

# QIS QUARTERLY

Summer 2008

## events

upcoming

FIFTH ANNUAL HIGH/SCOPE CONFERENCE is coming **August 15-16, 2008** at the Palm Beach Convention Center in downtown West Palm Beach from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The **High/Scope Conference** is sponsored through Children's Services Council, High/Scope Foundation, and The Institute of Excellence in Early Care and Education at Palm Beach Community College. Some of the topics include Leadership and Management, Trainers and Coaches, Directors, Preschool and Infant/Toddler curriculum, Elementary and Youth programs, Language and Literacy workshops and the High/Scope Approach/VPK Crosswalk. There will also be offerings in Spanish. Lunch will be provided both days. High/Scope books will be available for purchase.

Practitioners may attend either or both days. Certificates for 6 in-service hours will be awarded for completion of each entire day of attendance. The conference is registry approved.

SEEK Scholarships may be available to qualified applicants (**deadline: July 11**). Contact your Career Advisor or call 561-868-3662 for further information. Non-SEEK recipients can register online at [www.highscope.org](http://www.highscope.org).

**A STAR IS BORN:** Veteran Family Child Care provider Connie Williams (PBCC AS in ECE Class of 2007) will be featured on **July 25, 2008** on WXEL Channel 42, as part of KCET's A Place of Our Own, a daily television series, a website, and an extensive outreach program, devoted to the unique needs of people who care for children. Tune in.

**RECOGNITION EVENT IN SEPT:** The Annual Palm Beach County Early Childhood Registry Recognition Event will be held on **September 19, 2008** at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Invitations will be sent to active Registry members in the coming months. See you there! [www.pbcregistry.org](http://www.pbcregistry.org)

special feature

## More Sites Seeking Accreditation with QIS' Support and Training

As the Quality Improvement System [QIS] and its participants have grown, the support systems available to them have also grown. During the past year, QIS technical assistance has added support for those sites seeking accreditation from the various approved accrediting bodies, such as NAEYC, APPLE, NAC and SACS. This is in addition to the technical support they receive for the QIS assessment, such as ECERS/ITERS.

The Garden of the Sahaba in Boca Raton ([www.assahaba.org](http://www.assahaba.org)) completed its first formal QIS assessment in November 2007 and began preparing for its initial APPLE accreditation in December 2007. There are various approaches sites can adopt in preparation for either visit. At The Garden of the Sahaba, the team approach was initiated. Since they had had



L-R: Salima Ziani, Sousan Saadeh, Kheira Motii, Maryam Quereshi, Jodi Okkashe, Asma Khalid from The Garden of the Sahaba in Boca Raton

so much success with this approach in their QIS assessment, they quickly assigned each teacher a list of tasks pertinent to the APPLE self-assessment. Following is a "Q and A" with the teachers of the school:

**Q:** What did you think about the overall accreditation process and do you feel your participation in QIS helped you achieve your accreditation goals?

**A:** Sadiq Hamidani, Director of The Garden of the Sahaba: We are extremely pleased by the acceptance of our school's APPLE self study portfolio in the first submission. It reaffirms our conviction of the high quality early childhood program we are offering at our school.

**A:** Salima Ziani: We still have our APPLE site visit left, but so far it has proceeded very smoothly. We worked as a team, so no one was overwhelmed with what we needed to do. As everyone was accountable for the specific tasks assigned, we were able to complete the self-assessment within two months.

**A:** Suzie Saadeh: It went along with what we needed to do for our QIS assessment; we had our environment ready, so we just had to make a few adaptations. These additions helped us enrich our literacy environment. We added word labels to all of our picture labels and displayed a few more of the everyday literacy projects that we had done.

**A:** Maryam Querahi: Our QIS coach, Wendy Partin, was really helpful. She was there to answer any questions we had. She even worked with the APPLE coach, Eileen, to know exactly what we needed.

**A:** Asma Khalid: Having the QIS assessment before the APPLE was great! My room was already prepared, and I am not as nervous to have someone visiting my room. It also made me aware of more literacy activities I could be doing with my 2-year-olds.

**A:** Jodi Okkashe: This is my first year teaching, and as a parent, I am so happy to know there are programs like QIS helping schools create appropriate environments for early childhood. I am also happy to see that literacy is so valued in ECE.

**Family homes should contact Alina Walker at 514-3340.**

# upcoming training events

To register, please visit [www.pbcc.edu/cce.xml](http://www.pbcc.edu/cce.xml). For help or information, call Natasha at 561-868-3669.

## INFANT/TODDLER TRACK

INFANT/TODDLER I-Ref#118913 Course# HEO 0111; Dates: 9/27, 10/11, 10/25, 11/08; Time: 9:00a-1:00p; Location: Lake Worth

INFANT/TODDLER CAREGIVING II-Ref# 119451 Course # HEO 0112; Dates: 8/23, 9/6, 9/20, 10/4; Time: 9:00a-1:00p; Location: West Palm Beach

INFANT/TODDLER II, BILINGUAL – Ref# 118912 Course# HEO 0112; Dates: 9/27, 10/11, 10/25, 11/08; Time: 9:00a-1:00p; Location: Palm Beach Gardens

LEARNING IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS: INFANT/TODDLER DEVELOPMENT FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE – Ref# 118883 Course# HEO 0113; Dates: 9/6, 9/20, 10/4; Time: 9:00a-1:00p; Location: Belle Glade

LEARNING IN EVERYDAY MOMENTS: INFANT/TODDLER DEVELOPMENT FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE – Ref# 119452 Course# HEO 0113; Dates: 10/25, 11/8, 11/22; Time: 9:00a-1:00p Location: West Palm Beach

POSITIVELY You – Ref# 118911 Course# HEO 0115; Dates: 9/27, 10/11, 10/25; Time: 9:00a-1:00p; Location: Belle Glade, CRA 206

## PRESCHOOL TRACK

CREATIVE CURRICULUM SERIES (TEACHING STRATEGIES INC.) –Ref# 110231 Course # HEO 0128; Dates: 7/10, 7/17, 7/24, 7/31; Time: 6:30p-9:30p; Location: SS 116, Lake Worth

LANGUAGE & LITERACY – Ref# 119456 Course# HEO 0110; Dates: 9/13, 9/27, 10/11, 11/1; Time: 9:00a-1:00p; Location: West Palm Beach

BEYOND CENTERS AND CIRCLE TIME CURRICULUM OVERVIEW – Ref# 119925 Course # HEO 0179; Dates: 11/15, 12/6, 12/13; Time: 9:00a-1:00p; Location: West Palm Beach

## LEADERSHIP/DIRECTOR TRACK

HIGH PERFORMING LEADERS I – Ref# 113089 Course # HEO 0209; Dates: 10/15, 11/19, 12/17, 1/21, 2/18, 3/18; Time: 9:00a-3:30p Location: Community Foundation, WPB

## TRAINER/TRAINING TRACK

OUTCOMES DRIVEN TRAINING I – Ref# 118879 Course# HEO 0200; Date: 10/4; Time: 8:30a-3:30p; Location: Boca Raton, BT 118

OUTCOMES DRIVEN TRAINING II – Ref# 118880 Course# HEO 0201; Date: 10/18; Time: 8:30a-3:30p; Location: Boca Raton, BT 118

## CORE KNOWLEDGE AREA TRACK

SCORE WITH THE CORE – Ref# 119863 Course# -HEO 0160; Dates: 9/12, 9/20; Time: 9:00a-12:00p; Location: Boca Raton, BT 139



**PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS:** AS in Child Development and Education: Charlene Alonso, Sandra K. Boatwright, Tara L. Bynes, Alfreda L. Mann, Betty Monahan, Gregoria G. Monjarez, Shawnte Moore, Mary L. Morris, Marcia Ann Ryan

**AS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:** April L. Brown, Celestra Arlexis Dortch, Ingrid Tanette Evans, Angela S. Galarza, William F. Kneller IV, Kimberly Ann Palacios, Cherylann Wineinger graduated with an AA degree

**COLLEGE CREDIT CERTIFICATES:** Patricia Marrero, Gloria Ellis, Maryam Qureshi

**THROUGH THICK & THIN:** On May 8, Sandra Boatwright and Mary Morris, both QIS family child care providers, earned their AS Degree in Early Childhood Education at Palm Beach Community College. From their first course through the graduation ceremony, these friends went through it all together.

With the financial help of scholarships, incentives,



the support of the QIS System Partners, family, and each other, they achieved their goals. Sandra recalls the dream of getting her AS degree as "something that I always wanted to do, but never really had the opportunity." Mary stated, "As the seventh of 16 children, my dad couldn't afford to send all of us to college."

Both offer this advice, "Dream it! You can do it. Age has nothing to do with achieving your goals."

## LILIETH HO COMPLETES HONORS PROJECT:

Congratulations to Lilieth Ho of Opportunity Early Childhood Center. Lilieth completed an Honors Project for her Conflict Resolution in Early Childhood Education class at Palm Beach Community College, as part of the Honors College program. Lilieth says a big thank you to SEEK for the scholarships she has received, to the Career Advisors, Evelyn Gomez, and Patricia Ortiz-Gutierrez and also to Laura Gainer, who all 'gave her wings to fly.' These scholarships equipped her to pursue her career path in Early Childhood Education.

**FCI WELCOMES TWO NEW HIRES:** FCI is proud to announce the addition of two new Program Assessors: LaKeisha Freeman and Elisabeth Goossens. LaKeisha has several years experience as a teacher in QIS sites. Elisabeth was most recently a Montessori consultant.. Both new assessors will be attending ECERS-R Training at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute in June.

celebration

## EARLY LEARNING COACH RETIRES



Susan Frost, Early Learning Coach for the School District, retired at the end of the 2007-08 school year. Susan has been a teacher with the District for 35 years, coming to the Glades directly from college in Indiana. During her tenure, Susan worked in the Glades for 10 years, 20 years at HL Johnson Elementary and five years with

the Department of Early Childhood Education. Susan's immediate plans are to spend time with her 85-year-old father in Indiana. When she returns, she plans to give back to the District. She hopes to mentor children and/or teachers through the outreach group of her church.

## TIPS AND TRICKS

Merri Wright, Director at PBCC Center for Early Learning, discovered a wonderful website to purchase culturally diverse baby dolls, [www.dollslikeme.com](http://www.dollslikeme.com)