

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year! We are delighted to announce the new Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA) funded by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)! The ECTA Center will build upon the foundation of several recent OSEP-funded TA centers to improve service systems and assist states in scaling up and sustaining effective services and research-based interventions for infants, toddlers and preschoolers with disabilities and their families. Building on the success and expertise of NECTAC, TACSEI, CELL, and ECO, the ECTA Center's work scope will include:

- Working with partner states to develop a service system framework for high-quality, effective and efficient early childhood and early intervention service systems. The components and quality indicators within the service system framework will be defined to support the implementation of effective practices at the local level.
- Producing guidance materials for state and local programs that identify the essential features and implementation processes critical to implementing, scaling up, and sustaining effective services and interventions.
- Partnering with the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) of the Council for Exceptional Children, to revise the research-based, field-validated *DEC Recommended Practices*.
- Providing three levels of assistance to states and local programs: general/informational technical assistance; specific targeted assistance; and, intensive assistance over time to:
 - Strengthen State Part C and Section 619 service systems,
 - Increase the implementation of effective practices,
 - Improve Part C and Section 619 monitoring and accountability,
 - Increase collaboration across early childhood systems,
 - Enhance Child and Family Outcome measurement, and, ultimately
 - Improve results for children and families participating in Part C and Section 619 programs.

We are excited to transition to the new scope of work, and look forward to continued working relationships with our Part C and Section 619 colleagues. Please find attached the roster of the ECTA Center staff who will be joining forces for this new endeavor.

Sincerely,

Lynne Kahn, *Principal Investigator and Co-Director*

Christina Kasprzak, *Co-Director*

Betsy Ayankoya, *Associate Director*

Joan Danaher, *Associate Director*

**Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute,
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

Carol Trivette, *Leadership Team*

Orelena Hawks Puckett Institute

Barbara Smith, *Leadership Team*

University of Colorado at Denver

Lise Fox, *Leadership Team*

University of South Florida

2013 Staff Roster

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