

# The Pursuit of Excellence in Education Services: Options for the Future

February 16-17, 2011, Hilton Atlanta Airport,  
Atlanta, Georgia

Since its inception in 1965, one of Head Start's core services has been the provision of daily early childhood experiences designed to assist low-income young children in maximizing their individual potentials. Like the early childhood field itself, Head Start education services have experienced the ebb and flow of new ideas and strategies. Some of these we have created ourselves while others have been imposed upon us. As Head Start enters "middle age," it is time to move our early childhood services to the next level. One step in that move is to understand what constitutes a "research-based curriculum" and to explore newly emerging curricular options to see if our daily offerings should be expanded. A second step is to know the assets and limitations of our child outcomes strategy and to wisely use that information as part of our performance appraisals as well as our monitoring, self-assessment and planning system.



A third step in moving to the next level is re-thinking what it means to be a teacher of young children. This includes identifying the specific tasks a teacher performs, and expanding the ways in which we as leaders monitor how those tasks are performed, including using and understanding new observational tools at our disposal. A key piece of this process is integrating the feedback of teachers and managers into a professional development plan that - while it is unique to each educator - leads to an appropriate credential or degree. The fourth step in our journey to the next level is to know about and utilize other important early childhood initiatives and tools that are available locally, statewide and nationally. These include Quality Improvement Rating Systems (QIRS), State Advisory Councils, and state professional development initiatives as well as evaluation tools such as the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS), the Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale (ITERS), the Family Day Care Environment Rating Scale (FDCERS), and Head Start's own Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS).

**The Pursuit of Excellence in Education Services: Options for the Future** will explore all of these issues and initiatives and spur the creative juices of those veteran Head Start and Early Head Start education leaders who have "seen and heard it all." Yet the training is also designed for those leaders who are new to their positions and want to bring fresh and exciting ideas back to their program.

The Standard Registration Fee is \$375 per person. Members of **T/TAS@Your Service** may qualify for the Subscriber Rate of \$350 per person. (Some restrictions may apply based on the level of your subscription; please visit [www.ttas.org/ays.html](http://www.ttas.org/ays.html) for information on how to become a subscriber.) For details on registering, including information on earning .875 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for this event, please see page 3.

## Learning Outcomes

- ★ Participants will understand what constitutes a "research-based curriculum," explore old and newly-emerging curriculum options, consider the importance and use of curricula fidelity tools, and develop a paradigm for evaluating curricula.
- ★ Participants will explore the options for tracking children's developmental progress and learn to integrate that information into classroom and program assessment and planning.
- ★ Participants will gain knowledge about tools and strategies for evaluating classroom teaching and learning and discuss strategies for using these tools to improve teacher performance and enrich the classroom experience.
- ★ Participants will learn about important quality initiatives in the broader early childhood education community that can inform and improve Head Start and Early Head Start practices, such as the Quality Improvement Rating Systems and state professional development plans.

- ★ Participants will consider issues of early childhood accountability at the national and state levels and develop knowledge and skill in assessing the various purposes of assessment.

## Your Presenters

**Marce Verzaro-O'Brien**, Director of T/TAS, has over 30 years of early childhood and Head Start management experience, including service as the Head Start/Early Head Start Administrator of a large urban program. Marce is an expert on child outcomes, and serves as a consultant for the Florida Head Start Association's *Portrait of Our Children's Outcomes*. She co-authored of Florida's *Birth to Three Early Learning and Development Standards*, and served as the Director of the Florida Quality Initiative. Marce has an AB in Psychology and Sociology, and an MSW and PhD in Early Childhood and Urban Education.



**Alisa S. Ghazvini** has a PhD in Child Development and has worked in the early childhood field since 1984. She has operated a preschool program, served on faculty at Florida State University, held leadership positions within public and private early childhood organizations in Florida, and served as a consultant to a variety of organizations and entities in several states. Alisa's interests include public policy research and development, program design and evaluation, early childhood accountability systems, infant and toddler development, family involvement, and early childhood leadership.

*(T/TAS reserves the right to substitute or reduce the number of presenters as circumstances warrant.)*

## Hotel Accommodations

The Hilton Atlanta Airport is located at 1031 Virginia Avenue in Atlanta, Georgia. Hotel accommodations are available at the special conference rate of \$129 per night, single or double occupancy (plus applicable taxes). The hotel provides complimentary breakfast vouchers for all guests. To qualify for the special conference rate, please state that you will be attending **Head Start Pursuit of Education Excellence** when making your hotel reservations. Please make your hotel reservations **no later than January 23, 2011** by calling 404-767-9000 or 800-HILTONS.

The room block will be held until the stated deadline or until the block is sold out, whichever comes first. Reservations are accepted on a space and rate availability basis by the hotel, and room blocks often fill quickly. Please consult the hotel for information on their specific cancellation policies, to learn about additional charges that may apply to hotel guests (i.e., parking fees, local phone charges, internet access fee, etc.), and to learn about available amenities, such as room service, in-house dining, and additional area attractions.

The Hilton Atlanta Airport is five minutes north of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, and eight miles south of downtown Atlanta. The Hilton is a short drive from such area attractions as HiFi Buys Amphitheatre, the Martin Luther King Museum, Underground Atlanta, the World of Coca-Cola, the Georgia Aquarium and Zoo Atlanta, the Georgia Dome, Six Flags Over Georgia, and Atlanta Motor Speedway. The Hilton features light fare in the Coffee Bar and the Finish Line Sports Bar, fine Italian cuisine in Andiamo, and your favorite American dishes in the Magnolia Grill.



## Tentative Agenda

### Wednesday, February 16, 2011

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:00 - 10:30 a.m.	Context and Exploring Curriculum
10:30 - 10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m. - Noon	Exploring Curriculum and the Link with Child Screening and Assessment
Noon - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch on Your Own
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Screening and Assessment and Their Link to Monitoring, Program Self-Assessment, and Planning
3:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Challenges and Opportunities for Head Start/Early Head Start Teachers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Design</li> <li>• Individualization</li> <li>• Daily Planning</li> <li>• Parent Engagement</li> </ul>

### Thursday, February 17, 2011

8:30 - 10:00 a.m.	Challenges and Opportunities for Head Start/Early Head Start Teachers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance Appraisals</li> <li>• Professional Development Options</li> </ul>
10:00 - 10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 a.m. - Noon	Early Childhood Initiatives Beyond the Head Start and Early Head Start Borders

# Registering for T/TAS Events

- ★ **To Register On-Line:** Go to [www.ttas.org/calendar.html](http://www.ttas.org/calendar.html), locate the event for which you wish to register, and then click on the **Register** button. OR you can visit our home page at [www.ttas.org](http://www.ttas.org), click on the **On-Line Registration** link, and select the event for which you wish to register.
- ★ **To Register By Mail:** Copy the Registration Form in this catalog; OR go to [www.ttas.org/calendar.html](http://www.ttas.org/calendar.html), click on title of the event for which you wish to register, and print the Registration Form from the on-line post; OR call 800-882-7482 and we will send the form you need by mail, fax, or e-mail. Complete the form, and return with check, money order, or Purchase Order (made out to T/TAS), or with Credit Card info (Visa, MasterCard, or Discover) to: T/TAS, 1906 College Heights Boulevard #11031, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101-1031.
- ★ **To Register By Fax:** Copy the Registration Form in this catalog; OR go to [www.ttas.org/calendar.html](http://www.ttas.org/calendar.html), click on title of the event for which you wish to register, and print the Registration Form from the on-line post; OR call 800-882-7482 and we will send the form you need by mail, fax, or e-mail. Complete the form, and fax your Registration Form with Purchase Order or Credit Card info (Visa, MasterCard, or Discover) to our office at 270-745-3340 or 270-745-2142.

Registration forms will not be processed unless accompanied by payment, credit card info, or Purchase Order. Registrations will be accepted until events fill. **Due to the requirements of the Information Technology administrators, registrations for all on-line events must be received 10 days prior to the start of the event.**

**Enrollment is Limited:** T/TAS cannot guarantee enrollment at events. In the event that available enrollment slots fill, you will have the option of being placed on a waiting list in case space reopens due to cancellations. We recommend you do not make hotel or travel arrangements until you receive your registration confirmation. T/TAS is not liable for any hotel or travel penalties or fees that may be incurred by participants or registrants.

**Confirmation of Registration:** Registrations can only be confirmed by e-mail. Please provide your e-mail address on the registration form if you wish to receive a confirmation. If you do not receive a confirmation within five days of registering for the event, please contact Mike Hartz at 800-882-7482.

**Cancellations/Substitutions Policy:** If you cancel your registration *in writing* 10 or more business days before the event, registration fees will be refunded, less a \$25 enrollment charge. No refunds will be made less than 10 business days prior to the event; however, you may designate a substitute to attend in your place. T/TAS reserves the right to cancel the event if enrollment criteria are not met or when conditions beyond our control prevail. In the event of cancellation, each registrant will be contacted. The liability of T/TAS is limited to the refund of registration fees only.

**Continuing Education Units (CEUs):** Western Kentucky University offers Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for participants successfully completing a T/TAS training seminar. To apply for CEUs, please complete the appropriate section of your registration form and include an additional fee of \$25 per person. Consult the event description to learn how many CEUs are offered for each event.

## T/TAS Also Brings the Training to You

Did you know that T/TAS is also a leading provider of **on-site** professional development opportunities? Our knowledgeable experts deliver the same high-quality training and materials in your local program setting, reaching all of your staff at a cost competitive with the cost of sending just a few to a conference or seminar. Most of the events in our training catalogs can be adapted for presentation to your local program or to a cluster of programs in your geographic area. T/TAS also specializes in adapting our training style and content to meet the specific needs of your program, staff, and colleagues. To learn more, to discuss your local training needs, or to schedule training, call **800-882-7482!**





# Event Registration Form

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL FIELDS AND PRINT NAME & POSITION of person attending exactly as it should appear on the name tag. Copy form as necessary for registering additional persons.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**Enrollment is Limited:** T/TAS cannot guarantee enrollment in any event. In the event that available enrollment slots fill, you will have the option of being placed on a waiting list in case space reopens due to cancellations. We recommend you do not make hotel or travel arrangements until you receive your registration confirmation. There will be no on-site registration.

EVENT	SELECT FEE(S)
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION SERVICES: OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE, FEBRUARY 16-17, 2011, ATLANTA, GEORGIA</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard Registration: \$375 <input type="checkbox"/> <b>TTAS@Your Service</b> Subscribers: \$350 * <input type="checkbox"/> Check if requesting .875 CEUs (8.75 contact hours) from Western Kentucky University and include an additional \$25 in payment.

\* Subscribers, please include **TTAS@Your Service** Enrollment No. \_\_\_\_\_. Some restrictions may apply; visit [www.ttas.org/ays.html](http://www.ttas.org/ays.html) for information on becoming a subscriber.

Room blocks often fill quickly; please make your hotel reservations by the date listed in the conference descriptions.

**CHECK METHOD OF PAYMENT** (Forms will not be processed unless accompanied by payment):

Check payable to T/TAS.

Purchase Order No. \_\_\_\_\_ payable to T/TAS.

Credit Card (Mastercard, Visa, Discover only): \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Visa Card Users, please include 3-digit V number from back of card: \_\_\_\_

**Return to:** **T/TAS**  
1906 College Heights Boulevard #11031  
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101-1031  
Fax: 270-745-3340 or 270-745-2142  
Call 800-882-7482 for more information

**Accessibility Needs:**  
Do you have any disability that requires special materials or services?  
Do you have a special dietary need?

Cancellations: To obtain a refund of registration fees (less \$25 enrollment charge), cancellations must be received **in writing** 10 working days prior to the start of the event.