YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION FOR BLAKE AND SALYERS

On August 29, 2016, LSI Parsons’ colleagues gathered in the Research Conference Room to honor Patti Blake (above left) and Diane Salyers (center) for their years of service to the University of Kansas. Laura Hanigan (right), business coordinator, emceed the presentation of pins.

Honoree Patti Blake joined the University on January 3, 2011. She is the crisis coordinator for the Cooperative Project on Dual Diagnosis of Persons with Disabilities (CRSS). Her days, and some of her nights and weekends, are spent assisting those in crisis within a 9 county area in southeast Kansas. Laura noted that those irregular hours have occasionally resulted in some challenging timesheets. We congratulate Patti on five years of making a difference in the lives of Kansans.

Diane Salyers joined the University family on December 18, 1990 as the program manager for Southeast Kansas Respite Services. SEKRS has grown over the years with new programs including the CRSS, the Payee Program, and Homemaker Services. Laura noted that even though staff have occasionally come and gone, Diane always finds the right person for the job. Congratulations to Diane on 25 years of sharing her time and efforts for the greater good.

Following the ceremony, we enjoyed Laura’s now famous squash cake, brownies, and punch.
**Just the “STATS”** LSI at Parsons faculty and staff reported 10,209 participants were impacted by national, regional, and local training and technical assistance activities in FY 2016.

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**PROJECT SPOTLIGHT**

**KCCTO-KITS Partnership: Statewide Child Care Infant-Toddler Specialist Network**

In collaboration with the Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities, Inc.

Funded by a subcontract from: Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities (KCCTO), Grant from the Kansas Department for Children and Families

David P. Lindeman, Ph.D., Director

The University of Kansas, through the Kansas Inservice Training System (KITS) in partnership with Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities, Inc. (KCCTO), has received a new 3-year grant to provide training and technical assistance to child care providers serving infants/toddlers and their families.

Through this partnership, KITS supports professional development and provides technical assistance (TA) for home child care providers and center based programs in the effort to increase the knowledge, skills, educational level, and competencies of infant toddler caregivers, teachers, and directors. Activities also focus on increasing awareness and dissemination of materials that support healthy, safe, and nurturing environments, instruction, and care and fosters connections to national, state and community resources. The development and growth of a comprehensive statewide training system, addressing the professional development needs of infant toddler caregivers, teachers, and directors, is essential to assure quality services. Additionally, parents will be afforded opportunities to be involved with training and technical assistance activities as appropriate and based on interest.

Professional development and technical assistance will be provided to all infant toddler child care providers through a model based on intensity of service. These levels of intensity reflect principles of both adult learning and results based staff development and are addressed at the levels of: Level 1-proactive/general issues of staff development and TA, Level 2-focused staff development and TA, and Level 3-intensive staff development and TA.

These levels of intensity are grounded in the four components of: a) collaboration/linkages, b) information services, c) technical assistance, and d) training. Each of these components has a variety of activities through which TA is achieved. This will be accomplished through research-validated strategies and based in principles of adult learning through advising, consultation, mentoring, and coaching. The level of intensity of contact will be accomplished through activities such as Level 1 and 2 results-based training, dissemination of information via the KCCTO and KITS websites, utilization of listservs, provision of intensive technical assistance (Level 3), and development of content specific technical assistance packets for practitioners in the field based on evidenced
(Project Spotlight, from page 2) based and recommended practices and resources. Additionally, the project will offer learning opportunities through such avenues as instructor directed, web-based training and self-study materials and facilitated wiki workspaces.

Further, the program will continue to build the statewide professional development resource center (ECRC). This center houses material for professionals and families to access in support of services, program, or individual needs as well as support through internet based information resources. These include online access to state and national resources, training/TA materials, and guidance documents. These materials are accessible 24/7 which facilitates the interaction of resource materials with the needs of the state, specific programs, and individuals. Finally, this network will continue to support and utilize existing structures and opportunities for staff development occurring throughout the state through collaborative linkages with other agencies, programs, organizations, and projects in the field of early care and education.

**PRESENTATIONS**


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**STAFF NEWS**

Peggy Kemp recently completed her Ph.D. at the University of Kansas working under Drs. Ann & Rudd Turnbull. Parsons LSI Director, David Lindeman said, “Peggy continued to work full time while she pursued her degree, which resulted in some pretty long and challenging days. Her dissertation focused on her interests in families of children with disabilities. As a colleague and member of her committee I congratulate her on a job well done and admire her tenacity. I look forward to continued collaboration with her as she impacts the field of early intervention and early childhood special education in our state and nationally.”

Currently Peggy works with the Kansas Inservice Training System (KITS): Infant Toddler Expansion and as Principle Investigator for the Act Early Ambassadors: State, Territory and Organizational Liaisons to CDC’s “Learn the Signs. Act Early”. On July 1, 2016, Peggy accepted the opportunity to lead the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) as their Executive Director. Congratulations Dr. Kemp!
WELCOME NEW STAFF

Sarah Holmes, M.S., has been working in the field of early childhood education for over 10 years in a variety positions. She received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Bethany College and Master of Science in Early Childhood Education from Kansas State University. Throughout her professional career, she has worked as a classroom teacher for infants, toddlers, and preschool children, as well as a Training Specialist and Community Based Program Manager on Fort Riley. Sarah has accepted a new position with the KCCTO-KITS Infant Toddler Specialist Network. Sarah and her husband Adam have been married for 4.5 years. They have two cats and one very spoiled black lab. Sarah says she loves remodeling projects and has a side business creating home decor items out of recycled materials.

Cristina Hargitt, M.S., received a Master of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology in 2007 from Fort Hays State University with a Minor in Spanish. Previously, Cristina worked with Pottawatomie-Wabaunsee Infant Toddler Services (PWITS) as an Early Interventionist. She maintains her Speech-Language Pathology license and specializes in infant toddler development and evidence-based practices in early intervention. Cristina’s areas of specialty include feeding and swallowing disorders, language acquisition, analyzing daily routines, and building relationships with families, caregivers, and professionals. She is bilingual and has provided services for a few families in their preferred language of Spanish. Cristina has participated in professional development activities with both the local Part C network and regional networks. In addition she has presented topics in evidence-based practice at both state and national conferences. She has accepted a new position with the KCCTO-KITS Infant Toddler Specialist Network. Cristina lives in Wamego with her husband and their beautiful 7-year-old daughter. They love to spend time outside and they often can be found playing soccer together, dribbling a basketball, or playing a mini game of softball.

Stephanie Keller, B.S., received her Associate of Applied Science degree from Dodge City Community College with a focus on Early Childhood Education and her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Fort Hays State University. Stephanie has worked in Early Childhood Education for over 25 years, and has been the Director of both large and small Child Care Centers in both urban and rural settings, a Head Start Teacher, an Education Specialist/Disabilities Coordinator, held positions with KSDE Child Nutrition and Wellness, was a Home Sponsor with the Child and Adult Care Food Program in 13 southwest Kansas counties, as well as an adjunct instructor at two community colleges. She has accepted a new position with the KCCTO-KITS Infant Toddler Specialist Network. In her spare time she likes to bake, and attend her children’s sports. She has two children, a daughter in college who loves animals and bowling, and a daughter in High school. She plays soccer and golf.
Barbara Kramer, M.S.
Infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families have been the primary focus of Barbara’s work for the past 25 years. After completing a Master’s degree in Early Childhood Special Education, she worked as a developmental specialist in a center-based, early intervention program in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Barbara earned a certification as an Educational Diagnostician and joined a diagnostic, developmental evaluation team at the Center for Development and Disability. From 2000-2014, Barbara worked in the Arizona early intervention system as a service provider, program manager, and as a technical assistance and monitoring specialist with the Arizona TA team. Barbara moved to Kansas in 2014 and most recently worked as the Kansas Infant Toddler Services Program Analyst/Data Manager with primary responsibilities for monitoring and general supervision duties and completion of state and federal reports. Her new position is with Kansas Inservice Training System Infant and Toddler Expansion. Barbara moved to Kansas two years ago after spending 30 years in the Southwest. She lives in Tonganoxie, KS with her husband and has a son, daughter-in-law and three grandchildren in Austin, TX. She enjoys spending time with family and friends and exploring her new state.

Janet Newton, M.S., has more than 30 years of experience working in early care and education. She started her career as a Family Child Care Provider and Child Care Center Director and Teacher. She has held many leadership roles in state government in the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Child Care Licensing Program, and the Kansas Parents as Teachers program. Janet has provided training and technical assistance with a diverse group of professionals at the national, state, and local levels. In collaboration, she has contributed to the development of the Kansas Early Learning Standards, Kansas School Readiness Framework, and the Kansas Family Engagement Standards for Early Childhood. She currently serves on the National Board of Directors for Parents as Teachers. Her new position is with KCCTO-KITS Infant Toddler Specialist Network. Janet and her husband, George, live in the country and enjoy hosting family activities with their four children and eight grandchildren. They’ve introduced their grandchildren to camp fires, fishing, and wildlife.

Anna Nippert, M.S., has been working with infants, toddlers, preschoolers and their families/caregivers for over 15 years. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education and her Master of Science degree in Early Childhood Special Education, both from Kansas State University, and holds her State of Kansas teaching certificate in Birth-K Unified. Her work experiences include Kansas State University faculty instructor and mentor, Infant-Toddler Services Coordinator and early interventionist, preschool, toddler and infant classroom teacher, family childcare provider, and Parents as Teachers educator. Professional memberships include NAEYC, KAECY, CEC, DEC, and KDEC. Anna is currently the President-Elect and Conference Chair for the Kansas Division for Early Childhood. In 2012, Anna received the Award of Excellence for Part C from KDEC. Her new position is with KCCTO-KITS Infant Toddler Specialist Network. When not at work, Anna spends her time with her husband and four daughters watching or coaching sports, running, or relaxing outside.
Tanisha (Tish) Troutt, B.S., received her Bachelor of Science degree from Pittsburg State University in Early Childhood Development. Tanisha has 13 years of experience working with children and families. She attained an Infant Mental Health Endorsement from the Kansas Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health. Throughout her career she has been a Family Educator for Head Start, working as a pre-school teacher. She worked as an Infant Toddler Specialist covering Southeast Kansas for the past eight years guiding child care providers. Tanisha is experienced in assisting with the CDA process, providing professional development, coaching, and technical assistance to staff in a variety of early learning settings including family child care, center-based care, and community outreach. Tanisha is certified to perform the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) and is also a certified instructor of First Aid and CPR. Her new position is with KCCTO-KITS Infant Toddler Specialist Network. She enjoys spending time with her nephews Bentley and Breken. And she says, “I love anything Disney!!”

Michele Utt, M.S., has worked with children in some capacity for the last 30 years. For the last 10 years, she has provided training and technical assistance services as well as administrative responsibilities as a director for the First Steps program in Missouri. This program provides the early intervention services outlined in Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). In this position, she served on numerous committees, served as a stakeholder for many different projects, and presented at state and local conferences. In her spare time, Michele volunteers for the Jackson County Missouri CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) program. Michele has a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Environmental Studies from Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Missouri with a major in Child and Family Development and a minor in psychology. She earned her Master in Public Administration degree with an emphasis in Nonprofit Management from the University of Missouri – Kansas City. Her new position is with Kansas Inservice Training System Infant and Toddler Expansion. Michele says, “I love spending time with my family, friends and my wheaten terrier. In my spare time, I enjoy running and watching baseball.”

Tamara (Tammy) Wallin, M.S., is a 2003 graduate of Emporia State University, with her B.S in Elementary Education. Tammy graduated from ESU with endorsements in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Special Education, and completed her Masters in Early Childhood Special Education in 2005. Tammy completed her Building Level Leadership degree in 2016. She started teaching at Cloud Elementary in Wichita, KS where she co-taught in a Kindergarten/ Kindergarten Special Education classroom. After teaching Kindergarten Special Education, Tammy was a Preschool Special Educator where she worked with a diverse group of children and families. After teaching in Part B, Tammy stepped into the role of Coordinator and Primary Provider for the Pottawatomie Wabaunsee County Infant Toddler Program. Tammy has provided one-day inservice trainings to local Part C networks, peer coaching to neighboring Part C networks, developed training materials to help local Part C networks, and presented on evidence-based topics at both state and national conferences. She has accepted a new position with the Kansas Inservice Training System Infant and Toddler Expansion.
The State of Kansas honors state employees who have served the state for 10 years or more and in 10 year increments thereafter. The fiscal year is used by the state to calculate eligibility.

This year Laura Hanigan, (pictured top left) business office coordinator, presented the pins to three employees including Kim Page, research project specialist (top, right) receiving her 10 year pin.

Diane Salyers, (bottom, left) research project manager, received her 30 year pin and Laura Doyle-Colvin, accounting specialist, her 10 year pin.

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