



VIRGINIA VOICE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY HOPE JORDAN

Dear Colleagues,

It is my honor to represent you as President of VA CEC this year. The VA CEC Board is working on some exciting initiatives this year.

First - please "Save the Date" - Oct. 17, 2009 for our annual VA CEC Conference. We are excited about changing the meeting location (we will be meeting in VA Beach) next year and hope that you all will come, spend the day at the conference, and stay for an evening of fun and adventure afterwards!!! We will have Pete Wright as our key note but will also be offering several exciting breakout sessions, too. Keep an eye out for our "things to do list" as we get you more information about what else you might want to do in the area while you are here. We will be getting you information about conference registration, places to stay and things to do soon.

Second -- We would like you to think about nominating someone for one of our awards (please see further explanation in this newsletter) to be presented at next year's conference!!!! Start thinking about that now.

Third -- We would like to increase our membership and participation. If you can think of ways for us to get the word out about VA CEC Membership, please let us know.

Finally -- We will be starting a VA CEC Research to Practice Journal (on-line) soon. If you have any thoughts on this project, please contact me.

We are looking forward to an exciting year. If you are going to CEC National Conference, please let us know. We will be trying to gather a group for an outing or dinner while we are there!

Take care and keep in touch.

Hope Jordan, Ph.D.
President, VA CEC

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Norah, Karen, and Nicole prepare for conference attendees



Dr. Solomon presents the keynote address

“there was a variety of speakers and topics that peeked my interest a great deal. I would recommend the 2009 conference to anyone who missed out on this one!”

—Kerry Baggaley



Dr. Solomon discusses autism in the community

LOOK WHAT YOU MISSED!! OCTOBER 2008 CONFERENCE

Anyone who missed out on this conference missed out on a great Keynote speaker!

Dr. Solomon is the Medical Director of The P.L.A.Y. Project at [The Ann Arbor Center for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics](#). Board-certified in general pediatrics and developmental and behavioral pediatrics, Dr. Solomon has been diagnosing and treating children with autism for over fifteen years.

Dr. Solomon’s interest in young children with autism and their families began even before he went to medical school. He worked with elementary school age children, many of whom were autistic, in a small special education program in Michigan. The type of intervention was play-based and, as a ‘mental health worker’ he spent 8 hours per day, 5 days per week for two years, interacting with the children. Subsequently, as a fellow in the National Center for Clinical Infants Program, he met Stanley Greenspan MD, the nationally known child psychiatrist. As Dr. Solomon became familiar with Dr. Greenspan’s **Developmental Individualized, Relationship-based (DIR) model**, he recognized the similari-

ties between DIR (at that time called ‘Floortime’) and what he had been doing in the Ann Arbor elementary school.

Dr. Solomon formally studied the DIR approach, with Dr. Greenspan and his associate Serena Wieder PhD. In Pennsylvania, Dr. Solomon played a central role in organizing community-based training programs and services for young children with autism. He later developed the PLAY Project and Home Consultant Program. Over the last few years, it has been Dr. Solomon’s clinical impression, after following hundreds of children in the Home Consulting Program, that intensive services when delivered by parents are an effective way to supplement the school system’s early intervention and pre-school services.

Kerry Baggaley, one of the attendees at this year’s conference, commented, “there was a variety of speakers and topics that peeked my interest a great deal. I would recommend the 2009 conference to anyone who missed out on this one!”

Other presentations included topics on Hyperlexia and Asperger’s Syndrome, Language

Minority Students, Controversial Practices in Education, Career Exploration, Assistive Technology, Engaging Special Education Students in Learning, Co-Teaching, Closing the Achievement Gap, Decoding Skills, for ASD Students, Visual Assessment, Authentic Learning, and Teaching, Differentiation, Collaborative Teams, Gifted Education, Autism and Reading, Down Syndrome, Learning Strategies, RTI, Multiple Disabilities, Enhancing Communication, Functional Curriculum, Behavior Management, Read Alouds, and Inclusive Practices.

If you missed this year’s conference with Dr. Solomon, please mark your calendar for next year’s conference. It will be held in Virginia Beach, Virginia at Regent University and The Founders Inn October 16-17, 2009. Pete Wright, author of *Wrightslaw*, will be our Keynote Speaker. This event is sure to fill up fast, so mark your calendars now and be on the lookout for registration information!

AWARDS

Virginia Council for Exceptional Children is honored to acknowledge **Dr. Nicole Myers** with the outstanding Presidential Service Award for her unwavering support during her term as president in 2008 and her years as a board member. Dedication, perseverance and loyalty are words synonymous with Nicole as demonstrated in the outstanding 49th conference she recently orchestrated in Fredericksburg. Nicole championed the purpose and function of the VA CEC website by establishing electronic communication as the primary source for information exchange. She facilitated VA CEC's first electronic newsletter while encouraging her peers to be actively involved at all levels with their chapters. Currently, she is an Associate Professor of Education at the University of Mary Washington. Nicole earned a Ph.D. and B.A. from George Mason University and a MAT from the University of Virginia. Nicole has served CEC since graduate school, but has been serving exceptional children her whole life.

NATIONAL CEC AWARD RECIPIENTS

Kuhn-Barnett Award: **P. Buckley Moss**
VA CEC Service Award: **Norah Hooper, Ph.D**
VA CEC Service Award: **Sharon Teabo, Ed. D.**
Teacher of the Year Award: **Karen Fox**

For more information about any of the VA CEC awards, please see: <http://www.virginiacec.org/awards.htm>

In addition, we have two National Yes I Can! Award Winners from (VA):
Athletics: **Daniel F. Starr** and Athletics **Timothy O'Grady**

OPEN POSITIONS

Currently, there are no open positions. Anyone interested in volunteering with the committee should contact Dr. Hope Jordan at hopejor@regent.edu.

Now accepting articles for the Spring issue of Virginia Voice.

If you have an article or "hot topic" that you would like included in the next issue of Virginia Voice, please send it to Andrea Beam at abeam@regent.edu no later than March 31, 2009.

** Any ideas/suggestions for the 2009 VA-CEC Conference should be directed to the Committee Chairperson, Andrea



We're on the web! Check us out at
<http://www.virginiacec.org/>



Actress Marlee Matlin to serve as Keynote Speaker

We are pleased to announce the convention's keynote speaker, actress Marlee Matlin. Ms. Matlin has starred in numerous feature films and television shows and won the 1986 Academy Award for Best Actress for her role in "Children of a Lesser God." Passionate about children, she has appeared in numerous educational children's programs and authored three children's novels about coping with deafness. Ms. Matlin was instrumental in persuading Congress to pass federal legislation requiring that all televisions manufactured in the United States be equipped with closed captioning technology. Ms. Matlin is also involved with such charitable organizations as the American Red Cross, Easter Seals, and the Children Affected by AIDS Foundation.



Marlee Matlin is an advocate for all children, especially those with disabilities. CEC is very pleased to have Ms. Matlin as the keynote speaker at our 2009 Convention & Expo.

2009 Convention & Expo Schedule at a Glance

	Tuesday March 31	Wednesday April 1	Thursday April 2	Friday April 3	Saturday April 4
Registration	Preconvention Workshop & Convention Registration	Convention Registration	Convention Registration	Convention Registration	Convention Registration
Program Sessions		Preconvention Workshops General Session	Representative Assembly Registration Concurrent Sessions Poster Sessions	Representative Assembly Registration Concurrent Sessions Poster Sessions	Concurrent Sessions Poster Sessions Multicultural Summit
Expo & Career Center			Expo Exhibits & Career Center Grand Opening	Expo Exhibits & Career Center Free Time to Explore the Expo!	Expo Exhibits & Career Center Free Time to Explore the Expo!
Governance Meetings		CEC Board of Directors	CEC Board of Directors	Representative Assembly Orientation Representative Assembly	Representative Assembly
Special Events & Meetings	Interdivisional Caucus (IDC)	Student Orientation	Student Forum Student Fundraiser	Yes I Can! Awards	Teacher of the Year Luncheon