



**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

Summer July 10, 2011 NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Number 3

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 newest 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.
- **FINANCIAL RESOURCES** to help you pay for college courses and more have been updated. Look under the RESOURCES section of the website
- *Health and Safety Curricula* has been updated in the BEYOND THE FUNDAMENTALS module and *Basic Specialized Care* has also been updated in the FUNDAMENTALS curricula. Look at **CURRICULA: LEVEL I AND II** on the website
- **NEWLY REVISED! IPDP** booklet and easy to use forms with examples. It is easier to show the 4 parts of your Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP) when you use these formats.
- Find all the past newsletters on the **ABOUT US** page

### Other Important VT Websites

- Child Development Division: Find the STARS application, quick links to the BFIS login pages and help desk, a NEW! survey and more at <http://dcf.vermont.gov/CDD/>
- Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children (VAEYC) : <http://vaeyc.org/>
- VT Child Care Providers Association: <http://vccpa.org/>
- VT Childcare Industry and Careers Council: <http://www.vtchildcareindustry.org/>
- VT Center for Afterschool Excellence: <http://vermontafterschool.org/>

## 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 Website:  
Links to Recent Updates on right**

Home page

<http://northernlightscdc.org>

Financial Resources

[http://northernlights.vsc.edu/res\\_finsupport.html](http://northernlights.vsc.edu/res_finsupport.html)

Curricula: Level I and II

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

Planning Professional  
Development (IPDP)

<http://northernlights.vsc.edu/career2.html>

About Us

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

*"I love my IPDP! At first I was scared to do it and when I was done with it I was so proud of it!"*

*- Family child care provider*



Springfield College cohort of students with their professors: they are working on their Bachelor Degree with an early childhood concentration

## Frequently Asked Questions

**QUESTION: "If I got my first CDA a long time ago, can I still get my Level certificate?"**

**ANSWER:** Yes! A current CDA will meet the education requirement for a Level II certificate. You will also need to complete a Level application and provide a current Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP). The a the Recognition Bonus to those who achieve Level certificates and meet other criteria. One criteria is that your education was completed within the last two years. CDD also awards a Recognition Bonus for a Level II certificate with the first CDA renewal.

**QUESTION: "How are credentials related to the Career Ladder?"**

**ANSWER:** Some credentials like the CDA and the CCV Child Care Certificate are in the early childhood Career Ladder; the Afterschool credential is in the Afterschool Career Pathway. Other credentials recognize specialty knowledge and skills, and they branch off of the career ladder. The Program Director Credential and Early Childhood Family Mental Health Credential (in process) are branches off of the early childhood Career Ladder. You can achieve Level III, IV, or V and also complete the requirements of that specialty, to achieve those credentials.



*The Vermont team at the NAEYC Professional Development Institute - state team pre-conference day in Providence, Rhode Island.*

## Did You Know?

**Fill in the Survey and win!** The Child Development Division (CDD) has a BIG new Professional Development survey on their website (see page 1). All early childhood and afterschool professionals, including child care providers, preschool personnel, afterschool program staff, early interventions, instructors and consultants are encouraged to complete it – and be entered into a drawing for cool prizes! Your answers will help the CDD target where professional development resources should go. Take the survey online:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/vt\\_professional\\_development](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/vt_professional_development) or contact CDD to get a paper copy. Deadline: July 22 to be entered for prizes.

**NEW! Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP): Planning your Professional Growth** booklet is now on our website and will be available soon at the office of your local Resource Development Specialist. Follow Chris as he thinks about and writes his IPDP. The same useful forms are included, as well as special sections for mentors, supervisors and instructors. Check it out!

**NEW! Your BFIS Credential Number – in Yellow!**



To help you keep, use and remember your BFIS Quality and Credential account number – Northern Lights and the Child Development Division are now sending cards with your number on it in *bright yellow!* And they are *laminated!* Put them in your wallet, or put your Credential # into your phone – so you can ALWAYS write your BFIS Credential number on those attendance forms – and we can find your BFIS Credential account and enter the trainings you attend into it FAST.

**Since July 1, 2010...** 47 new Instructors joined the Instructor Registry; over 70 leaders attended Career Coaches forums about advising early childhood professionals; 200 individuals earned Early Childhood Career Ladder certificates- 19 of them earned more than one; over 2000 attendance entries were made into BFIS Quality and Credential accounts and over 1000 entries into the BFIS Course Calendar; Chittenden, Addison and Franklin/Grand Isle are the top 3 counties for individuals with Level certificates!



**NEW Sponsor:** Learning Tree

*This organization was oriented to work with Northern Lights and the BFIS system. Participants benefit because attendance is entered in their personal BFIS Resume.*

**NEW Approved Instructors**

**Affiliate I**

Susan Coutermarsh  
Patti Kemp  
Cathryn Ste. Marie  
Meri Saladino  
Chelsea Szidik

**Certified**

Dina DeSena  
Rebecca Fiffer

**Master**

Katie Ahern  
Jennie Harriman  
Linda Mitchell  
Susan Jenne Morton  
Susan Sponheimer  
Betsy Stacey

**Specialist II**

Elise Hancock

**Recently Renewed Instructors**

Shannon Shaw (Certified Instructor)

*"It took me years to apply for the Instructor Registry because I thought it would take so long to complete, and I was worried what level I was on. I just finished it and I don't know what I was waiting for! It was a piece of cake."*

*- New Instructor Registry applicant*

**Program Director Credential**

**Approved Program Director Portfolio**

Sandra Kuc

**Program Director Credential - Step 1**

Brenda Donley  
Jennifer Hamblin  
Lesley Bienvenue  
Lynn Luman  
Melinda Bellows  
Susan Coutermarsh

**Program Director Credential - Step 2**

Bethany Caruso  
Susan Jenne Morton

## More...Did You Know?

**A tri-regional (Windham, Windsor and Orange Counties) Early Childhood Career Coaches Forum** was recently held in Southeastern VT. Facilitated by the Northern Lights Career Development Center, the event was co-sponsored by CCV, VSAC, the Windham Child Care Association, Springfield Area Parent Child Center, Child Care Project, and the Springfield Early Childhood Leadership Collaborative. Over 40 respected leaders who's work impacts early childhood professionals joined together to exchange expertise and resources with other career advisers, learn about the current system of professional development for early childhood practitioners and students in Vermont, and add to their career advising toolbox.



Participants included Program Managers and Directors, Starting Points Group Leaders, Academic Coordinators, Child Care Licensors, Pre-K Coordinators, Education Consultants, and Funders. Six higher education institutions were represented, including The Community College of Vermont, River Valley Community College, Keene State College, Goddard College, Springfield College, and Union Institute and University.

Some comments from participants...

- *"The forum surpassed my expectations."*

- *"Presenters were well informed and the*

*structure of the forum facilitated networking and learning."*

- *"Nice flow to the day – scenarios allowed for movement and opportunity to get to know about many other resources."*





The following certificates have been awarded since April 2011

#### **Level I Certificate**

Kelsey Antoniak - Colchester  
Tara Baumeister - Fletcher  
Nikole Brock - Fairfax  
Justine Carney - Brattleboro  
Brianna Cohen - Burlington  
Susan DeForge - Adamant  
Colleen Duffy - East Poultney  
Margaret Feerick - Fairfax  
Corina Garbacik - South Barre  
Sheri Hill - S. Burlington  
Tammy Landon - West Rutland  
Nicole Lefebvre - East Montpelier  
Hillary Lund - Newbury  
Jennifer Monez - Northfield  
Mysti-Rae Monfette - Danville  
Christina Paquette - South Burlington  
Lorrie Ploof - Essex Junction  
Amber Provencher - Barton  
Karen Rouse - Milton  
Connie Smith - South Ryegate  
Margaret Spencer - Hartland  
Rachel Stoneburner - Fairfax  
Kendra Stratton - Chelsea  
Yoko Tarrant - Montpelier  
Jessica Turner - Fairfax  
Penny Weightman - Starksboro  
Emily Wheeler - Montpelier

#### **Level II Certificate**

Susan Alexander - Benson  
Patricia Blood - Shelburne  
Krista Bump - Pownal  
Kathryn Burnham - Johnson  
Kristen Grenier - Newport Center  
Emily Guarino - South Burlington  
Hailey Livingstone - Stowe  
Meranda McCulloch - Morrisville  
Robert McGarry - Rutland  
Katherine Paskevich - Colchester  
Jessica Peloquin - Lyndon Center  
Pamela Pickering - Jonesville  
Jamie Royea - Richford  
Gail Short - Langdon  
Judy Smith - Burlington  
Amy Tayer - St. Albans  
Tasha Tobey-Pike - Wilmington  
Crystal Wilkins - Lyndon Center

#### **Level III-A Certificate**

Ashley Atwood - South Duxbury  
Tatase Birch - Sutton  
Brittney Charron - Rutland  
Kristen Jennings - Starksboro  
Patti Kemp - Brattleboro  
Carol-Ann Labbe-Thibouthot - Waterbury  
Mariko Raymond - Lyndon Center  
Shirley Royce - Reading

#### **Level III-B Certificate**

Lesley Bienvenue - Leicester  
Lesa Cathcart - Hardwick  
Sarah King - Milton  
Margo McClure - Randolph  
Amy Murray - Grand Isle  
April Ploof - South Burlington

#### **Level IV-A Certificate**

Dina De Sena - Derby  
Rachel Hunter - North Springfield  
Allison Lavasseur - New Haven  
April Mayer - Bennington  
Lynn Morrill - Milton  
Carolyn Riley - Colchester  
Jennifer Taylor - Milton  
Tiffany Trafan - Burlington  
Angel Young - Brownnington

#### **Level IV-B Certificate**

Robin Davis - Brattleboro  
Sara Lovell-Allbee - Westminster Station  
Molly Oglesby - Wardsboro  
Tamara Popovac - S. Burlington  
Lindsay Zeitler - Bomoseen

#### **Level V-A**

Victoria Grahame - Guilford  
Monika Turner - Georgia

## Other News...

**Are you an approved Instructor in Vermont's Instructor Registry?** To be maintained in the Registry, instructors at all levels need to renew their application every three years. Renewal of instructors in Vermont's Instructor Registry is needed to:

- maintain current instructor information;
- ensure that instructors keep their knowledge of the early childhood/afterschool field current and accurate;
- ensure that instructors relate their content knowledge to everyday application and practice.

The 3 criteria for Instructor Renewal include instructor professional development, adult instruction given, and instructor profile update. Renewal can be done in two easy steps. Upon completion, Instructors will be issued a new certificate.

#### Step 1:

Update your Instructor Profile.

Go to the Instructors page on the Northern Lights website <http://northernlights.vsc.edu/instructor.html>. Click on Instructor Registry Application. Log-in as an existing user with your email address and the password that you created at the time of your initial application. Contact Northern Lights if you forget your password or need assistance. You will now be able to update your Instructor Profile. Your profile will be temporarily removed from public view until it has been reviewed by a system administrator. Updates that could result in a change in Instructor Level such as hours of instruction given or education will require supporting documentation prior to approval.

#### Step 2:

Complete and submit the [Instructor Renewal Questionnaire](#). Send to the Northern Lights Career Development Center, CCV - 307 South St. Springfield, VT 05056 Attention: Instructor Renewal

## Coming Soon!

**NEW! Northern Lights website redesign!** Including photographs, a *search* bar and Facebook! Look for it in August 2011

**Early Childhood Family Mental Health Credential!** To be piloted this fall by staff at the Lamoille Family Center - children's integrated services team

**Updated Career Advising Guide:** Is now under development - with early childhood AND afterschool career pathways in one booklet. Available this fall.

**Afterschool Essentials** A series of workshops covering the 5 Core Knowledge Areas, a concentration of workshop + a portfolio, to be piloted this fall. Look on the Northern Lights website or Center for Afterschool Excellence (see page 1), this fall.