

- Berkeley
- Cabell
- Kanawha
- Greenbrier
- Hardy
- Harrison
- Jackson
- Logan
- Mercer
- Monongalia
- Nicholas
- Ohio
- Putnam
- Raleigh
- Upshur
- Wood

For a complete list of ACDS events and class start dates, visit the ACDS website [www.wvacds.org](http://www.wvacds.org) and Facebook page.



# ACDS Quarterly Newsletter



WINTER 2022

## New Year Resolutions

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. We have said goodbye to 2021 and have a brand new year of possibilities to look forward to. This can be an exciting time full of promise and potential.

For hundreds of years people have been using the beginning of a new year to set personal and work-related goals. Have you set any goals that you want to accomplish for 2022? Are you working on creating a new habit or ready to tackle a new challenge?

Accomplishing goals can be a challenge. When deciding upon goals it is important to set goals that are realistic and

meaningful to you. For 2021 the top three resolutions for Americans were exercise/fitness, losing weight and saving money. Do those sound familiar?

As a program, ACDS also has goals for 2022. Foremost, we are excited to resume in-



person classes and we will follow all CDC recommendations to keep students healthy and safe. We also intend to increase our enrollment with the availability of statewide virtual classes. We

have plans to make updates to the curriculum, including new articles and lessons. We are also looking at our internal processes to find ways that we can make procedures more efficient.

As you think about the year ahead, we hope that one of your goals is to either participate in ACDS as a student, or to become involved in the program as a mentor, instructor or local council member.

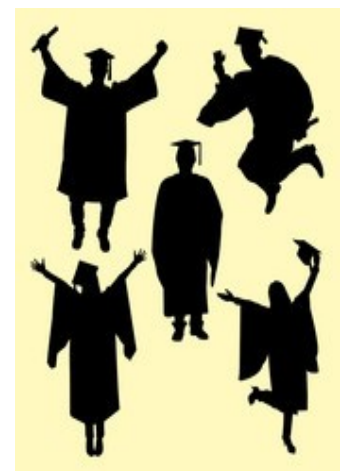
In ACDS, we anticipate a year of growth. We wish each of you a year full of enjoyable moments and best of luck in accomplishing your 2022 goals! ~ Jennifer

## Congratulation Fall 2021 Graduates

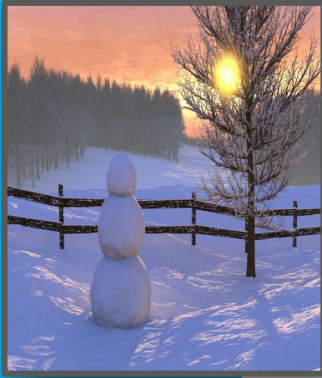
Berkeley Cabell Logan Mercer  
Monongalia Upshur Statewide



Congratulations on completing the ACDS program. We know the last couple of years have presented many challenges both as students and personally. Your perseverance has paid off. We hope that your experience in the program has been positive and we wish you the best in all future endeavors.



## Celebrating Connections



The Celebrating Connections conference will be virtual again in 2022. The conference dates are April 5-7, 2022. This year's keynotes are Jim Gill and Lisa Murphy. Both have presented at the conference in the past and were fabulous.

The conference offers a wide variety of sessions, from mental health to curriculum. Remember, that ACDS students can receive

extra credit for attending the conference.

Registration for the conference is completed virtually at <https://www.eventsquid.com/event/13333>.

For additional information about the sessions and the overall conference agenda visit the Celebrating Connections Facebook page and website, <http://>

[www.wvearlychildhood.org/celebrating\\_connections.html](http://www.wvearlychildhood.org/celebrating_connections.html).

We hope you will take advantage of this professional development opportunity.



***We strongly encourage providers from counties that have not traditionally had enough students to offer in-person classes to enroll in our virtual classes. Now that we have developed and tested virtual lessons, we want to offer the program to every county across the state. Help us spread the word that no matter what county you live in, ACDS is now available to you.***

## Classroom Environment Tips

- ◆ Make the classroom environment feel comfortable, like home.
- ◆ Furniture should be child sized, sturdy, and in good repair.
- ◆ Store materials in containers/baskets and on shelves that are accessible by the children.
- ◆ Create an art center that inspires children to manipulate materials and design original art work. Stock this center with a variety of materials that are inviting to the children.
- ◆ Save space for a designated cozy area that contains many soft materials.
- ◆ Allow children to have space for privacy where one or two children can participate in an activity free from interruption of others, but can still be easily supervised by adults.
- ◆ Provide a variety of books in your classroom, and read them throughout your day.
- ◆ Arrange the environment so that quieter activities (library) are not disrupted by louder activities (blocks).
- ◆ Materials displayed throughout the room should include children's art work and photographs. Materials intended to be viewed by children should be displayed at their eye level.
- ◆ Keep your environment safe by covering outlets, keeping safety materials on hand, and discussing safety guidelines with children.

## ACDS Contact Information

### ACDS Statewide Coordinator

Jennifer Conkle

- Address: 611 7th Ave. Suite 208 Huntington, WV 25701

- Fax: 304-697-6613

- Phone: 304-523-0433

### ACDS Specialist

Tara Kitts

- Website: [www.wvacds.org](http://www.wvacds.org)

- Email: [wvacds@rvcds.org](mailto:wvacds@rvcds.org)



*This program is being presented with financial assistance as a grant from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and is administered by WV Early Childhood Training Connections and Resources, a program of River Valley Child Development Services.*

## Questions & Answers



### • **How do I get the Department of Labor Certificate?**

When apprentices have accumulated between 3200 and 4000 OJT hours they can submit for completion with the Department of Labor. Apprentices will need to send copies of all OJT logs, all 4 semester supervisor evaluations and the Department of Labor application for completion ([www.wvacds.org](http://www.wvacds.org)) to the ACDS office. Once received we will review all documents for accuracy and submit a completion request on behalf of the apprentice. It is important that students complete this process as soon as they collect the hours. We urge apprentices not to delay submission.

### • **How do I register for class?**

To register, all students must complete an orientation for the semester they are entering. All orientations can be found on the WV STARS website ([www.wvstars.org](http://www.wvstars.org)) by searching the training calendar for self-paced courses. The orientation will contain registration questions so there is no need to submit a paper registration form. Students must also ensure that the \$25.00 payment is submitted by the registration deadline. ACDS accepts checks, money orders, credit and debit card payments. For additional information on registering, visit the ACDS website, [www.wvacds.org](http://www.wvacds.org).



“ My instructor was amazing! I’m so happy to have had the opportunity to work with her and learn all that I did!”

~ Anonymous Student

## Education Quotes

“To understand is to invent.”

~Jean Piaget



“What we see changes what we know. What we know changes what we see.”

~Jean Piaget