

imagine

## 2013-14 early childhood teacher quality series

### High level instructional supports and teaming for every child!

*Terri Bush, GHAEA Regional Administrator*



**G**reen Hills AEA is pleased to bring Dr. Kristie Pretti-Frontczak to Green Hills AEA for the Early Childhood Institute!

Pretti-Frontczak received her doctorate in early intervention from the University of Oregon and has extensive experience in preparing pre-service and inservice personnel in recommended practices for working with young children and their families.

She has directed the Early Childhood Intervention Specialist Program at Kent State University, where she was responsible for preparing pre-service

teachers to work with children with disabilities from birth to age eight.

Pretti-Frontczak's lines of research center on using authentic assessment practices for accountability and programming, targeting Big Ideas as foundational supports for young children, effective approaches to working with young children in inclusive settings (specifically regarding the efficacy of an activity-based approach, embedded learning opportunities, the application of universal design for learning principles), and the link between assessment, individualized goals and quality curriculum.

This is an amazing opportunity to participate in sustained professional development with a team approach to building

professional learning communities. Early Childhood educators will work with others to analyze child data, create targeted intervention plans including progress monitoring data, create embedded learning schedules and implement small group instructional activities that increase the instruction and/or intervention dosage for a target child. Effective instructional strategies will be demonstrated and practiced across tiers.

This professional development opportunity targets Response To Intervention (RTI) and special education support for persons serving early childhood programs. The series is designed to build capacity for differentiation and intervention in preschool settings.

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*Terri Bush*

### Congratulations to . . .

Ninety-one preschool teachers across GHAEA received certification for Teaching Strategies GOLD Inter-Rater Reliability. Participating teachers also received a stipend for their efforts.



## 21st Century Learners' Conference brings two powerful presenters to the stage

There's still time to register for the 21st Century Learners Conference, Oct. 4 and 11. This is the third year Green Hills AEA has sponsored the conference, designed to empower teachers to use technology to bring the Characteristics of Effective Instruction to life.

“Our intent is to connect people to people and not simply to the technology,” said David VanHorn, associate administrator. There will be sessions for teachers in all content areas and grade levels, as well as for administrators and technology coordinators.

David Warlick will be the keynote on Oct. 4 in Creston. Warlick is a teacher with a contagious passion and enthusiasm for helping people discover a brand new world of teaching and learning. A 35-year educator, he has been a classroom teacher, district administrator and consultant with the North Carolina State Dept. of Public Instruction. For the past 15 years, he has operated The Landmark Project, a consulting and innovations firm in Raleigh, N.C.

Jaime Casap, senior education evangelist at Google, Inc. will be the keynote on Oct. 11 at Abraham Lincoln High School, Council Bluffs. With more than 15 years of technology experience, Casap is responsible for K-12 educational institutions and organizations to bring current and future technological innovations into the education environment. He evangelizes the power of technology and the use of Google tools, such as Google Apps and Chromebooks, to help students build the skills needed to succeed, close the digital divide, and help level the playing field. **Click here to register. Registration and lunch is \$25/person. To register your district, contact Julia Hood, [jhood@ghaea.org](mailto:jhood@ghaea.org).**



Mark your calendars for these 2013-14 Iowa Technology Conferences

### 2013

- ITEC, Oct. 13-15
- AEA 267 Regional 1:1 Conference, Dec. 6

### 2014

- ITEC IT Conference, March 19-20
- Iowa 1:1 Conference, April 10
- Building Bridges AT Conference, April 22
- TICL, Tech Integration & Instruction for the 21st Century Learner, June 16-18
- TIC Conference, June 17-18
- AEA 9 Create and Integrate, June 20
- ISTE, June 28-July 1
- iPad U • July



## AEAs join the world of Pinterest

Iowa's Area Education Agencies (AEAs) have joined the world of Pinterest with the launch of a statewide Pinterest site: <http://pinterest.com/iowaaea/>.

The Iowa AEA's Pinterest site is a collaborative project of Iowa's nine AEAs. The site is maintained by AEA consultants from all over the state who specialize in different curriculum and instructional areas.

The more than 35 pinning boards provide a visual, dynamic forum which informs parents, educators and school administrators about AEA programs and resources, as well as other quality, credible ideas and resources relating to education.

## Welcome new administrators\*

### Superintendents

Jesse Ulrich, A-H-S-T  
Benita Gonzales, Clarke  
Steve McDermott, Creston  
Paul Croghan, East Mills  
Tom Ridder, Logan-Magnolia  
Clarke Wicks, Orient-Macksburg  
Steve McDermott, Prescott  
Chris Herrick, Stanton  
Jesse Ulrich, Walnut

### Principals

Cynthia Phillips, A-H-S-T Secondary  
James Northwick, Schuler Elem., Atlantic  
Josh Rasmussen, Atlantic Middle School  
Cindy Opperman, Garfield Elem., Clarinda

### Principals con't

Jill Kiger, Clarke Elem., Clarke  
Tracy Mathews, Crescent Elem., Council Bluffs  
Jesse Tvrdy, Kaneshville Alternative and Passages, Council Bluffs  
Jason Plourde, Thomas Jefferson H.S., Council Bluffs  
Scott Driskell, Creston Elem., Creston  
Brad Baker, Creston Middle, Creston  
Paul Croghan, Chantry Elem. and Nishna Valley Elem., East Mills  
Genie Wickham, West Elem., Glenwood  
Shane Stephens, Glenwood H.S., Glenwood  
Tom Ridder, Logan-Magnolia Elem., Logan-Magnolia  
Robin Holtz, Missouri Valley Elem., Missouri Valley  
Brent Hoising, Missouri Valley Middle, Missouri Valley  
Terri Kretzinger, Prescott Elem., Prescott  
Linda Spencer, Sidney Jr/Sr High, Sidney  
Sarah Kock, Walnut PreK-12, Walnut

*\* new or reassigned within district since 2012-13 school year*



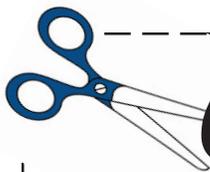
Green Hills AEA Media Center is pleased to announce the recent purchase of netTrekker for use by students and educators in the Green Hills AEA service area.

netTrekker is an educational search engine that connects students and educators to more than 330,000 educator-approved web resources that support the complete K-12 curricula and 21 educators rated netTrekker to be extremely valuable as a resource to support their teaching.

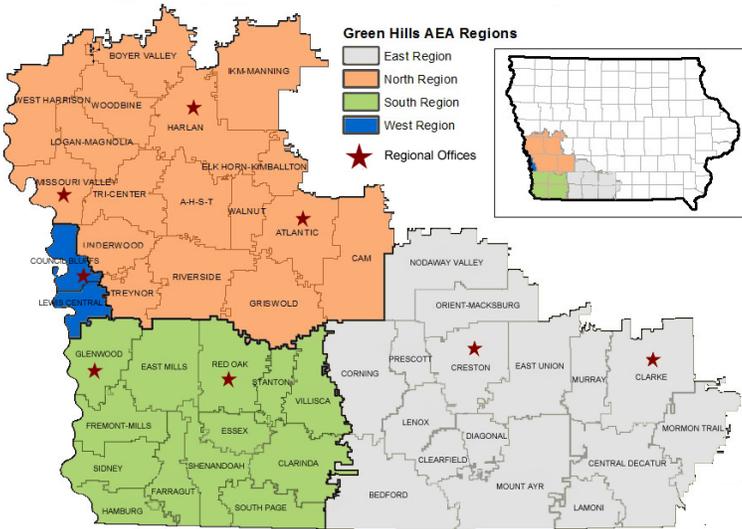
Here are a few reasons netTrekker is a valued online resource:

- **Searching is fast and easy:** netTrekker contains more than 330,000 educator-selected online digital resources that are organized around the K-12 curricula and by grade level so searching is logical and easy.
- **Makes searching the internet safe for students:** All netTrekker websites and images have been selected and evaluated by educators so students receive only safe, relevant results and school-friendly images every time they use the Internet.
- **Designed for different learning styles:** netTrekker provides resources that work for all members of your school community including general-education, ESL/ELL, and gifted students, students working below or above grade level, having reading challenges, special needs, and more.

- **Resources organized by readability and grade level:** Each of netTrekker educator-selected resources is clearly identified by a readability measure based on Lexile ratings and other popular methods. Easily customize any netTrekker search for the grade and reading level appropriate for every student.
  - **Customized resources for English Language Learners:** netTrekker also includes an entire section devoted to ELL students and to teaching ESL.
  - **Helps integrate technology into classrooms:** netTrekker is an easy to use technology tool with search options for beginner and advanced users so all students and educators can benefit from the educational resources available on the internet every day.
  - **Great resource for homework:** With netTrekker, students can easily find high-quality, relevant resources for homework or class projects. netTrekker assists teachers in differentiating instruction, providing students exciting learning opportunities. It assists teachers in finding safe, educator-selected online resources for each child's learning needs and style.
- For training or assistance with netTrekker, contact Deanna Etherington, [detherington@ghaea.org](mailto:detherington@ghaea.org).**



# Quick Reference Guide



<http://www.ghaea.org>

**North Region Regional Administrators**

*Jan Norgaard, Harlan and Missouri Valley*  
*Ron Russell, Atlantic*

**South Region Regional Administrators**

*Kerry Aistrop, Red Oak*  
*Kelli Berke, Glenwood*

**East Region Regional Administrators**

*Angie Hance, Creston*  
*Eric Neessen, Osceola*

**West Regional Administrators**

*Terri Bush and Cal Sinn, Peterson*



<https://www.facebook.com/ghaea.org>

Call any GHAEA  
regional office toll-free  
**800-432-5804**



## On the calendar

As educators, we are constantly striving to learn new skills and strategies that will improve student achievement. Green Hills AEA programs are coordinated to enhance the professional, personal, and organizational staff development needs of LEA and AEA staff. These include license renewal and graduate credit courses and informational workshops.

- Sept. 24: GHAEA board meeting, Red Oak
- Sept. 25: Early Childhood Institute, Halverson Center
- Sept. 26: ART Institute, Halverson Center
- Sept. 26: Early Childhood Institute, SWCC, Creston
- Sept. 27: Early Childhood Institute, IWCC, Atlantic
- Sept. 30: IEP Training, Creston and Red Oak
- Sept. 31: IEP Training, Atlantic and Council Bluffs
- Sept. 31: ART Institute, Creston
- Oct. 4: 21st Century Learners' Conference, Creston
- Oct. 9: East Region Principals' Meeting, 9 a.m. to noon, Creston
- Oct. 9: Superintendents' Meeting, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Red Oak
- Oct. 11: 21st Century Learners' Conference, Council Bluffs
- Oct. 14: Tiered Algebra, Red Oak
- Oct. 17: Tiered Math K-3, Red Oak
- Oct. 17: South Region Principals' Meeting, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., Red Oak
- Oct. 18: Special Education Literacy Training Cohort 3
- Oct. 18: Transition Coaches/PEC Meeting, 9 a.m. to noon, Red Oak
- Oct. 22: GHAEA board meeting, Red Oak

For more information,  
visit the GHAEA calendar link at  
<http://www.ghaea.org>

## Iowa's new initiative to focus on infants, toddlers with developmental delays

A new state initiative will seek to curb the achievement gap by improving the quality of services offered to infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities. The five-year effort kicks off this month and will focus on helping educators, therapists and others better connect with the kids they serve and their families.

Melissa Schnurr, Iowa Dept. of Education, says research shows that gaps in learning appear as early as 18 months. Through the new initiative, employees with Iowa's Early ACCESS program will be partnered with mentors from Florida State University as they fine-tune their tactics for teaching children and their parents.

"If the family is better able to support their child's development, that child is going to enter school ahead of where they would have been without that early intervention," Schnurr said. "Essentially, it's closing the gap in the earliest years."

The gap between the math and reading scores of Iowa school-age children with disabilities and those of their peers is among the largest in the nation, according to a 2011 National Assessment of Educational Progress report. Iowa officials are hopeful that the new initiative will help address that issue.

As part of the program, Early ACCESS providers (early childhood specialists, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists and physical therapists) will videotape their sessions. The tapes will be reviewed with mentors to identify ways to improve their interactions with children and their families.



"GHAEA has selected **Billie Jo Clausen** (early childhood specialist, Harlan) and **Mary Beth Korver** (physical therapist, Glenwood) as the first cohort to participate," says **Cathy Ryba**, Early ACCESS liaison. "We have been given the opportunity to select a second cohort at this time and are in the process of identifying the providers. We will then have a third pair in the next round beginning March 2014."

"We're child-focused, but we want to focus on building the parents' capacity, competence and confidence to be able to assist in their infant's or toddler's development," adds Annie Volker, Early ACCESS regional consultant, Heartland AEA. "If we can coach parents to work with their child during the course of their natural routines, that child is going to have many more opportunities than we could ever provide."

Children are referred to Early ACCESS for a variety of reasons, including cognitive and physical delays. In fiscal 2011-12, more than 3,600 infants and toddlers in Iowa received services.



**P**ast is experience. Present is experiment.  
Future is expectation. Use your experience in your  
experiments to achieve your expectations.



**The mission of Green Hills AEA** is to collaboratively advocate for families, communities and schools to help them achieve their goals by providing dedicated professional consultation and quality system-wide supports.

**Equity statement:** Green Hills AEA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, age, sexual orientation, and gender identity in its employment practices or on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or economic status in its educational programs and activities, or as otherwise prohibited by statute or regulation. For more information concerning application of this statement or the grievance procedure contact Lori Kinyon, Equity Coordinator, Green Hills AEA, 257 Swan St., Creston, IA 50801, lkinyon@ghaea.org, 800-432-5804.

## Stay In Touch

*In Touch* is a monthly e-newsletter for school administrators and teachers served by Green Hills AEA. Throughout the year, we'll introduce you to GHAEA staff who will be working in your districts, keep you abreast of upcoming trainings that may be of interest to you and your staff and feature AEA services and programs. If there's something you'd like to see in *In Touch*, e-mail [dfricke@ghaea.org](mailto:dfricke@ghaea.org) or click [here](#) to submit a story idea. Thanks and have a great year!