



**Vermont Northern Lights  
Career Development Center**

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# The Northern Lights Atlas

**Early Childhood and Afterschool  
Professional Development News**

Summer July 1, 2010 NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to the eighth edition of The Northern Lights Atlas!  
Please pass it on (hint: cut-and-paste works too)

*Press CTRL + click to follow any web or email sites here*

## Recent Website Updates

*(live links on the left)*

**Always hit REFRESH  when looking at the website to see the latest version.**

### Website Links

Have you saved the Northern Lights Career Development Center website to your Favorites so that you have a quick link from your computer?

### Northern Lights Websites

Home page

<http://northernlightscdc.org>

Instructors

<http://northernlights.vsc.edu/instructor.html>

Documentation Verification Form

[DocumentationVerificationForm.pdf](#)

About Us

<http://northernlights.vsc.edu/about.html>

Afterschool Professionals

<http://northernlights.vsc.edu/afterschool.html>

### Other Important Websites

Child Development Division

<http://def.vermont.gov/CDD/>

*"I have included an orientation on BFIS and I make sure all new staff get into their BFIS Credential account and know their password and number, as part of new staff orientation."*

- Jodi Marquis, director and owner of Creative Minds in Newport Center

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS** change regularly - at the bottom of the HOME PAGE.
- **Visit the new Instructor Registry page** - now with a new application!
- **Want to enter all those workshops from the old days into your BFIS account?** Send in the documents with the **DOCUMENTATION VERIFICATION FORM** to be sure they can be entered into your BFIS online account accurately. Find it on the website under TRACKING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- **Find previous issues of The Northern Lights Atlas** newsletter on the About Us page.
- **The AFTERSCHOOL page has been updated** - check it out!
- **Look for the latest news from CDD!**

## Did You Know?

**Five things you need to document that you attended a professional development workshop, training, etc.:**

- 1) name and a description of the event;
- 2) date and hours of the event;
- 3) sponsor of the event (official is good);
- 4) name of the participant who went to the event;
- 5) signature of the instructor or sponsor of the event (which verifies that it happened and you were there).

All of these are already on the Northern Lights *Documentation of Professional Development* form. If the training does not use that form - insist on getting documentation that includes these 5 things and then send a copy to Northern Lights so we can enter your attendance in your BFIS Quality & Credentialing account! Oh, and don't forget it REALLY helps if you also include that "Documentation Verification form".

## Frequently Asked Questions

**QUESTION:** *I have my BA in early childhood education and want to join the Instructor Registry. I have hardly any experience teaching adults, what level do I apply for?*

**ANSWER:** Aspiring instructors with less than 24 hours of experience teaching adults in the last 3 years can apply to the Instructor Registry at the Affiliate Level. With the help of a Supporting Instructor, you can gain additional experience planning, presenting and reflecting on your experience as an adult instructor. As you gain more experience, you can re-apply at a level that allows you to teach independently.

**QUESTION:** *How do I make sure I have the latest version of the Northern Lights website on my computer?*

**ANSWER:** Here's how you can make sure your computer always has the latest updates: when you are on Windows Explorer (internet) Click on the TOOLS menu on the tool bar at the top. Find and click on INTERNET OPTIONS. On the GENERAL tab, see the BROWSING HISTORY section. Click on SETTINGS. See the list and be sure "Every time I visit the webpage" is selected, then click OK to confirm that setting.



*(Nancy Sugarman, Brenda Buzzell, Maureen Young-Mccarthy, Jan Walker)  
Some VT Attendees at the NAEYC Professional Development Institute in Phoenix, AZ.*

## Did You Know?

### **Instructor Registry changes go LIVE!**

What's New? We improved the electronic application, added more information about updating and renewing your application, broadened the education requirements, and created a system for clarifying and communicating with both Supported and Supporting Instructors. Check it out!

### **Step 3 of Vermont's Early Childhood and Afterschool Program Director Credential**

includes a portfolio review. The portfolio is a collection of documents and reflections that evidence the Program Director Competencies. You can begin working on your portfolio at Steps 1 and 2 of the Credential. The portfolio is finalized in the Culminating Seminar course (also required for Step 3).

A Portfolio Notebook is now available and can be downloaded from the Northern Lights website. There is also a guide to help you organize your materials.

You will find these resources, and an overview of the review process on the *Program Director* page of the Northern Lights website.

Are you ready for your Portfolio Review? Contact Northern Lights at (802)885-8374 to request a review date!

### **New Northern Lights Fact Sheet on IPDPs!**

A new Northern Lights Fact Sheet about Individual Professional Development Plans (IPDP) is being printed. Find out the components of an IPDP, resources to help you write one and examples. This Fact Sheet will also be on our website with ALL of the other Fact Sheets, which are also being updated. Look for them this month on the ABOUT US page of the Northern Lights of the website.

**You can get CEU's** from reading and responding to articles in *Child Care Information Exchange* journal. Go to: [www.ChildCareExchange.com](http://www.ChildCareExchange.com) to learn more.

### **Early Childhood Family Mental Health... and a credential too?**

Northern Lights presented twice nationally about the VT Early Childhood and Family Mental Health Competencies and the related credential we are working on. We shared our work on a national webinar and at the NAEYC Professional Development Institute. Stay posted for the latest information about piloting the NEW VT Early Childhood Family Mental Health Credential - or contact Northern Lights to learn more!

*"The early childhood family mental health credential (pilot) is coming (to Vermont) just in time!"*

- Terri Edgerton, director of the Family Infant Toddler Program (Children's Integrated Services - early intervention)



**Approved Instructors in the Instructor Registry**

Cindy Olsen, Dianne Carter, Ruth Beard, LouAnn Beninati, Kathleen Burroughs, Katharina Badger

**Program Director Credential Step 1**

Laura Lopez – Brattleboro, VT  
Kim Sherman – Londonderry, VT  
Elizabeth Lamphere – South Hero, VT  
Stacy Beaulieu – Milton, VT  
Moriah Carney – Brattleboro, VT  
Sharlene Braskie – Vernon, VT

**News!**

**NEW SPONSORS**

*These organizations now use the BFIS Calendar and participants benefit because attendance is entered in their personal BFIS Resume.*

- Creative Minds Children’s Center**
- Orange County Parent Child Center**
- The Children’s Room**
- The Milton Providers Group**
- Windham Northeast Supervisory Union**
- Windsor Southwest Preschool Collaborative**

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*"I could apply my real life experience to this training."*

*"This was a great training, I enjoyed ALL the time I spent in class"*

- Quotes from students that attended the Level II: Relationships with Families training in St. Johnsbury.

**Coming Soon!**

**Federal funds** to the Child Development Division will help support the *Level II: Health and Safety Module* and help us move ahead with training consultants, mentors etc. who provide individualized support to programs and professionals in early childhood, early intervention, and home visiting to support healthy babies and families.

**Change in STARS:** Deb Curtis, the current administrator of the STep Ahead Recognition System (STARS) is stepping down to pursue other work. The new STARS administrative team will be hosted by the Mary Johnson Children’s Center in Middlebury starting in July 2010.

**Low cost Fall college courses** for early childhood and afterschool professionals: *Introduction to Afterschool Education and Care*: an online course contracted through CCV. Tuition free for eligible students; register now through August 27. Contact Linda Clark (1-800-649-2642) for an intent to register form. This course helps meet the Afterschool Credential criteria.

**Assessment of Prior Learning:** Want to explore how to get college credit for the learning you have gained over the years? The statewide information session about the "Assessment of Prior Learning" course/process will be on Tuesday, August 17, 5:30 – 6:45 pm over Vermont Interactive Television (all sites). The session is free and open to all and no registration is necessary. There will also be an on-the-ground info session in Montpelier, CCV site on the top of College Street, on Wednesday, August 18, 5:30 – 6:45 pm. This is also open to all. For more information contact: Gabrielle Dietzel, Coordinator of Assessment Services, (802) 828-4064.

**Foundations of Early Learning (FEL)** is coming to the north central and western side of Vermont starting this summer. This 4 day training is July 20-23 in Huntington, VT. National experts from the Center for Literacy Learning (CELL) and Center for Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) will be presenting to Vermont leaders, instructors and administrators. Training will conclude at sessions in October. There is a fee. This is the third and final summer of this intensive professional development opportunity. Please contact the Vermont Department of Education for more information: 802-828-5128.

**The MATCH Network**

Twenty- two people from across the state met for 30 hours over the past 9 months as the ONE TO ONE WORKGROUP. The Workgroup, facilitated by Northern Lights Career Development Center, met to consider how to define and integrate mentors, coaches, consultants, advisors and technical assistants into our professional development system.

What is MATCH? It is Vermont’s name for the professionals who provide individualized support to programs or to  
*(continued on page 4)*



The following certificates have been awarded since April 2010

**Level I Certificate**

Kristen Grenier - Newport Center  
Cynthia Hier - Poultney  
Keya Hunt - Eagle Bridge, NY  
Ellen Jenks - Vernon  
Jennifer Kinney - North Hero  
Reneé Lavalley - Burlington  
Kaela Nadeau - Wolcott  
Nicole Olmstead - North Randolph  
Debbie Pascucci - Bennington  
Jessica Peloquin - Glover  
Kelsey Reed - Shoreham  
Joan Thorpe - Wardsboro  
Crystal Wilkins - Lyndon Center  
Kandace Young - Swanton

**Level II Certificate**

Angela Carpenter - Bristol  
Susan Cutler - Lake Elmore  
Sheila Doherty - Colchester  
Amy Enos - South Burlington  
Helen Johnson - Eden  
Jessie Kelley - Enosburg Falls  
Carol-Ann Labbe-Thibouthot - Waterbury  
Miranda Lahue - Enosburg Falls  
Kim Riendeau - Brownington  
Stephanie Simpson - East Concord  
Sally Small - Morrisville  
Sheryl Therrien - Eden  
Nancy Sami Warner - Windsor  
Cassandra Wilkins - Cavendish  
Tresa Williams - Putney

**Level III-A Certificate**

Nancy Jarnis - Barre  
Jo Anne King - Hinsdale, NH

**Level III-B Certificate**

Geralyn Barrows - New Haven  
Laura Butler - Milton  
Vicki Langevin - Barre

**Level IV-A Certificate**

Sara Driscoll - South Burlington  
Sara Lovell-Allbee - Westminster Station

**Level IV-B Certificate**

Jason G. Mallery - Orange

**Level V-A Certificate**

Laura Lopez - Brattleboro

**Afterschool Foundations Certificate**

Amber Lines - Burlington



**MENTORING, ADVISING, TEACHING, COACHING, CONSULTING, HELPING**  
*Vermont's system of early childhood and afterschool professional support*

individuals working in early childhood or afterschool services. The name was created by the Workgroup.

The purpose of creating the MATCH Network in Vermont is:

To enhance the competency, professional growth and satisfaction of individual practitioners, and to promote program quality through customized support for effective practices. These changes will positively impact the children and families in their care.

This will be accomplished by a network of professionals who provide quality mentoring, consulting, coaching, technical assistance and information to professionals – and those seeking to be professionals, in the field of early childhood and afterschool services across Vermont.

A MATCH Professional is a qualified person with the knowledge, skills and dispositions<sup>1</sup> to give individualized support to programs and professionals (or those entering the field), in early childhood or afterschool programs. *MATCH Professionals* work to support the process of change through:

- observation and reflection,
- assistance in planning and goal setting,
- helping to solve problems,
- providing information and resources, and
- responsive relationship building

The MATCH network includes professionals with a broad range of knowledge and skills across many disciplines. They share common positive competencies that enable them to be effective with individuals and/or programs using a variety of strategies. We have many MATCH professionals already in Vermont, and we want to grow more.

Why not “mentor”? Or “coach”? Or “consultant”? The Workgroup examined terms and definitions from many perspectives. We came to realize that there are conflicting definitions for each term, and many have the same definition. There are strong feelings for and against each of these terms. The person providing individualized support may use mentoring, then coaching and then provide technical assistance – all in one day with one person. We came to see these terms as strategies, rather than as roles. Finally, we wanted to include everyone- all those already called coaches, mentors, consultants, and others. For these reasons, we chose a new inclusive term: MATCH . We hope this term will help people think about the importance of the relationship between the professionals giving and receiving support together.

**To learn what else the Workgroup did and what comes next, contact Northern Lights or check the next issue of this Newsletter!**