



**Vermont Northern Lights
Career Development Center**

Montpelier Office: (Nancy) 802-828-2876
nancy.sugarman@ccv.edu

Springfield Office: (Maureen) 802-885-8374
maureen.young-mccarthy@ccv.edu

The Northern Lights Atlas

Early Childhood and Afterschool
Professional Development News

Winter January 1, 2011 NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Number 1

Website updates	Page 1
Frequently Asked Questions	Page 2
Did you know?	Page 2-3
Coming Soon	Page 4
Congratulations!	Page 3,4

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.

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS** change regularly - at the bottom of the HOME PAGE.
- **Find previous issues of The Northern Lights Atlas** newsletter on the About Us page.
- **Transcript Request form** is now on the Career Ladder, Instructor Registry and Program Director pages.

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>

About Us

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

Career Ladder

http://northernlights.vsc.edu/career_ladder.html

Program Directors

http://northernlights.vsc.edu/director_program.html

Instructors

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

Afterschool websites

- VT School Age Care Network:
www.mjccvt.org/VSACN
- VT Center for Afterschool Excellence:
<http://vermontafterschool.org/>

Other Important VT Websites

- Child Development Division (CDD):
<http://dcf.vermont.gov/CDD/>
See the new STARS application, news on Challenges for Change work and the quick links to the BFIS login pages (on the right)
- VAEYC: <http://vaeyc.org/>
Spring speaker at Champlain College and more
- NEW! VT Child Care Providers Association:
http://vccpa.org/Home_Page.html
- VT Childcare Industry and Careers Council:
<http://www.vtchildcareindustry.org/>
See the new CCV courses available through the VT Childcare Apprenticeship program and register soon!

"It made me feel better about myself. I listen in the classes and use what I learned in class and brought it back to work." – Student writing about the process of being observed working with children, which is one requirement of the Fundamentals course.

BFIS Data Entry Statistics for September 2010	
Course Calendar	242 New Postings
Training attendance	4627 BFIS Résumés updated

Frequently Asked Questions

QUESTION: I am a family child care provider and I already have a BFIS user name and password. I use it to get into my Provider account; can I use that for my Credential account too?

ANSWER: YES! To get to your CREDENTIAL account go the bottom of the BFIS home page and click on the sign in for "Child care worker/Credential User". Log in and put in your user name and password. (You can also get to that log in through the CDD webpage – see the link on page 1 of this newsletter.) Your Credential account is different from your Provider account. In BFIS "Provider" means Program and "Credential user" means YOU! Your Credential account is where you can enter your Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP), your completed education and certificates, and see the professional development you have accumulated that has been verified and entered by Northern Lights. It is important that the professional development YOU enter is also verified. Just send documentation to Northern Lights, and we will verify it or let you know if there is anything we cannot verify. A one page cover sheet on the Northern Lights webpage tells you just what is needed to verify all types of professional development. Questions? Go to the Northern Lights webpage called: TRACKING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

QUESTION: If I am using my IPDP from 6 months ago, do I have to write a new one when I apply for a level certificate?

ANSWER: It depends. Your IPDP (Individual Professional Development Plan) needs to have been written or updated in the past 3 months. You need a current IPDP when you apply for a level certificate or credential from Northern Lights, apply to CDD for a professional development grant or apply to STARS. Remember it is a plan, so it describes what you will do in the future. If all of your goals and timelines are met, then you do need to write a new IPDP. If you are still working on some of your goals, be sure you have updated your status on reaching them. All IPDPs need to show self-reflection by the writer and include the four components: self-assessment using competencies or standards; measureable goals; resources and strategies to meet those goals; and target dates.

Did You Know?

Northern Lights does conferences! This past fall, you likely saw Northern Lights staff at the VAEYC and Afterschool conferences. In addition to the display tables at those conferences, we did workshops on Creating your Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP) in 4 easy steps, Adult Learning and Instructing Adults, Career Coaching, The Career Ladder, and Early Childhood and Family Mental Health Consultation and Credentialing. We enjoyed seeing many of you there!



Northern Lights staff, Maureen Young-McCarthy provides career advising at the VAEYC conference in October 2010.

Northwest Career Coaches a success! 34 Professionals attended the NW early childhood Career Coaches Forum on Dec. 3, 2010. Participants attended from Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle counties and state-wide organizations. This diverse group currently provides career advising to students, program staff, network colleagues or those who contact them with questions. The Forum enabled them to enlarge their tool box of information, resources and strategies to support early childhood professionals. Sponsors of the event included: Northwest Counseling and Support Services, Child Care Resource, VT Student Assistance Corporation, Community College of VT and Northern Lights Career Development Center. This was the second Career Coaches Forum held and Northern Lights would like to work with partners in the middle or southern part of the state to host the third one.

Transcripts! Transcripts! Transcripts! So... I can't just download my transcript off the website of my college. How do I request a transcript from the college and send it to Northern Lights? A NEW form to help you request a transcript from your college or university is now in several places on the Northern Lights website. (see page 1 of this newsletter) Northern Lights staff need transcripts to verify the education in Career Level or Instructor Registry applications, and for credential review. We can also add your transcript to your BFIS resume so you don't have to also send it to STARS or CDD.

"I feel like I really received professional development" – an experienced early childhood educator and instructor, after attending the NW early childhood Career Forum on December 3, 2010.



News!

NEW Sponsors

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

Champlain Valley Educator
Development Center

Early Learning Partnerships

Franklin/Grand Isle Building Bright
Futures

Giggles Family Childcare and
Preschool

Going Places Learning Center

Killington-Pico Ski Resort Partners

Northeast Kingdom School
Development Center

Springfield College

Tori Grahame

University of Vermont

World of Discovery, Inc.

NEW Approved Instructors

Moriah Carney

Sara Driscoll

Gail Helmer

Patricia Hendee

Marla Ianello

Tamara McLaughlin

Courtney Porter

Jennifer Severance

Recently Renewed Instructors

Kathi Fuller

Anne Gleason

Christal Michaud

More...Did You Know?

Instructor Registry Clean-up: The Instructor Registry contains over 250 public profiles of approved instructors who are currently available to provide training for early childhood and afterschool professionals. Approved instructors meet Vermont's requirements in both formal education and experience with adult instruction. There are several instructor levels in the Registry, and applicants can change levels as they climb the career ladder and gain more adult instruction experience.

In addition to completed applications, the Registry also contains applications that are in progress. These applications become outdated after a period of time, and many instructors would prefer to start a new application rather than return to an outdated application. Beginning the end of January 2011, Northern Lights will be notifying any applications that have been in progress for over 90 days. These applicants will have the option of either updating their current application in progress, or starting fresh after January 31. If they choose to not finish their application it will be then be deleted.

This process will NOT affect applications that have already been approved into the Instructor Registry!

Instructor Renewal: Approved instructors are required to renew their status in the Instructor Registry every 3 years. This reflective process includes completing a Renewal Questionnaire, and updating your Instructor Profile with your most current information. The Renewal Questionnaire is available on the Northern Lights website. It is a text-friendly form that can be completed and submitted electronically. Renewal Questionnaires are reviewed by the Instructor Registry Approval Panel. A new Instructor Certificate will be printed and mailed to renewing instructors. PLEASE NOTE! The new certificates contain both your name *and* an Instructor ID#. Adding your ID number next to your name when you sign a Documentation of Professional Development Form will allow us to track your *training given* in your BFIS Resume. (This can count towards your own professional development hours one time for each training given!)



Some of the staff of the South Burlington School's Out afterschool program, having fun at the Afterschool conference held in Killington in October 2010.



The following certificates have been awarded since September 2010

Level I Certificate

Starr Bidwell - Jeffersonville
Elizabeth Gorton-Walker - St. Albans
Jenny Hewitt - Fair Haven
Anna Jones - Enosburg Falls
Meranda McCulloch - Morrisville
Lindsey Morse - Townshend

Level II Certificate

Katharina Badger - Milton
Jennifer Beaudoin - Bennington
Jennifer Bromley - Bristol
Alecia Daunais - St. Albans
Teresa Fowler - Castleton
Kathleen Haley - Orleans
Keya Hunt - Eagle Bridge, NY
Amanda LaBranche - Morrisville
Holly LaFar - Colchester
Carrie LaFountain - Johnson
Margo McClure - Randolph
Amy Raymond - Forestdale

Level III-A Certificate

Erica Lorraine Bragg - St. Johnsbury
Vicki Covell - Wilder
Patricia Lykens - Swanton
Tracy Patnoe - Morrisville
Jacquelynn Swantak - East Corinth
Joyce Wheeler - East Montpelier

Level III-B Certificate

Laura Cramer - Montgomery Center
Kathleen Haley - Orleans
Leona Moore - Brownington
Terra Love Nicholson - Burlington
Nancy Noel - North Bennington
Brenda Schramm - Bennington
Tracy Simonds - Whiting
Jennifer Smith - Hartford

Level IV-A Certificate

Theresa Forbes - Newport Center
Christel Michaud - Fairfax
Svetlana Olteanu - South Burlington

Level IV-B Certificate

Judith Bartlett - Bradford
Alice Boyer - Elmore
Nedeem Pascucci - Burlington
Adam Sollace - South Burlington

Afterschool Foundation Certificate

Karen Buck - Rutland

Program Director Credential - Step 1

Elizabeth A. Sanders
Susan Coutermarsh

Coming Soon!

Results of Challenges for Change meetings.

"Challenges for Change" is the name of Vermont legislation passed in 2010. The legislation directs the Child Development Division (CDD) to plan and pilot activities related to the *Integrated Child Development Services Challenge proposal* submitted by the Agency for Human Services to the legislature in March 2010. Three strategies that impact After School and Early Child Development services and systems were described in that proposal. The CDD convened three stakeholder groups this past fall to shape the recommendations that will be brought back to the legislature by January 15, 2011. One of those groups specifically looked at Early Childhood and Afterschool Program Consultation, Quality Improvement and Professional Development. Look on the CDD website for the results of those meetings and their report to the legislature.

Interested in achieving VT Department of Education educator licensure? Northern Lights asked and over 70 working individuals with bachelor/ master's degrees were interested in learning more about achieving educator licensure through the Vermont Department of Education's peer review process. A follow up survey will be sent in early January to get more specific information about what supports are most needed for professionals who are interested in peer review. The feedback will be used to identify resources and what the structure of the support system should include. If you would like a survey sent to you, please e-mail Sherry Carlson at scarlson380@comcast.net

Legal and Financial Issues in Early Childhood and Afterschool Programs will be offered online beginning the end of January. This 12 week, 3-credit course is part of Step 2 of Vermont's Program Director Credential. Sponsored by Northern Lights, the course will be instructed by Shaune Higgins. Credits will be offered through Union Institute and University. For more information contact Maureen Young-McCarthy, Northern Lights Coordinator @ 802-885-8374.



Some of the staff of the Rutland area Tapestry afterschool program, at the Afterschool conference in Killington, October 2010.