



**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**

Fall November 1, 2011 NEWSLETTER

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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

NEW! Northern Lights Website

- **Coming Nov. 10th 2011** -
SAVE it to your Favorites!

Check it out! Can you find...

- Resources for program directors and for instructors?
- The applications for the Level Certificates?
- Information about the Afterschool Credential?
- Links to the latest research on early childhood and afterschool services?
- The core competencies?
- Information about getting college credit for learning from experience?
- The most recent early childhood Career Lattice?
- The password protected place for instructors and sponsors of Basic Specialized Care? Of Fundamentals courses?
- The picture of the Northern Lights staff?
- Information about MATCH and what it stands for?
- The 30 second survey you can take?

**NEW look, NEW format!
Same address**

Northern Lights Website:

<http://www.northernlightscdc.org>



Links to these important VT websites are on each page of the NEW website!

- BFIS Help Desk
- Bright Futures Information System
- Child Development Division (CDD)
- STARS
- Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children (VAEYC)
- VT Center for Afterschool Excellence
- VT Child Care Providers Association
- VT Child Care Industry and Careers Council
- VT Department of Education

Always hit **RFRESH**  to see the latest edition of the website.



October meeting of Starting Points Leaders from around the state

Frequently Asked Questions

QUESTION: Can I apply for both a Level IIIA and IIIB certificate?

ANSWER: Yes! If you complete the required college coursework, experience, and have a current IPDP you can apply for a level IIIA certificate. If later you complete your Associate Degree in a related field, or with related credits, you can also receive a Level IIIB certificate. You may be eligible for a Recognition Bonus from the Child Development Division for both certificates, as well.

QUESTION: If I get a user name and password to get into my BFIS account, does that also work for my Instructor Registry profile?

ANSWER: No! Bright Futures Information System (BFIS) is a separate data system from the Instructor Registry, and they do not link. The Instructor Registry is on the Northern Lights website.

QUESTION: I don't have a college degree, can I still join the Instructor Registry?

ANSWER: Yes! You can apply as an Affiliate I Instructor without having a college degree. Affiliate I Instructors are supported by Certified or Master Instructors. The process is tailored to the needs of the individual instructor, and often includes support in planning, implementing and evaluating instructional activities. An applicant without a degree could also apply as a Specialist I or Specialist II Instructor. Specialist Instructors identify a specific specialization area, and may or may not need instructor support, depending on their past experience instructing adults.

"I can't believe how easy it was to apply to Vermont's Instructor Registry. I've tried applying to other states, and their process left me so frustrated that I just gave up."

- VAEYC Conference Presenter

Did You Know?

NEW! Career Advising Guide for Early Childhood and Afterschool Professionals. This 4th edition, includes both afterschool and early childhood for the first time! Find it on our new website and at your local Resource Development Specialist's office and other locations. If you know of a career advising location that should have a copy – let us know!

NEW! Peer Review for ECE Licensure Project.

Mary Johnson Children's Center in collaboration with Northern Lights has received a grant from the A.D. Henderson Foundation to help fund a new program to enable child care professionals achieve Department of Education licensure with early childhood education endorsement through the peer review process. The program will include a hybrid course combining on-line learning with face to face meetings. Each program participant will be assigned a mentor/advisor for individual support. Graduate credit will be available through Union Institute and University. Over 30 child care professionals have already expressed interest. Look for an application on the Northern Lights website beginning November 28th. If you are interested in receiving an application by e-mail please contact Sherry Carlson at scarlson380@comcast.net. Professionals interested in being a mentor for the course and/or teaching the course should also contact Sherry Carlson. The program is expected to begin mid-January 2012.

QUESTION: I have a Masters degree in early childhood education and no experience teaching adults. Can't I be a Master Instructor?

ANSWER: Not yet! To be approved as a Master Instructor, you must meet both the education requirements **and** have at least 45 hours of adult instruction given in the last three years. In the meantime, you would apply at the Affiliate I level, with instructional support until you accrue the required hours of adult instruction experience. Instructor support resources are available on the Northern Lights website.



NEW Sponsors!

These organizations were oriented to work with Northern Lights and the BFIS system. Participants benefit because attendance is entered in their personal BFIS Resume.

Rutland County Parent Child Center
Birth to Three Project
Early Education Services

NEW Approved Instructors

Amy Ashley
Bethany Wallace
Carol Stone
Carol Stroebel
Christine Finley
Christine Nold
Cynthia Haviland
Debra Lawrence
Denise Mellia
Diane Mincher
Elaine Chasse
Frasier Zahniser
Glenda Otto
Jeanine Fitzgerald
Jeanne Davis
Kathy Johnson
MaryBeth Pinard-Brace
Mollie German
Pamela Becker
Phil Boise
Robin Wimbiscus
Sandra "Sam" Howe
Sara Carter
Sunnie McPhetres
Susan Carter
Yvette Mason

Program Director Credential

STEP 1

Andrea Butterfield
Judy Bergeron
Susan Grenier
Chloe Learey
Carolyn Riley

STEP 2

Judy Bergeron
Susan Grenier
Chloe Learey
Nicole Walker

STEP 3

Chloe Learey
Nancy Noel
Bethany Caruso
Nicole Walker
Dawn Stever

More...Did You Know?

Alaska likes Vermont's Core Competencies! The state of Alaska early childhood system is using Vermont's early childhood core competencies. Congratulations on good work, Vermont!

Vermont's Early Childhood and Family Mental Health Credential is being piloted by 10 professionals in Lamoille Valley (the Children's Integrated Services team) and possibly by some early childhood professionals in Addison County as well. The credential provides a pathway to develop and recognize professionals who have achieved a level of specialty knowledge and skills in early childhood and family mental health. The credential is based on Vermont's Early Childhood and Family Mental Health Competencies at the Intermediate level. For more information about the credential, look on the (New!) website under Career Pathways (credentials or competencies).

Race to the top application submitted.

Vermont's application for the Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge grant to establish a comprehensive early childhood system has been submitted and we will learn in December if we were selected to receive a multi-million dollar award. The Department for Children and Families, Child Development Division, and the Departments of Education and Health all worked together taking input from the public to create the application and it is on the DOE website to review. Professional development, degrees and credentials as well as incentives to participate in STARS and many, many other activities are part of this very big and important application.



" The Culminating Seminar (for the Program Director Credential) was the best course I have ever taken!"

- Student in the last class



The following certificates have been awarded since July 2011

Level I Certificate

Barbara Rouseau - Alburgh
Allyson Gover - Colchester
Katelyn Bowen - Rochester

Level II Certificate

Nan Mann - Saxton's River
Melissa Berry - Fairlee
Heather Newkirk - Walpole, NH
Peter Rollins - Burlington
Melinda Bellows - Grand Isle
Jennifer Phillips - Newport
Meri Christi Pixley - Bristol
Jessica Farquhar - West Dover

Level III-A Certificate

Kimberly Mayo - Cabot
Chelsea Szidik - Ascutney

Level III-B Certificate

Lisa Young - Braintree
Carmen Tarbox - Orleans
Sue Grenier - Rutland

Level IV-A Certificate

Riley Lumsden - Georgia
Crystal Salo - Springfield
Leanne Barry - Auburn, NH
Jo Ann Burns - Hoosick Falls, NY
Melinda Pearson - Brandon

Level IV-B Certificate

Elizabeth Russell - Richmond

Level V-A

Justyna Krysztoforska - Plainfield
Katherine von Behren-Herman -
Westford

Level V-B

Carol Stone - Springfield

Afterschool Credential

Amber Lines - Burlington

Coming Soon...

MATCH Summit to be held November 30, 2011 in White River Junction. MATCH stands for: Mentoring, Advising, Technical assistance, Consulting, Coaching, Help. The Summit is for those who provide this support to early childhood or afterschool professionals and programs, and for the organizations that support this work. Participants will review the draft Competencies for MATCH professionals and discuss how this initiative can integrate with their work. Contact Northern Lights staff for more information.

Legal and Financial Issues in Early Childhood and Afterschool Programs

This 12-week, on-line college course is designed for experienced early childhood and school age care professionals. This course is a requirement of Step 2 of Vermont's Early Childhood and Afterschool Program Director Credential. The course begins late January 2012, and runs through mid-April, for 3 credits from Union Institute & University. For more information contact Maureen Young-McCarthy (see page 1).

Have you completed Step 3 of your Program Director Credential? Do you want to support program directors? We are looking for additional Program Director Portfolio Reviewers - and especially directors who have been through the process themselves. Reviewers can choose when they are available to be on a review team, with a maximum commitment of 3 hours per review. Stipends are available. If interested, please contact Maureen Young-McCarthy (see page 1).

Child Care Licensing revisions: Sheila Duranleau, the Director of Child Care Licensing and Financial Assistance Program in the Vermont Child Development Division reports: I am pleased to share that we will be reviewing and revising our child care licensing regulations very soon. We have had to push the date off for a while due to Tropical Storm Irene but hope to be back on track in early January. We will hire a consultant to facilitate this work and develop a framework for community participation; this process will be very inclusive.

Picture This...

Congratulations to Sue Winsor,
2011 **Afterschool professional
of the year!**



Participants at a recent IPDP
workshop at the **VAEYC
Conference**, October 2011



The Northern Lights Team...

(left to right) Jean Gilman, Sylvia Kennedy-Godin,
Nancy Sugarman, Sherry Carlson, Maureen Young-
McCarthy



**National Registry Alliance conference,
Wisconsin.** Nancy Sugarman (center) represents
Vermont at the conference co-hosted this year by
Wisconsin (Jere on left) and Illinois (Jodi on right) in
September 2011



Maureen Young-McCarthy at the 2011 **VAEYC Conference**

