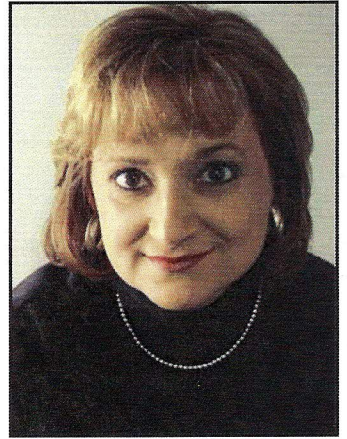


ollaborations

President's Message



Welcome LAECA Members to another superb issue of Collaborations!

It is with great pleasure once again we provide you with outstanding resources. In this issue you will find information regarding "Education and the Arts". I believe it is important to foster and encourage creativity, self expression, along with cognitive development in children in the early years as well as all age levels. Thank you to our editor Martha Garner and all who submitted articles for this issue.

Your LAECA board has been so busy working for you. In early February we had tremendous representation from Louisiana at this year's SECA conference in San Antonio, Texas. Cindy Ramagos our SECA representative and Janie Humphries, PhD along with the whole SECA Board can be commended for a job well done. Next year's 2013 SECA Conference will be held in Mobile, Alabama. We will keep you posted as information becomes available.

With much enthusiasm I bring you news in regards to our 2012 Fall Conference. Our theme this year is "*Communication: A Pipeline for the Future of Louisiana's Children*". The location will once again be in Alexandria at the Sai Convention Center on October 18-20, 2012. We had many request to bring back the "dynamic" **Don Monopoli of the Learning Station** and he is ready to reenergize us in ways only he can provide. We also have **Mary Jo Huff** the multi-award winning author/storyteller returning as another Keynoter sponsored by Kaplan. She will provide us with her expert Make and Take skills, so you will want to register early because attendance is limited for this Thursday evening session. Finally, we have **Clarissa Willis, PhD** attending as our Featured Speaker. Dr. Willis offers a unique perspective on issues related to early childhood development and early childhood special education. We are striving to provide you with professional development from all across the spectrum. We are always looking for new and fresh presenters. Could this possibly be you? Take time to fill out a Call for Proposal form and send it in. Sharing is the best gift educators can give to one another. You will find conference forms and much more information about the conference in this issue and on our website, LAECA.ORG. We will continue to add information as it becomes available so make sure you check the website often.

In closing, I welcome all new members to the Louisiana Early Childhood Association. You have chosen a wonderful organization to become a part of with outstanding members and productive people to represent you and Louisiana's Children. Remember, never hesitate to contact me or a board member with needs you may have.

May the Seeds you Plant this Spring Season Blossom in every Child!

Smiles,

Chris LeJeune
LAECA President

