

# 2011

## Division for Early Childhood Annual Report



Division for Early Childhood  
27 Fort Missoula Road, Suite 2  
Missoula, Montana 59804



University of Illinois Alumni Association/Ned Mulka

# President's Message

For fiscal year 2010-2011, DEC's Executive Board focused its work on DEC's 2009-2012 Strategic Plan. With the newly-restructured board of 11 elected members, the DEC board was able to move forward on each of the strategic plan goals with greater flexibility and access to resources. I highlight below some of DEC's accomplishments during the last fiscal year:

**Goal 1: To advance governmental policies that promote evidence-based practice for infants, young children, and families.** The formation of the *Rapid Response Team* was the centerpiece in DEC's efforts to accomplish this goal. The Rapid Response Team comprised of Amy Santos (IL), Virginia Buysse (NC), Cindy Oser (OH), Beth Rous (KY), Samtra Devard (Parent Representative, DE), Emily Paulsen (Student Representative, IL), Sarah Mulligan (Executive Director) and Sharon Walsh (Government Relations Consultant). The team worked together throughout the year to respond, in a timely manner, to several federal initiatives including the reauthorization of ESEA and the early childhood listening and learning tour organized by the Departments of Education and Health and Human Services.



The IDEA book was launched in October 2010

**Goal 2: To increase the competence and confidence of the early childhood workforce who provide services for children (birth through age 8) who have or are at risk for disabilities and their families.** DEC's efforts related to this goal focused on four areas.

**First,** DEC organized a series of professional development activities including: the annual DEC conference; the RTI Summit (in collaboration with CRTIEC); the National Training Institute on Addressing Challenging Behaviors (in collaboration with TACSEI and CSEFEL); and the first ever, highly successful, CEC/DEC Collaborative Webinar on Differentiating Curriculum and Instruction in Pre-K and Kindergarten featuring current DEC President Kristie Pretti-Frontczak (OH) and CEC Past President Mary Ruth Coleman (NC) ([http://www.cec.sped.org/ScriptContent/Orders/ProductDetail.cfm?section=CEC\\_Store&pc=WEB1102A](http://www.cec.sped.org/ScriptContent/Orders/ProductDetail.cfm?section=CEC_Store&pc=WEB1102A)). Through these professional activities, DEC reached out to over 2,500 professionals and families to enhance their skills and knowledge in supporting young children with special needs and their families.



At the 2010 annual conference held in Kansas City, DEC saw an increase in registrants from years past! Some of the highlights from the 2010 annual conference included a sold-out site tour of the Juniper Gardens Children's Project, an engaging keynote address by longtime DEC member Dr. Steve Warren, energy-filled Pecha Kucha-inspired sessions, and the rousing awards ceremony and luncheon. The success of the 2010 annual conference was made possible with support from hundreds of volunteers, with special thanks to our colleagues from the Kansas and Missouri DEC Subdivisions!

**Second,** DEC supported the work group that completed the revision and validation of the *DEC Personnel Preparation Standards*. This multi-year, monumental effort was led by Lynette Chandler (IL) with work group members: Karen Lifter (MA), Deborah Cochran (OH), Laurie Dinnebeil (OH), Peggy Gallagher (GA), Kimberly Christensen (OH), and Vicki Stayton

(KY). Member-at-Large, Diana Valle-Riestra (FL) served as the Board's liaison to the work group. A description of the process and outcomes of this work group was recently published in the Journal of Early Intervention (<http://jei.sagepub.com/content/33/2/151>):



Lifter, L., Chandler, L. K., Cochran, D., Dinnebeil, L. A., Gallagher, P. A., Christensen, K. A., & Stayton, V. D. (2011). DEC Personnel preparation standards: Revision 2005-2008. *Journal of Early Intervention, 33*, 151-167.

**Third**, DEC formed a work group to develop recommendations to enhance DEC's *Marketing and Dissemination* efforts. Sarah Mulligan (Executive Director) and Sharon Darling (FL) facilitated the work group, which comprised of Ann Bingham (NV), Bonnie Keilty (NY), Jessica Reighard (MD), Heather Shrestha (MD), and Dan Ratner and Joan Melner of the Council for Exceptional Children. Based on the work group's recommendations, the board approved a marketing plan which included developing a new DEC logo (which is nearing its final stages!) and a new membership brochure, catalog sheets for publications, and the promotional materials that will be launched in March 2012.



**Fourth**, DEC continued to support the process of developing and updating DEC Position Statements. These position statements are key to DEC's efforts to inform and influence policy, research, and practice in the field. In September 2010, the board approved the Position Statement on *Responsiveness to All Children, Families, and Professionals: Integrating Cultural and Linguistic Diversity into Policy and Practice*. Lillian Duran (UT) facilitated this effort with support from Greg Cheatham (KS), Sharon Darling (FL), Susan Moore (CO), Jorge Preciado (OR), Sylvia Sanchez (VA), Eva Thorp (VA), Diana Valle-Riestra (FL) and Alma Watson (TN). The board also approved the development and revision of additional position statements which are currently in progress.

**Goal 3: To promote practices that are evidence-based and aligned with DEC's Recommended Practices as part of a decision-making process that leads to positive outcomes for young children and families.** To accomplish this goal, the board formed two work groups to: (1) begin the groundwork to update DEC's Recommended Practices and (2) develop a system to acquire and develop new products.

**First**, the work to update the *DEC Recommended Practices* began with a meeting in October of the group who coordinated the development of the 2000 and 2005 versions of the Recommended Practices: Susan Sandall (WA), Mary McLean (WI), Barbara Smith (CO), and Mary Louise Hemmeter (TN). With their input, a new work group was formed in January 2011 with Pat Snyder (FL), Kathy Hebbeler (CA) and Judy Carta (KS) as members and whose main task was to lay the initial foundation for updating the Recommended Practices. This work group met in Clearwater Beach, FL in March 2011 and will be providing the current Board with recommendations on the next steps.

**Second**, DEC formed the *Acquisitions and Product Development* which was led by Rob Corso (CO). This work group reviewed and upheld DEC's process for reviewing proposals for potential publications and products that DEC can publish and/or distribute. Using the *DEC Product Plan* form, authors can submit a proposal for products and publications to DEC. Information about the DEC Product Plan may be obtained from Cynthia Wood at [cynthia.wood@dec-sped.org](mailto:cynthia.wood@dec-sped.org).



**The 12<sup>th</sup> YEC Monograph  
focused on Autism**

**Goal 4: To offer all members opportunities to become more knowledgeable through a professional organization that provides cutting edge information on research-based practices and a variety of mechanisms to contribute and collaborate at the international, national and state levels with those who**

**advocate for families and young children with special needs.** DEC's Subdivisions are its lifeblood and in 2010-2011, the DEC board formed the *Subdivision Work Group* led by Eileen McCann (NJ) and Lisa Backer (MN) to identify and implement ways that DEC can support the work of the subdivisions. This work group provided the impetus for DEC to initiate a Subdivision Special Interest Group, develop a series of webinars, and create an online "*Subdivision Leaders*" resource page: [http://www.dec-sped.org/Member Login](http://www.dec-sped.org/Member_Login).

**G**oal 5: To re-organize DEC's Governance in order to create a more efficient structure that aligns with DEC's mission and can quickly respond to issues of interest to our members and can effectively position our organization for continued leadership. DEC activities related to this goal focused on engaging all 11 elected board members in discussing, planning, and implementing changes to current organizational structures. The formation of work groups and special interest groups was critical to ensure that the essential work of DEC was uninterrupted even with the ongoing changes in the board structure. In June 2011, the DEC board convened in Missoula, MT for a 2-day retreat to begin the process of adopting and transforming into a *Policy Governance* structure that will create a way for DEC to become a more efficient, relevant, productive, and responsive organization for its members and to the broader EI/ECSE field.



**DEC headquarters  
in Missoula, MT**

While the work is never done, DEC has a lot to be proud of. DEC continues to be a strong voice for children, families, and professionals in the field of early childhood special education and early intervention. DEC will continue to exist to serve the needs of its members, to lead the field, and to enhance the lives of young children with special needs and their families.

In closing, DEC thrives because of the unswerving commitment of its members and the DEC Executive Office staff. An overriding theme from this year's message is the multitude of DEC members who have given their time to support the organization's activities and initiatives paired with the dedication of the staff. Thus, I want to thank our member volunteers and staff for making 2010-2011 yet another successful and productive year for DEC!



Amy Santos  
DEC Past President  
2011-2012

## 2010/2011 Executive Board:

<b>President:</b>	Rosa Milagros Santos, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
<b>President-Elect:</b>	Kristie Pretti-Frontczak, Kent State University
<b>Vice President:</b>	Bonnie Keilty, Pace University
<b>Past President:</b>	Virginia Buysse, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute
<b>Secretary:</b>	Lisa Backer, Minnesota Department of Education
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Robert Corso, Vanderbilt University
<b>Governor:</b>	Sharon Darling, Florida Atlantic University
<b>Members At Large:</b>	Cindy Oser, Zero to Three Diana Valle-Riestra, Florida International University Greg Cheatham, University of Kansas Megan Purcell, Eastern Kentucky University

# DEC Financial Report: July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

DEC's annual budget is developed each year in compliance with DEC's Administrative Policies. The 2010-2011 budget reflects income and expenses in the following classifications: Administration, Publications, Conference, Advocacy Member Support, Addressing Challenging Behavior National Training Institute (NTI), and Response to Intervention Early Childhood Summit. Primary areas of revenue for DEC are the annual conference, publications, and membership dues. The 2011 conference was held in Kansas City, Kansas and hosted by our DEC Subdivisions in Missouri and Kansas. 1251 people attended the conference and the event generated income of \$268,843. In 2010/2011, we added two new publications: *Monograph #12: Supporting Autism Spectrum Disorders and Their Families* and *Understanding IDEA*. Sales of these two new products were \$7,285 and \$9,280 respectively. Publication sales (including the YEC Monograph series, Recommended Practices products, and other publications) were \$231,076. Membership, DEC's third major source of revenue, generated \$119,148 in revenue this year. DEC professional members pay \$35 in annual dues; students, family members, and associate members pay \$15. Membership has declined by 8% from one year ago; on June 30, 2011 there were 3,531 members.

The 2010/2011 annual operating budget was based on \$888,405 projected income. Total revenue generated was \$812,120 and total expenses including cost of goods sold were \$830,196. Expense over income was due to fourth quarter inventory costs and lower than anticipated overall revenue. The chart below shows budgeted vs. actual income and expenses for the 2010/2011 fiscal year.

DEC assets are maintained in checking, money market accounts, certificates of deposit, and general savings. In addition to operating capitol and cash reserves, DEC maintains restricted assets in the Rose Engel and J. David Sexton memorial funds. An annual audit of accounts is conducted by Loren W. Randall & Associates in Missoula, Montana. The complete audit report is available upon request.



## By the Numbers

**24**

DEC Subdivisions

**1251**

Attendees at the 2010 Conference in Kansas City, Missouri

- **114** conference sessions
- **10** roundtable discussions
- **5** receptions
- **28** meetings
- **95** posters
- **31** student posters

All in **2** days!

**2088**

YEC Monographs sold this year

**197**

Attendees at the 2010 RTI EC Summit in Kansas City, Missouri

**3531**

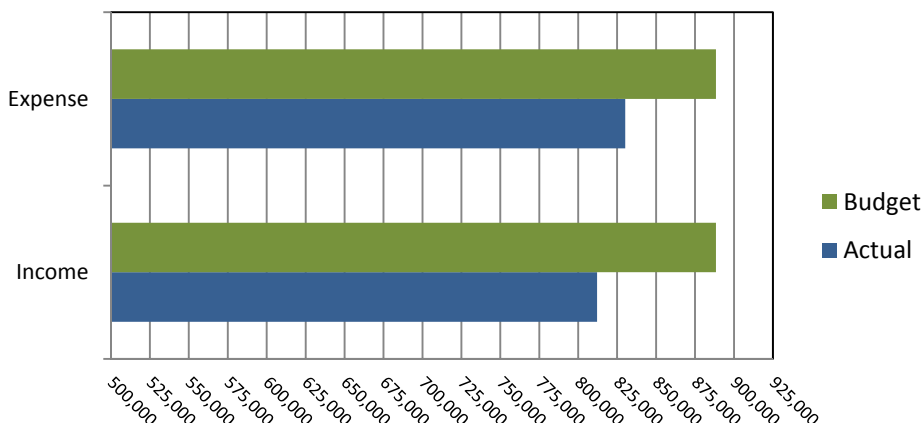
DEC members as of June 30, 2011

**563**

Attendees at the 2011 National Training Institute in Clearwater Beach, Florida

**2095**

Recommended Practices Books sold this year



## Thank You...

- Virginia Buysse (NC), Rob Corso (CO) and Cindy Oser (OH), who all retired from the board after several fruitful years of service.
- Carla Peterson (IA), who over the last five years, served as editor of the YEC journal. Carla's term as editor along with her Associate Editors, Patti Blasco (OR), Gayle Luze (IA), Amy Santos (IL) and Greg Cheatham (KS), and the members of the YEC Editorial Board, ended in June 2011.
- Bethany Morris, for her many years at the DEC Executive Office. We know she is looking forward to enjoying more quality time with her family!

## Welcome...

- Carol Trivette (Vice President, NC), Mark Smith (Treasurer, NE), and Hannah Schertz (Member-at-Large, IN) were elected to DEC's Executive Board.
- Natalie Forcier and Marina Zaleski were recently hired at the DEC Executive Office.

## DEC honors the 2010 Award Winners...

- Glen Dunlap (NV) - Mary McEvoy Service to the Field Award
- Juliann Woods (FL) - Merle B. Karnes Award for Service to the Division
- Tara McLaughlin (FL) - J. David Sexton Doctoral Student Award
- Jennifer Annable (OH) - Rose C. Engel Award for Excellence in Professional Practice

## DEC is online!

Stay up to date and learn more about DEC's activities through the:

- Website: [www.dec-sped.org](http://www.dec-sped.org)
- DEC Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/DivisionforEarlyChildhood](http://www.facebook.com/DivisionforEarlyChildhood)
- DEC Twitter account: [www.twitter.com/DECTweets](http://www.twitter.com/DECTweets)
- DEC President's Blog: [decpresident.blogspot.com/](http://decpresident.blogspot.com/)



**The Division for Early Childhood**  
**27 Fort Missoula Road, Suite 2**  
**Missoula, Montana 59804**  
**Phone: 406-543-0872**  
**Email: [dec@dec-sped.org](mailto:dec@dec-sped.org)**