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*Your KDP Connection to
Colleagues across the Globe*

Upcoming online e-Chapter events:

All events will start at 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Tuesday, March 18th *“Hidden Gems: Mining for Great Books”*
First in the series of interactive conversations on children’s literature

Wednesday, April 9th *“Technology-Energized Teaching for the
21st Century Classroom”*
Featuring 2007 Illinois Teacher of the Year, Joe Fatheree

Thursday, April 17th *“Financial Management for Educators”*
Featuring Rich Hawk, Vice President – Wealth Management at Smith Barney

Tuesday, April 22nd *“Weaving a Curriculum with Children’s
Literature”*
Second in the series of children’s lit conversations – this one will focus on
creating a common thread through multiple content areas

Tuesday, May 13th *“Books that Capture Your Heart”*
Last in the series of children’s lit conversations – rescheduled from February.

e-Chapter member highlights:

~~Annabelle Boehm~~

I am a Learning Consultant on the Child Study Team for the Sayville, NJ schools. I traveled to New Orleans and became the first class of Nationally Certified Educational Diagnosticians. Besides working full time, I am an adjunct professor at Kean University in the Special Education Department. NCED is the new National Certification for Educational Diagnosticians, and In NJ we are called the learning consultants on the child study team. We do the educational evaluations while psychologists do the cognitive part, and social workers do the social histories. We all case manage. The LD's all over the country wanted a national certification just like the other members of our team. It took 10 years to get this far. Learning Consultants have worked long and hard to establish a national certification test to put them on an equal footing with the other members

of the Child Study Team. This October, the dream became a reality.

Creating national professional equality for learning consultants with their psychologist and social worker counterparts has finally come to fruition. A small New Jersey group share their personal experiences preparing for the exam and then traveling to New Orleans during hurricane season to take the exam.

Annabelle Boehm coordinated the writing of the article with contributions by Dr. Marie Segal, Dr. Gale Ferraro, Mary Ellen Kaulius, Jo Lojun, and Dorothy Arnao.

Read more from Annabelle and the journey of the NCED in her article found on pages 3-5 "Searching for the Holy Grail of Accreditation".

Are you aware that...

- KDP wants to recognize you as a *Teacher of Honor*?

Learn more about this recognition and tribute for you and your school at:

www.kdp.org/membership/TOH.php.

- Post-baccalaureate, graduate student, and doctoral candidate scholarship deadlines are April 25?

Learn more here: www.kdp.org/scholarships/scholarships.php

- *e-Chapter* has its own space on the KDP web site?

Look for it on the front page of www.kdp.org or Here's the direct link:

www.kdp.org/membership/echapter_home.php

- *t*'s election time for Kappa Delta Pi?

Be sure to cast your vote after looking over the candidates at

www.kdp.org/about/vote08.php

Kellie J. Hammers
e-Chapter Counselor

Thoughts from the Counselor . . .



Information gathering can be a very daunting and necessary task for educators. Yet, do we really trust anyone else to do the filtering for us? To be perfectly honest, I find it very difficult to let go of my need for control when it comes to finding the information that I need to write or complete a project, whether it is personal or professional. What is that cliché phrase? "I don't know what I'm looking for, but I'll know it when I see it." Yeah, that's the one. How long will it take before I realize that there have to be more efficient ways of gathering the necessary pieces rather than starting a brand-new Google search for every word in a topic?

Maybe I'm the only one who feels this way, but, in case there are others out there, I just found out that KDP **can** be a valuable and trusted source. Recently I spent some time going through and reading parts of the information offered in the Teacher Resources by Topic section on the kdp.org website. To my amazement, I found that the featured websites under *Assessment* and *Classroom Management* were the very websites that I ended up using for a couple of speaking engagement preparations a while back. What had taken me hours of searching through endless lists of websites was actually in one spot the whole time. If only I had turned to the KDP website in the first place! Who knew? Well, ... I knew, but ... I didn't believe. I can honestly say that I will turn to KDP **first** the next time I'm looking for something. I may or may not find what I *think* I'm looking for, but I'm betting that it will save time instead of wasting time. Next information gathering session – first stop -- www.kdp.org/teacherresources/teacherresourcehome.php. We'll see what happens from there.

I did notice that a couple of the links no longer work, so I will send an email to Erin Sanders, the webmaster, at erin@kdp.org to let her know which ones should be removed. (I'm sure she can't keep up with all of the websites all of the time.) While I'm writing to her, I may as well suggest a couple of the other trusted websites I use, that are not on the list for the Assessment section. I think I should help others who are looking, too, right? The members of Kappa Delta Pi should stick together and build a friendly and supportive environment.

I hope this is one of the sections that will be under the web portal when it launches. I would hate to think that just anyone could stumble across such a wonderful pack of resources. Is it selfish that I want this section to be reserved for KDP Members Only?

Let me know if you end up checking it out to and what your thoughts are. Together we can be a cohesive group of supportive academics!

Searching for the Holy Grail of Accreditation **By Annabelle Boehm**

Everyone knows the definition of a psychologist or social worker. This is not the case for the Learning Consultant on a Child Study Team. For years we have been explaining ourselves. One of our problems is the diverse structure our position takes across the country. Our titles and responsibilities differ, but our unifying bond is the fact that we are experienced teachers who take on the academic evaluations as well as case management of classified students.

The road to New Orleans started many years ago with a vision. Educators realized the need to unify and define the role of learning consultants. Through the Council for Exceptional Children and the Educational Diagnosticians division, key

educators joined together to make this dream a reality. New Jersey's own Dr. Patricia Frawley and Eileen Sanchez led the crusade. They worked tirelessly on the national level to help establish a nationally accepted test. To help achieve this goal, Dr Frawley and Ms. Sanchez established a pilot study at Kean University in Union, New Jersey. Fourteen students were part of this study and grandfathered into the National Certification pool.

A small group of New Jersey educators met during the summer with Dr. Frawley for an intensive study group. The study group was open to all learning consultants in private and public school practice, as well as college professors throughout the state. This generous group started other study groups and shared the focus of the first national certification exam. The preparation for the exam gave us the opportunity to make time to read current research and review the latest theories on assessment, and become closely familiar with the Federal IDEIA 2007 code and its alignment with No Child Left Behind. Each of us made the time to update and refine our knowledge of the law and best practices.

Approximately 27 educators from New Jersey were accepted to take the national exam. The personal cost to each candidate included juggling family and work obligations, as well as personally financing our travel to New Orleans to attend the National Council of Educational Diagnosticians' Conference. We shared educational opportunities with our counterparts from all over the country. Speakers at the conference represented a national view and provided a different perspective on issues we share.

An estimated 300 candidates from across the country were qualified to take the exam. The untimed test was a daunting experience. The questions were quite detailed and the multiple-choice answers were just as detailed. Think federal code was the mantra in the room. After all, we are the test givers, not the test takers. Handing in the test and scantron answer sheet flooded each of us with a sense of relief.

We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the impact of the host city. We visited many sites in New Orleans. This is a city of rich culture and customs. Around us we witnessed rebuilding and rebirth despite the unspeakable

devastation. Survivors shared their amazing stories with humility and quiet determination. Witnessing Katrina's damage first hand made us appreciate the rich heritage of this city. We thanked the people of New Orleans who inspired us and reminded us of the American spirit.

The scores are in and our pioneer group has completed the quest. We have refined the knowledge of our craft. We have extended ourselves and worked with our counterparts from across the state and nation. National certification affords learning consultants endless possibilities. The certification recognizes the individual's level of professional expertise. Energized, inspired and rededicated to our profession, we have completed the journey and found our grails. The results have been posted and the candidates from New Jersey have become proud members of the first Class of Nationally Certified Educational Diagnosticians.

The Search for the Holy Grail of Accreditation

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