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# The Voice

Speaking out for Wyoming's Children

March, 2010

## **Pam Stevens**

### **President**



I am excited about a wonderful year as President of the Wyoming Early Childhood Association (WECA). I would like to thank you for the dedication you have brought to Wyoming working with young children and their families. Wyoming is a wonderful place to raise children and build leaders.

On May 1<sup>st</sup> in Riverton, we are having an exciting speaker Gwen Simmons from NAEYC who will present. This will be a great spring conference! Come join the board at this wonderful opportunity to become better leaders.

## **ERICA GRESHAM**

### **LARAMIE**

### **REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE**

307-340-0256

Hi, my name is Erica Gresham and I am the new Regional Representative for the Laramie area. I have worked in child care for 10 years both in home daycares and large centers

I currently am a preschool teacher in Laramie and a senior at the University of Wyoming. I am hoping to finish school in 2011 with my Bachelors in Elementary Education with a minor in Early Childhood. I also have been a substitute teacher.

I mostly worked in the elementary schools in the regular classrooms and also special needs classrooms. I am looking forward to many more years working with children whether in a public school or in the daycare setting.



Todd Parr

Headline Presenter

30th Annual WECA Fall Conference

Oct. 1 – 2, 2010

Ramada Plaza

Casper, Wyoming

## **IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2010**

Week of the Young Child April 11 - 17

Spring Conference May 1st 8:30 – 4:30 Riverton

WECA Board Meeting May 1st 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Riverton

2010 National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development June 6 – 9 Phoenix, AZ

WSLN – Western States Leadership Network June 22 – 26 Utah

Stand & Celebrate this year: August 12, 13, & 14

**SPRING TRAINING**  
**MAY 1, 2010**  
8:30AM– 4:30 PM  
**RIVERTON, WYOMING**  
**Holiday Inn**



**Gwen Simmons**  
**Finding the Leader  
Within: Becoming  
an Effective and In-  
formed Advocate**

Developmentally appropriate practice is the foundation for all of NAEYC's work—publications and conferences, professional development/training, policy/advocacy, and accreditation of both college-level preparation and child care programs. It is a framework of principles and guidelines for best practice in the care and education of young children, birth through age 8. DAP is grounded both in the research on how young children develop and learn and in what is known about education effectiveness.

Every day you make a difference in the lives of young children through decisions, actions, words and caring. Learn how DAP can become the foundation for your work no matter what role you play; administrator, director, teacher, caregiver or advocate. Join your Wyoming colleagues for an interactive day that will explore the core concepts of DAP and Advocacy!

- Deepen your understanding of the Core of DAP
- Learn how to use the key messages from DAP to advocate for higher quality early childhood programs
- Explore new ways to enhance your role as an early childhood advocate
- Develop a professional advocacy plan



**Peter J. Pizzolongo**

Peter Pizzolongo is Senior Director, Professional Development, at the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

In this position, Mr. Pizzolongo works with Professional Development Division colleagues to ensure that this nation's programs for young children, as well as teacher preparation and ongoing education programs, are high quality.

His responsibilities include program planning for NAEYC's National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development. . Mr. Pizzolongo oversees NAEYC's distance education initiatives, including a professional development program that uses live and pre-recorded video Webcasts, face-to-face sessions, Web seminars, and online discussions.

He also has developed a series of modules for training teachers on developmental screening and assessment of preschoolers and the *HRM Journal*, a computer-based training series of modules, with a simulation for assessing user's competence upon completion of the series.

Mr. Pizzolongo received his undergraduate and graduate degrees in psychology and child development at the University of Delaware.

## **SPRING TRAINING TOPIC**

### **Finding the Leader Within: Becoming an Effective and Informed Advocate**

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Deepen your understanding of the Core of DAP

Learn how to use the key messages from DAP to advocate for higher quality early childhood programs

Explore new ways to enhance your role as an early childhood advocate

Develop a professional advocacy plan

Please Register by April 30th for Early Bird Registration.

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Email: [weca@wyoming.com](mailto:weca@wyoming.com)

## **WANTED—SOMEONE VERY ALIVE!**

### **WECA- Region 7**

Region 7 (Eastern Plains) is looking for a Regional Representative to fill the spot vacated when Scott Moncrief assumed the role of President- Elect. Region 7 encompasses Niobrara, Platte, Goshen and Laramie Counties. To learn more about the responsibilities and positive impact you can have as a Regional Representative contact **Scott Moncrief at [smoncrie@lccc.wy.edu](mailto:smoncrie@lccc.wy.edu) or 307- 778-1172**

Note: A Regional Representative is needed for Region 4, Southwest. If you are interested, you may also contact Scott.

**Wyoming Early Childhood Association**  
**Spring Training 2010**

**Riverton, Wyoming**  
**Holiday Inn**  
**May 1, 2010**  
**8:30 AM –4:30 PM**

**Finding the Leader Within: Becoming an Effective and Informed Advocate**

**Presented by:**

**Gwen Simmons, Director of Affiliate Relations for NAEYC**  
**Peter J. Pizzolongo-- Senior Director, Professional Development, at the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)**

**Fees postmarked by April 1, 2010**

**Includes a working lunch**

**WECA Members: \$30.00**

**Non-Members: \$40.00**

Lunch (please choose one)

**Beef** \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

**Fees postmarked after**

**April 1, 2010**

**Includes a working lunch**

**WECA Members: \$45.00**

**Non-Members: \$50.00**

**STARS and PTSB's will be available.**

**Training Manual: Developing Appropriate Practices --\$20.00**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

WECA Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Fee included: Registration \_\_\_\_\_ Book \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Check# \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn. \$70.00 for 1-4 people per room.

To reserve a room, please call (307) 856-8100 or email: [holidayinn.com](http://holidayinn.com)

Please mail registrations and fees to:

Wyoming Early Childhood Association

PO Box 2062

Casper, Wyoming 82602

Or: call 1-307-234-3162 to register by credit card.

Or email [weca@wyoming.com](mailto:weca@wyoming.com)

**News From Around the State**

**Penny Kinsinger**  
**N E Region Representative**



March 27th, Gillette will hold their 32nd annual Children's Festival at the Complex Central Pavilion from 9:30 until 2:30 and everyone is welcome.

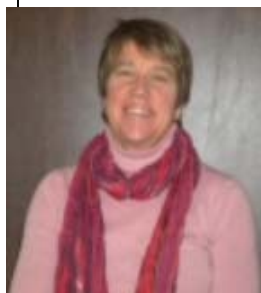
Enjoy exploring new challenges and creating meaningful learning opportunities for your children while being a part of a larger community of families. Infants and toddlers may also experience early early interactions and relationships.

Two to three thousand people are expected to attend. Approximately forty booths will focus on children of all ages, parental involvement, and ideas of what families can do together at home.

I have worked this festival for several years and strongly support the professional development between families, communities, and statewide efforts. The entire child care community including Child Care Licensing and Child Care Finder participate as well as several other community members.

For information please contact Melody Warren at the Department of Family Services Child Care Licensing 1-307-682-9681

**Betsy Carlin**  
**Affiliate Representative**



I attended the Affiliate Council Executive Committee meeting on February 3 and 4, 2010 as the representative for region 8 of which Wyoming is a part. The following are some of the highlights each member should know.

Did you know that NAEYC has an accreditation program for higher ed. programs? Alison Lutton is the person who oversees the NAEYC accreditation of Associate Degree programs. She came and spoke to us about the program and the importance of state accreditation chairs recognizing and celebrating associate degree programs at the community colleges that have NAEYC accreditation. This mark of excellence is as much of a commitment to early childhood education as NAEYC accreditation of early childhood programs.

NAEYC will be asking each state to develop an official public policy agenda which will be posted on our website. It will be the state affiliate leadership's responsibility to write the agenda using feedback WECA members provide. This will be a great exercise for Wyoming and will help us become a stronger voice for young children and their families. Please help us with this project by giving thoughtful feedback when the time comes.

Our next full Affiliate Council meeting will be on Saturday June 5, 2010.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**30TH FALL CONFERENCE**  
**OCTOBER 1&2, 2010 RAMADA PLAZA, CASPER, WYOMING!**

## Wyoming Early Childhood Association March 2010

### **WELCOME!**

### **ACCREDITATION CORNER:**

NAEYC is pleased to share a new organizational structure of NAEYC Accreditation of Programs for Young Children. They are now part of the Program Recognition and Support Division and have created two departments: NAEYC Academy for ECE Programs Accreditation and Accreditation Program Support.

The NAEYC Academy is divided into three units to ensure that programs always meet the 10 NAEYC Accreditation standards: Program Assessment and Compliance; System Integrity; and Operations. The Accreditation Program Support Department is the "public face" of the accreditation system. It is responsible, among other things, for establishing and maintaining strong, effective relationships with a broad array of external stakeholders. There are two units: Program Support Information Call Center and TORCH; and Program Support Training Center For more informa-

Erica Gresham has graciously consented to become the Regional Representative in Laramie!

Chandra Nettles has stepped in to takenon the position of interim Program Chairman for WECA after the resignation of Mary Scherden.

### **SERVICE**

Peggy Marie Smith, Past-President



Those who work with children, parents and students of Early Childhood give of their hearts, their minds, their energy and their means. Every day you enter the wonderful world of children and begin an unforgettable journey with them. Sometimes we get so enthralled with that world that we forget the larger picture. Unless we become involved outside of the classroom, school, university or home/center, the things we enjoy and take for granted may not be there.

WECA, Wyoming Early Childhood Association, the NAEYC affiliate is the organization that has historically spoken for young children and their families. Fortunately, we have had many join our voice during the last few years. How does WECA get the message out to parents, policy makers and funding sources? Through the voice of its members, the web site [[www.wyeca.org](http://www.wyeca.org)] and the quarterly e-newsletter we strive to inform, invite and energize members. We count on members throughout the state to spread the word to colleagues.

We acknowledge the wonderful service you do for the children of Wyoming. We want to invite you to expand your horizon slightly. Each of the eight WECA regions of Wyoming have a Regional Representative that needs committee members to assist in getting information out quickly, assisting with regional assignments from the Board, or in some cases, we are in need of a representative. The VP of Public Policy [Debi Dawe] could use email committee members to assist with duties within that assignment. Conference Chair Miranda Nelson is looking for committee chairs such as: Vendors, Publicity; Hospitality; Door Prizes; Registration; Presenters; and others

Our annual Fall Conference is Friday and Saturday, October 1-2 at the Ramada Inn (Remodeled Holiday Inn on the River). Todd Parr [[www.toddparr.com](http://www.toddparr.com)] a native Wyoming children's author and illustrator will be the Keynote Speaker. Another service opportunity is to become a presenter for the conference.

If you feel that you could volunteer, even for a few hours at the conference, please send your contact information - name, mailing address, telephone and email to [weca@wyoming.com](mailto:weca@wyoming.com) TODAY!

## Debbi Dawe, WECA V.P. PUBLIC POLICY



It is an exciting time at our nations Capital. After many years we are seeing children's needs coming to the forefront of discussion. This year the President had just released his proposed budget for 2011 days before the NAECY Public Policy walk on Capital Hill.

NAECY asked that we deliver the following message; "We cannot afford to postpone investing in children until they become adults (a phrase we heard alot was cradle to career), nor can we wait until they reach school age-a time when they may be too late to intervene. Learning is a dynamic process and is most effective when it begin at a young age and continues through adulthood".

Furthermore we were asked to be clear to explain, "The federal budget is an indication of the nation's priorities for the investment of public dollars. Our nations priorities should be preventing the achievement gap starting with the very young children, sustaining their success through school, and helping their families thrive. Our nation's economic revitalization requires these additional investments".

### Recommendations for 2011:

- Adopt the President's request for an increase of \$1.6 billion dollars for Child Care & Development Block Grant and \$989 million increase for Head Start and Early Head Start.
- Provide an increase for Part C (infant/toddler) and Section 619 (preschool) special education so that services can continue to grow to meet unmet needs for an early intervention and services.
- Increase Title 1 funding so that school districts have the flexibility to expand the use of these funds for younger children in higher quality settings and schools, for joint professional development and comprehensive services.
- Adopt the Administration's proposal to expand the Child and Development Care Tax Credit and also index the credit to inflate and make it refundable.
- Increase Child Nutrition by \$1 billion so that child care, schools and after school providers can have access to nutritious meals and snacks.

As Betsy and I delivered the above message we also relayed that we understand the hard economic time and we appreciate the fact that our representatives must consider not just WY but the Nation as a whole. We conveyed our thanks for finally bringing the "children" to the top of the list in budget discussions and we felt assured they would do what is right for all.

Sen. Enzi shared with us he had just met with the First Lady discussing her passion, Nutrition and Childhood Obesity. I'm sure we will be seeing and hearing a great push in this area.

The trip to D.C. was a thrill as always. We met with Sen. Barrasso and his advisor, Sen. Enzi and both his advisors as well as Congressman Cynthia Lummis and her advisor. Says mountains to have all our representatives meeting with WECA members.

Stay tuned as WY also begins hearings at its state level, in Cheyenne as well. Be ready to call or e-mail as our children and families issues are presented to YOU representatives.

It's a pleasure and honor to serve as WECA V.P. PUBLIC POLICY.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**2010 Fall Conference**

October 1 and 2, 2010

Ramada Plaza

Casper, Wyoming

**Headline Presenter, *Todd Parr***

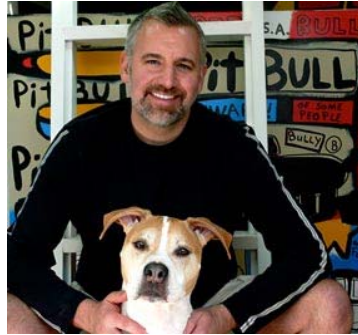
**Little Brown Books for Young Readers Author**



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*WECA Fall Conference*  
*October 1-2, 2010*  
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Todd Parr, Children's Author



**WE'RE ON THE  
WEB!**  
**[Wyeca.org](http://Wyeca.org)**



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