grant for \$5,000 to purchase new books for their library. NKYDC is one of only two schools in Kentucky to receive this grant. Ms. Becki Bailey, a special education

teacher wrote the grant. The mission of the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries is to support the education of our nation's children by providing funds to update, extend, and diversify the book and print collections of America's school libraries.



Mr. Jerry Spaeth, a Language Arts teacher at NKYDC, was recently presented the State Agency Children School Administrator Association's Teacher of the Year Award for 2005. A life long teacher, Mr. Spaeth uses a variety of instructional strategies to individualize student work and provide a creative learning experience which helps him relate positively to even the most difficult youth.

"Children who love reading, love learning, and once children learn to use a library, the doors to learning are always open to them."

Laura Bush



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For more information, visit our web site at [www.kecsac.eku.edu](http://www.kecsac.eku.edu).



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