

Early Childhood Education News

Red Rocks Community College

Dear Colleagues

Welcome all to 2012, it is going to be a very good year!

I can make this bold statement because I choose to believe in all the positive things of this life — but particularly because I am encouraged by the changes I see happening around me.

That brings up the subject of change and how we handle changes. I have to admit that sometimes I am as resistant to change as the next person, I fear the unknown aspects of change. But I take heart in this quote (with my own interpretation added to it in parenthesis):

" And here is a fact of life that those who are quick to speak of devils [fearful people afraid of change] never mention: As long as a thing is unknown, it belongs to us in a way that well-known things do not. For we have the opportunity to fill the empty, unknown spaces for ourselves, and in them there is room for imagination and for hope."

excerpt from 'Golden' by Cameron Dokey, 2006

Changes are on their way within



the Colorado ECE scene. We anticipate the reality of many directors needing to take coursework to stay current with their Director qualifications (myself included!); we anticipate the roll out of latest revision of Licensing rules and regulations for child care centers later this fall; we anticipate a greater commitment from Governor Hickenlooper to promote early care and education in the state in spite of Colorado not receiving any funds for ECE from the latest round of Race to the Top federal dollars; the community college system anticipates seeing many of it's 13 colleges learning of their NAEYC program accreditation status in Spring!

At RRCC, we look forward to another great semester of serving students, recruiting new students, and creating a Week of the Young Child documentation exhibit of both children's work and student reflections on their education in ECE at Red Rocks Community College in order to reach out and serve the young children of our communities.

Let us confront 2012 with boldness, it IS going to be a very good year!

Janiece & Kathleen

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Need Advising?

Contact:

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Self Advising with DegreeCheck Students can track their progress using the [DegreeWorks](#) program auditing report feature located in the portal, [The Rock](#).

Important Dates to Remember!!

Spring semester begins	Jan. 17
Late Start classes begin in February!	
Applications for Spring Graduation due	Feb. 1
Last day to drop 15 week class and receive tuition refund	Feb. 1
Spring Break—No Classes	March 26— Apl 1
Registration for Summer and Fall 2012 begins	April 2
All College Development Day—No Classes	April 17
Spring Semester Ends	May 8

Directors, It's not too late to get on-board!



Many childcare program directors are in a panic about meeting the deadline with Child Care Licensing's requirement for ECE Directors to have completed ECE111 Infant/Toddler Theory and Development AND ECE260 The Exceptional Child coursework by May 31, 2012.

Not to worry! It is not too late to sign up for these classes with Red Rocks Community College! We are offering late start sections of both classes!

ECE111-472 (CRN33624) On-line class begins February 6 for 10 weeks.

ECE260-002 (CRN33629) Meets on Friday afternoons. Class begins February 10 for 10 weeks.

We will offer another one week intensive ECE111 class in March if we receive enough interest—call Janiece (303)9146553 or Kathleen (303) 9146326 if you want to be included in this class!

A RAFT deal too cool to not pass on!!

RAFT Colorado has been granted a supply of FlipCams from Cisco Systems. Instead of selling these cameras we are giving them away for FREE. We are looking for creative and adventurous RAFT members who can utilize these cameras to benefit the learning experience for the kids they teach.

All you have to do to be eligible for receiving a FlipCam is to fill out an online application ([click here](#)). Once selected you will have 30 days to pick up your FlipCam(s) from RAFT Colorado. All we ask is that you upload footage from your creative projects to a convenient space online that demonstrates your use of the camera.

If you have any questions about the grant or the FlipCam project feel free to contact me: [via e-mail](#) or phone 720-242-8833.

Cheers,

Amy

amy@raftcolorado.org

(This application closes on January 29 so hurry to apply!)

If you have not visited the RAFT website or been to their facility in LoDo, you are in for a treat! This is a valuable resource for teachers to find low cost materials and ideas to use in the classroom for hands on, interactive learning. Visit them at

<http://www.raftcolorado.org/>



Children's play and creativity flourishes with found objects!

An interesting article to read...

We are all aware of the value of play as the primary means of learning for young children. Here is another interesting [article](#), this one put out by the American Academy of Pediatrics that promotes the inclusion of play at home, in schools and in the community.

The authors, Drs Regina Milteer and Kenneth Ginsberg, discuss not only the value of play in the lives of children but also the effects lack of play creates in low income children.

This informative article wraps up with several conclusions and advice for pediatricians to encourage and educate families about the use of play and play resources. What I found is that it is the same advice we can use in our own professional practices with families, because caring ECE professionals, like caring child health professionals "have a natural role to advocate for the conditions that allow for the optimal physical, emotional, and social development of children and adolescents."

"...the approach to early education that naturally incorporated play into the school day is shifting toward a more academically oriented instructional approach as new standards for reading readiness have changed for even kindergarten students."

A reason to move more!

It's the new year and many of us make resolutions for self improvement: to eat smarter, start a new interest or to exercise more. On behalf of the latter, here is a link to a fun and interesting [video presentation](#) on the benefits of exercising for 30 minutes a day!

Now if I could only scribble notes on the white board as fast and as engaging as this presenter does....!

Have a successful spring semester all!!



Save the Date!!

Back to School Night: Meet representatives from area 4 year programs for EDU/ECE students wanting to pursue a Bachelors degree in education.

Wednesday, Feb. 22, 6:00-7:45 pm in the Community Room.