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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

Recent Website Updates

(live links on the **left**)

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

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

- Check out WHAT'S NEW and the POLL at the bottom of the *Home page*. Find us on FACEBOOK too!
- Find all the APPLICATIONS in one place under the *Resources* Tab.
- NEW! EARLY EDUCATOR LICENSE THROUGH PEER REVIEW
- NEW! STEP BY STEP TUTORIALS on how to get a BFIS Credential user name and password and what happens when you use it!
- EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY MENTAL HEALTH CREDENTIAL-learn all about it!
- Remember the NEW - IPDP booklet and forms and CAREER ADVISING GUIDE for early childhood and afterschool professionals.
- The CURRENT RESEARCH on early childhood and afterschool professional development – look under *Resources* tab.

Website Links

Northern Lights Website:

Links to Recent Updates *on right*

Home page

<http://northernlightscdc.org>

Applications

<http://northernlightscdc.org/resources/applications/>

Early Educator License through Peer Review

<http://northernlightscdc.org/career-pathways/college-and-university-pathways/early-educator-license-through-peer-review/>

Step by Step Tutorials

<http://northernlightscdc.org/career-pathways/bfis-tracking-professional-development/>

ECFMH Credential

<http://northernlightscdc.org/career-pathways/credentials-and-certificates/early-childhood-and-family-mental-health-credential/>

IPDP Booklet and Forms

<http://northernlightscdc.org/career-pathways/ipdp-individual-professional-development-plan/>

Career Advising Guide

<http://northernlightscdc.org/career-pathways/>

Current Research

<http://northernlightscdc.org/resources/current-research/>



*Child Care Apprentices and Classmates
Curriculum Development in Early Childhood Education Course – CCV Fall 2011*

Frequently Asked Questions

QUESTION: "I called the BFIS help desk but no one was there. What should I do?"

ANSWER: The BFIS help desk like all of the other Child Development Division offices, was moved due to flooding from hurricane Irene. Their offices are located now in the IBM building in Essex. If you would like to contact the BFIS help desk, call 1-800-649-2642, listen to the menu choice and when it tells you, press 4 for the Help desk. This directs you to help desk itelephone n the Essex office. You can call us directly at 802-769-6008 or You can also Email us at bfishelpadministrator@ahs.state.vt.us

QUESTION: "I don't have a degree in education can I apply for teacher licensure through Peer Review?"

ANSWER: Yes, Peer Review is an approved process for individuals who hold at least a bachelor's degree, have experience in the field and who have acquired the knowledge and skills needed to meet the competencies, requirements and Principles for Vermont Educators through professional experiences and study. For Peer Review, professional development experiences may include workshops and other non-credit bearing activities (For more in-depth information, consult the Peer Review Handbook which is available on the web at <http://www.state.vt.us/educ/new/html/licensing/alternate.html> or by contacting David Hough david.hough@statevt.us 802-828-0449. (NOTE: You don't have to be in the Peer Review Project (pg.3) to seek educator licensure through Peer Review!)

OUR QUESTION to YOU: What should be the next question on our POLL, located at the bottom of the Northern Lights website?

ANSWER: let us know by emailing: vtlight@ccv.edu Thanks!

Did You Know?

Did you attend the MATCH Summit?



On Nov. 30, 2011, 65 professionals attended the first MATCH Summit in White River Junction. Representatives came from child care, early education and afterschool programs, public schools, state government, community agencies, Head Start, afterschool programs, STARS, mental health services, early intervention and early childhood special education (EEE) services, health, sponsors of professional development and higher education, instructors, coaches, mentors, consultants and more! At the meeting participants learned that MATCH stands for Mentoring, Advising, Teaching, Coaching, Consulting, Help for early childhood and afterschool programs and individuals. It is a Vermont initiative to integrate these services into the professional development system so that they are consistently high quality, available, and meaningful to those who receive these services. There are many professionals already providing these services in VT. MATCH will support them by providing standards of service (competencies), support and training, and a MATCH registry where they are recognized and can be found by those seeking services. The goals of MATCH are to enhance competency and professional growth; promote program quality; improve outcomes for children in care and education programs; and ensure MATCH is incorporated into all professional development systems. Participants at the Summit (a) learned the history of MATCH and what it is, (b) met and talked with others across the state who are committed to mentoring, coaching, consultation and advising; (c) provided feedback on the draft MATCH competencies; and (d) shared what the initiative could and should mean to them and their work. The MATCH committee will use this information to move forward. (see more on page 4)



Frequently Asked Questions

QUESTION: "Please Help! I want to update and renew my Instructor Registry status, but I don't know how to get in to my original application, and I can't remember my password!"

ANSWER: Don't worry-we've got you covered! Go to the Northern Lights website and locate ROLES at the top of our homepage. Select INSTRUCTORS from drop down box. Once on the Instructor page, click on *Applying to the Instructor Registry*, and open the electronic Instructor Registry Application. On the first page of the application, you will find a shaded log-in box for existing users. Click *forgot password?* Your user-name is the e-mail address that you added to your original application. (If you have a new e-mail address, you can update it once you get in.) You will now have access to your original Instructor Profile. Complete each of the Instructor Renewal questions, and make any necessary updates. Be sure to click the SUBMIT button at the bottom of the page before you log out!

QUESTION: "I've applied for Step 1 of my Program Director Credential, but I still haven't received my certificate!"

ANSWER: We have several applications that we are unable to process because we are waiting for transcripts to confirm course completion. A copy of an official or unofficial transcript is acceptable. A student-accessed, online print-out of courses is NOT! Applicants are notified by e-mail or phone if their application is incomplete, and their application remains on hold until transcripts are received.

"I just started a job as an interim program director and when I found the VT Program Director Competencies they were just what I needed – and were all at my fingertips! Thanks!"

- New program director

More...Did You Know?

The Peer Review Project is scheduled to begin in February 2012. Applications were due December 16th, 2012. If you missed the deadline but are interested in applying please contact scarlson380@comcast.net to find out if there is still space available. Information about the peer review project can be found on the Northern Lights Website (see page 1).

BFIS Help is here! Northern Lights now has 2 new step by step tutorials on its website (see link pg. 1). *One shows you how to get your BFIS (Bright Futures Information System) Credential account user name and password.* Any one listed as staff in a regulated child care has an account, and other professionals may request one. The account is a private place to store your professional development information. It also means you don't have to send your paper work again and again when applying for a grant or certificate or STARS. Just tell them to look in your BFIS Credential account. You need a user name and password to get into your protected Credential account in BFIS. *The second tutorial walks you through using your password/user name and what is in your account.* Check it out! P. S. there is already a tutorial to walk you through the BFIS Course Calendar under *Training and Coursework* on the Northern Lights website.

"I enjoyed learning everything this class had to offer"
- student in Fundamentals course, Fall 2011, Bennington

Race to the Top not awarded to Vermont. On Friday, Dec. 16th it was announced that federal Early Learning Challenge Grants (Race to the Top) would be awarded to 9 states: California, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island and Washington. Vermont was one of 35 states, D.C. and Puerto Rico that created and submitted plans to increase access to high-quality programs for children from low-income families, providing more children from birth to age 5 with a strong foundation they need for success in school and beyond. The number and list of winners was determined both by the quality of the applications and the funds available.

Posting your Completed Degree in BFIS If you have completed an Associate or Bachelor degree—congratulations! Be aware that if you post it in your BFIS (Bright Futures Information System) Credential Account, it will *not be verified* until you send a transcript (issued by the college or university; a copy is OK) to Northern Lights. Also, your degree may make you eligible for an early childhood Level certificate from Northern Lights and a Recognition Bonus from the Child Development Division. Find more information on our website page: <http://northernlightscdc.org/career-pathways/college-and-university-pathways/>



NEW Approved Instructors

Affiliate I

Alisha Adams
Carolyn Riley
Jennifer Auletta

Master

Gladys Collins
Daryl Houk
Maureen Hickey
Susan Titterton
Susan Torncello
Kathy Reynolds
Ruth Young

Affiliate II

Andree Stratton
Brenda Schramm

Certified

Carrie Riker
MaryBeth Pinard-Brace
Sandra Howe
Heather Labor
Mary Fran Leone-Charbonneau

Specialist II

Carol Strobel
Ruth Beard
Sandra Cameron

Instructor Registry- 35 Renewed!

Affiliate I Instructors

Tiffany Bergeron

Certified Instructors

Dori Oatley
Marie Sullivan
Ron Rubin
Scott Noyes
Susan Rakowski
Sue Clark
Patricia Pawlik
Carol Olsen

Specialist I Instructors

Lisa Aschbacher

Specialist II Instructors

Jack Russell
Peter Burns
Karen Holz
Linda MacFarlane
Deb Parrella
Peggy Rainville
Chris Runcie

Master Instructors

Amethyst Peaslee
Catherine Hagadorn
Cheryl Mitchell
Eric Erwin
Kate Ross
Kim Kiniry
Lawrence Shelton
Jo Schneiderman
Lori Cassidy
Lorraine Harris
Lorraine Patterson
Peggy Cozi
Sharron Adams
Kathi Apgar
Jan Crow
Nancy Sugarman
Janice Stockman
Samn Stockwell

Program Director Credential

Program Director Credential - Step 2

Tammy Lynch - Springfield, VT

Program Director Credential - Step 3

Tammy Lynch - Springfield, VT

Coming Soon!

Fundamentals for early childhood professional courses will be held in the following regions in early winter/ spring 2012: St Albans, Rutland, Bennington (CCV college course), Montpelier, Burlington, St. Johnsbury/Newport. Please contact your Resource Development Specialist (listed here: <http://northernlightscdc.org/resources/vermont-and-national-resources/>) for schedule information.

Approval of Online Training The Child Development Division (CDD) has asked Northern Lights Career Development Center to determine what online classes/ courses would be approved and verified. Verified and approved courses could be entered into an individual's BFIS Credential account and would "count" as annual training hours, for STARS staff qualifications, etc. Online classes for college credit already are approved and verified if the course was taken at an accredited institution (see Northern Light website <http://northernlightscdc.org/career-pathways/college-and-university-pathways/> for details). Northern Lights Career Development Center is in the process of determining how to approve and verify online classes or courses that are NOT for college credit. Northern Lights is considering asking organizations and agencies that provide on-line, non- credit training to submit a request for approval to Northern Lights. Once approved, the list of organizations and trainings would be posted on the Northern Lights website with links to access the training. Northern Lights would still need to see documentation of the training to verify it. We are currently collecting national, state-wide and regional perspectives to determine the final criteria to use to approve training. When we post the draft criteria, we will alert all the mailing lists to check our website and give us feedback. Stay tuned!

MATCH DRAFT Competencies: MATCH stands for Mentoring, Advising, Teaching, Coaching, Consulting, Help and is for early childhood and afterschool programs and individuals in Vermont. Many professionals already provide these (MATCH) services. MATCH is an initiative to recognize, integrate and increase access to these services in Vermont. An important question is: what do MATCH professionals need to know and do to be effective? Competencies for MATCH professionals can set the standard for quality services. At the MATCH Summit (see article on page 2) participants reviewed and gave feedback on the competencies. When we post the draft MATCH Competencies on our website, we will alert all the mailing lists to give us feedback. We will keep you posted!

Legal and Financial Issues in Early Childhood and Afterschool Programs is a 3-credit course that supports Step 2 of Vermont's Early Childhood and Afterschool Program Director Credential. It will be offered online from January 31-April 17. For more information contact Northern Lights at 802-885-8374.



The following certificates have been awarded since November 2011

Level I Certificate

Nichole Cross - Bennington
 Ellisa Dickinson - Bennington
 Kelly Maitland - Shaftsbury
 Melissa Martin - Richmond
 Julie Anne Murphy - Williston
 Sharlene Biser Wielis - Rutland

Level II Certificate

Mary Caldwell - Barre
 Elaine Capriola - Bennington
 Eleanor Cheeseman - St. Albans
 Andrea Ciaraldi - Morrisville
 Carlene Cubit - North Hyde Park
 Corrina Garbacik - South Barre
 Sheri Hill - South Burlington
 Kelly Maitland - Shaftsbury
 Michelle McCormick - Barton
 Cathy Michaud - Georgia
 Jodi Mohn - White River Junction
 Lorrie Ploof - Essex Junction
 Stacy Sheridan - Milton
 Michael Stearns - Fairfield
 Kelly Story - Shelburne
 Tara Willetts - Jericho

Level III-A Certificate

Andrea Butterfield - Middlebury
 Ellen Drolette - Burlington
 Jennifer Hamblin - Hartland
 Lynn Luman - Fairfax
 Amy St. Onge-Dalpe - Irasburg
 Amy Thayer - St. Albans
 Tonya Williams - North Concord

Level III-B Certificate

Sheila Bedi - West Fairlee
 Judy Bergeron - Williston
 Sarah Paquette - South Burlington
 Heather Todd-Perham - Perkinsville

Level IV-A Certificate

Maureen Blanchard - Beecher Falls
 Sara Bose - Johnson
 Rachel Boyce - New Haven
 Heather Bushey - Highgate
 Amy Grover - Waterbury
 Melinda Pearson - Brandon

Level IV-B Certificate

Carrie Bullard - North Hyde Park
 Rachel Hunter - North Springfield

Level V-A

Lori Ann Gratton - Bennington
 Catherine Hagadorn - Hoosick Falls, NY

Men at work:

Is this the new Northern Lights team? No, they are some of the many construction workers expanding the CCV site on Elm Street.



In the Spotlight...

In the Spotlight is a new feature starting in this issue of the Northern Lights Atlas. Each issue we will highlight an early childhood or afterschool professional who has followed an exciting pathway in his or her career development. Learn the steps one person took to move along their career pathway – what resources they used and what difference it makes. If you know of an early childhood or afterschool professional who has followed an interesting career path (maybe you?) contact us!

Nicole Walker

Apple Tree Learning Center, Stowe, VT

Nicole’s professional development journey began 9 years ago when she began working with infants at the Apple Tree Learning Center in Stowe, VT. New to the field and with encouragement from her director, Sonja Raymond, Nicole became a child care apprentice through the Vermont Child Care Industries and Careers Council (VCCICC). Through this program, she was matched with an on-the-job mentor and completed 6 early childhood courses through the Community College of Vermont. Upon completing the Apprenticeship Program, and with 18 early childhood college credits under her belt, Nicole applied for and received her nationally recognized Child Development Associate (CDA) credential, and became an on-site mentor for a new apprentice. Sparked by some apprenticeship coursework in management and leadership, Nicole decided to pursue her Program Director Credential. Several of the courses she had already taken met requirements for Steps 1 and 2. Step 3 of the Program Director Credential included the completion of the Culminating Seminar course, and a Program Director Portfolio, which was reviewed and approved. Nicole was the fourth person in Vermont to complete and receive her Program Director Credential and accompanying Recognition Bonus through the Child Development Division. She recently participated on a workshop panel at the 36th Annual VAEYC Conference, where she shared her experiences and offered participants the opportunity to view her Portfolio. As if her career pathway is not amazing enough, Nicole declares that that her journey required very little out of pocket expense. She applied for and received individual college tuition grants each semester, accessed a scholarship and subsidized course through Northern Lights, and received reduced tuition for coursework through the VCCICC Child Care Apprenticeship Program. She is now pursuing her Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education through CCV, with only 4 more classes to go! “Don’t be afraid to *ask* people – there are many ways to be resourceful. Consider online courses too. They fit well into my schedule and with 2 young children – I don’t have to hire a babysitter or go anywhere to attend class!”

- Nicole Walker