

Fall/Winter 2014

# PERSPECTIVES

on Learning Sciences



## TN CAREs Early Head Start Family Participates in 2013 March for Babies

### ❖ | News

3 | TN CAREs Family Joins the Paris March for Babies

6 | SSCBT Program Welcomes Seven New Graduates

### ❖ | Outreach

4 | TSU-HSCAPP Project Comes to a Close

5 | COELS Sponsors Nashville Early Childhood Conferences

### ❖ | Awards

7 | COELS Staff Receives Awards For Years of Service

7 | COELS Staff Members Win Organizational Elections

### ❖ | Calendar

8 | Upcoming Events For 2014

 **TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences  
[www.tnstate.edu/learningsciences](http://www.tnstate.edu/learningsciences)

**PERSPECTIVES**

Fall/Winter 2014  
Volume 2, Issue 1

*PERSPECTIVES* is published twice a year by the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences at Tennessee State University for faculty, staff, students, alumni, and the Nashville community. Comments, suggestions, and questions should be addressed to the Center at:

learningsciences@tnstate.edu  
Tennessee State University  
3500 John A Merritt Blvd.  
Box 9500  
Nashville, TN 37209  
Phone: 615.277.1651  
Fax: 615.277.1654

**Administration**

VALERIE WILLIAMS  
Director, Center of Excellence  
for Learning Sciences

DR. MICHAEL BUSBY  
Interim Associate Vice  
President of Academic Affairs  
Office of Research and  
Sponsored Programs

Editor/Writer  
CELESTE BROWN  
Coordinator of  
Media and Marketing  
Center of Excellence for  
Learning Sciences

**TSU-14-0085(A)-16b-61085**  
Tennessee State University is an AA/EEO employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its program and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:  
Ms. Tiffany Baker-Cox,  
Director of Equity, Diversity  
and Compliance, 3500 John A.  
Merritt Boulevard, Nashville, TN  
37209, (615) 963-7435.



*Building Capacities to  
Strengthen Communities  
Through Education*



**Valerie Williams  
Director**

**Leadership in Academics, Research  
and Service**

**PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS**

- Tennessee Early Childhood Program Administrator Credential (TECPAC)
- Head Start Career Advancement Partnership Program (HS-CAPP)
- Tennessee State University – TN CAREs Early Head Start
- Tennessee Childcare Online Training System (TCCOTS)
- Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance (TECTA)
- Social Services Competency Based Training (SSCBT)

**RESEARCH INITIATIVES**

- STEM Education
- Teaching and Learning
- Early Intervention Models
- Student Learning Measurement
- Early Childhood Educator Professional Development
- P-12 Instructor and Administrator Professional Development
- Birth to Three Curriculum, Program and Professional Development

## TN CAREs Early Head Start Family Participates in 2013 March for Babies



**L to R: Bernie Sleadd, Christy Giesler, Kathy Taylor, Tanya Parsons and Krystal Kendall take off in the March of Dimes March for Babies at Paris Elementary School.**  
Photo: The Paris Post-Intelligencer

Tennessee State University is committed to supporting the communities in which we reside, including those in west Tennessee. The Tennessee CAREs Early Head Start program serves 140 infants and toddlers and their families by providing education as well health, nutritional, and other services to children and their families. The program includes six center-based child care facilities in Henry, Weakley, and Gibson counties in northwest Tennessee.

The 2013 Paris, Tennessee March of Dimes March for

Babies was held on October 12<sup>th</sup> and included participants that are a part of the Tennessee State University family. Tanya Parsons and Krystal Kendall are both teachers in our Tennessee CAREs Early Head Start program and are teachers of the 2013 March of Dimes ambassador for Henry County, Ali Giesler — pictured above in the baby stroller being pushed by her grandmother Kathy Taylor.

The March for Babies was one of several events to raise money for the March of Dimes, which is dedicated to improving the

health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality in the Paris community.

The 2014 Paris March for Babies will be held on Saturday, October 11, 2014 at 10:00 am.

The 2012-2013 Annual Public Report for the TN CAREs program is available at [www.tnstate.edu/learningsciences/service.aspx](http://www.tnstate.edu/learningsciences/service.aspx).

## TSU-HSCAPP Wraps up Project to Enhance Early Childhood Teacher Quality



**Jana Holt (left) and TSU-HSCAPP Program Coordinator Janice Lovell. Jana graduated from TSU in December of 2013 with a Bachelor of Science in Child and Family Studies with support from the TSU-HSCAPP program.**

The Tennessee State University Head Start Career Advancement Partnership Program, or TSU-HSCAPP, will graduate its final students in the summer of 2014. Since 2008, 42 students have earned Associates, Bachelors, and Masters degrees from TBR institutions with tuition support from TSU-HSCAPP. The program is projected to graduate 50 students by the end of the summer semester.

TSU-HSCAPP is a federally funded partnership between Tennessee State University's Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences and three Middle Tennessee Head Start

and Early Head Start agencies.

In addition to Tennessee State University, TSU HS-CAPP partners with Columbia State Community College, Nashville State Technical Community College, Roane State Community College, Tennessee Technological University, and Volunteer State Community College. The primary purpose of the partnership is to assist these three agencies in meeting the requirements of the federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 (P.L. 110 -134) which mandates that by 2013, at least 50% of the national Head Start teaching corps hold a bachelor or higher

degree in Early Childhood Education or a related field.

TSU- HSCAPP began in the fall of 2008 by providing laptops to Head Start teachers to give access to online classes. The program had its start as the Partnership for Academic Training with Head Start, or PATHS project from 2003 to 2008, which shared the same project goals. Since then the program has provided tuition support and mentoring to Head Start classroom teachers.

# COELS Sponsors Nashville Early Childhood Conferences

## Fifth Annual TECTA Summer Research Institute • June 22, 2013

Over 150 participants attended the TECTA Summer Research Institute at the TSU Avon Williams campus. The Institute is organized by the TECTA Management staff to provide training and resources to Early Childhood faculty, staff and administrators in middle

Tennessee. The 2013 Institute included 20 workshops on topics related to curriculum, development, and best practices for the care of young children.

The 2014 Institute is scheduled for June 21, 2014.



Bottom left: Dr. Clarissa Willis provided the keynote and closing addresses. Attendees received several hours of training from 20 workshops.

## 2013 Early Childhood Summit • July 15-16, 2013

COELS was a gold level sponsor for the 2013 Early Childhood Summit. Hosted by the Tennessee Alliance for Early Education, attendees received information about the Center and the University. The TECTA program was also on hand to provide information about its services and attendees were able to register and sign up for online training at the TCCOTS exhibit.



2013  
**EARLY CHILDHOOD SUMMIT**

School Readiness — It's Everybody's Business  
Connecting Family, Community and School

---

**THANK YOU  
TO OUR SPONSORS**

**Platinum Sponsors**  
Early Connections Network ★ Ingram Industries  
Tennessee Head Start Association

**Gold Sponsors**  
Tennessee State University Center  
of Excellence for Learning Sciences

**Silver Sponsors**  
KidLink Treatment Services  
Niswonger Foundation ★ Vanderbilt University

**Bronze Sponsor**  
AT&T

COELS was a gold-level sponsor for this event and distributed information and resources in the exhibit space.

## SSCBT Program Welcomes Seven New Graduates



**The 2013 SSCBT graduates received their credentials at the 100th Anniversary Conference on April 16, 2013.**

Seven 2013 participants completed the program and received their credentials at the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual TCSW Conference. The graduates are Billie Jo Campbell, Pearl Shelton, Ashley Tripp, Claudius Pratt II, Marlin McGuire, Margarita Rodriguez, and Phyllis Gore. The Credentials are earned following the Social Services Competency Based Training (SSCBT) program. Participants are family service workers that come from various Head Start and Early Head Start agencies around the nation.

The Center of Excellence has been a collaborative partner of TCSW for many years and

helped sponsor the 2013 Conference. Alex Atkinson presented awards for the fourth year in a row. Mr. Atkinson is the Program Director of the SSCBT Program at Tennessee State University and the Program Director for Financial Affairs for the Center of Excellence.

The SSCBT program is a national training program developed by the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences at Tennessee State University and offered jointly by Tennessee State University and Portland State University in Oregon.

The next Tennessee SSCBT class has begun and this year the program has two cohorts running simultaneously. The groups have completed Module II and are on track to complete this spring. The next TCSW conference will be in March 24-26, 2014 in Nashville, Tennessee where the current students who successfully complete will receive their credentials.

For more information about the SSCBT program, visit [www.tnstate.edu/learningsciences](http://www.tnstate.edu/learningsciences).

## COELS Staff Members Elected to Serve as Leaders in Professional Organizations

### Alex D. Atkinson Wins Region III NCURA Election

The Center of Excellence congratulates **Alex D. Atkinson** for his recent election as the Region III Treasurer for the National Council of University Research Administrators. Mr. Atkinson serves as the Program Director for Financial Affairs and the Director of the SSCBT Program. He also serves as the advisor to the Tennessee State University Chapter of Collegiate 100.

Established in 1999, NCURA serves its members and advances the field of research administration through education and professional development programs, the sharing of knowledge and experience, and by fostering a professional, collegial, and respected community.



**Alex D. Atkinson**

### COELS Staff Join the Board of NAAEYC

The 2014 Board of Directors for the Nashville Area Association for the Education of Young Children (NAAEYC) can count four COELS staff among its members.

**Stacey Nieman** has been elected President of the local affiliate. **Melissa Fleck** and **Cathy Brashear** joined the Board in 2014 as President-Elect and Secretary, respectively. **Norma Mason** has also joined the board as Chair for Program Director Support.



**Stacey Nieman**



**Melissa Fleck**



**Norma Mason**



**Cathy Brashear**

### Dr. Katari Coleman Joins the SECA Editorial Committee



**Dr. Katari Coleman** has joined the Editorial Committee for the Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA). SECA publishes newsletters and periodicals with information of interest to the Early Childhood community. Dr. Coleman currently serves as the statewide program director for the Tennessee Early Childhood Training Alliance (TECTA), housed within the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences at Tennessee State University.

## TSU Hosts Employee Recognition Luncheon

The 2013 Employee Recognition was held on April 24, 2013 on the main campus of Tennessee State University.

The COELS staff members recognized for their years of service are:

#### 5 Years

Katari Coleman  
Gloria Fair  
Natalie Ingram  
Kimberly Smith

#### 10 Years

Tammy Rose  
Shirley Tyler

#### 15 Years

Sherry Jo Anderson  
Ellen Chism  
Cathy Jo Hanley

## Mark Your Calendar for These Upcoming Events

**Tennessee Conference on  
Social Welfare (TCSW)**

**Annual Conference**

March 24-26, 2014  
Sheraton Music City  
Nashville, Tennessee

**TECTA Higher Education Institute**

April 11, 2014  
Tennessee State University  
Avon Williams Campus

**41<sup>st</sup> Annual Head Start  
Conference and Expo**

April 28 – May 2, 2014  
Long Beach, California

**TECTA Summer Research Institute**

June 21, 2014  
Tennessee State University  
Avon Williams Campus

**Tennessee State University  
2014 Homecoming Week**

September 21-27, 2014  
Nashville, Tennessee

---

## COELS Staff Looks Forward to 2014

The Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences is grateful for the opportunities to support families, students, and young children. Our organization understands that small, positive changes can have a major impact. We thank Tennessee State University for its support for our programs in 2013 and we look forward to working hard for the academic and Early Childhood communities in 2014.



COELS staff members ended 2013 in a festive fashion at the Mid-year Staff Development Training.





Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences  
Tennessee State University  
3500 John A Merritt Blvd.  
Box 9500  
Nashville, TN 37209

The mission of the Center of Excellence for Learning Sciences is to design and conduct multidisciplinary research and demonstrations concerning practices, policies, and programs that promote the educational, social, physical, and psychological well-being of children and families; and to disseminate research and information to improve public policy and the programmatic decisions of agencies, schools, institutions, and communities in Tennessee, the nation, and the global community.

# PERSPECTIVES

on Learning Sciences