

8th Annual ACENA Conference

BY PATTI HERBST, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM OPERATIONS

On September 6th & 7th fellow CE colleagues from all over North America participated in the 8th Annual ACENA Conductive Education Conference, co-hosted by the Conductive Learning Center (CLC), in Grand Rapids, Michigan. A huge *thank you* to the staff of CLC for the time and effort they put into organizing a successful and very productive conference, and a heartfelt thank you to Aquinas College for sharing your beautiful campus with us!



Photo: Conference attendees gather on the Aquinas bleachers for the annual group photo

For those of you unable to attend, here are a few **Conference Highlights:**

Franz Schaffhauser, PhD., Rector of the Andreas Peto Institute of Conductive Education and College for Conductor Training: In his Keynote address, Dr. Schaffhauser discussed the effects of changes in European legislation currently impacting higher education, including the Peto conductor teacher training program. Dr. Schaffhauser discussed approaches the Institute and College are taking in response to those legislative changes and noted that the number of applicants to the college, along with those being admitted, is increasing.

Conductor Teacher Training throughout the World

In an exciting first-attempt by ACENA in live video conferencing, several CE professionals from all over the world presented a Plenary Session on “Conductive Education and Conductor Training” programs.

Presenting from Israel, *Rony Schenker, Ph.D., OTR, Academic Director and the Head of the Conductive Education and Cerebral Palsy Studies of Tsad Kadima*, discussed the recently developed “Israeli Conductive Education and Cerebral Palsy Studies”, a three-year specialization course on CE, in full cooperation with the Peto Institute, The Lewinsky College of Education, and The Israeli Ministry of Education.

Presenting from the United Kingdom, *Melanie Brown, Ph.D., Qualified Conductor and Director of Adult Services at the National Institute of Conductive Education*, provided an overview of the accredited courses offered through the Conductive College in Birmingham, UK along with future plans for development involving training and research.

Presenting from Germany, *Beate Hoess-Zenker, OTR, Qualified Conductor and Executive Director of Phoenix GmbH and Phoenix Academy Conductor Training*, gave an overview of the CE teacher training program offered by the Phoenix Academy in Munich Germany, as well as qualifications of graduates upon completion of the training program. Beate also gave an update on the 8th World Congress on Conductive Education and invited all to join her next October in the beautiful city of Munich, Germany!

Locally, *Andrea Benyovszky, M. Ed., Qualified Conductor and Director of the Conductive Learning Center*, gave an overview of the CE/Special Education Teacher training program offered by Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, MI, in collaboration with the International Peto Institute. There are currently 5 students in the program, and 7 planning to enter their freshman year!

**A round of applause to CLC and ACENA for bringing the world to us!
It was a wonderful opportunity to learn about advances being
made in post-secondary CE Training Programs!**

Other Conference Highlights:

✚ Dr. Erzsebet Balogh, MD, Pediatrician, Neurologist and Honorary Conductor, presented the outcomes of several research studies on CE.

- ✚ Dr. Roberta O'Shea, Ph.D., PT., and Professor of Physical Therapy at Governors State University (GSU) presented the ongoing kinematic findings of a two-year research study looking at the effects of CE on the functional motor skills of children with CP. The study is funded through the Coleman Foundation and in partnership with the Center for Independence through Conductive Education, Inc. located in Illinois. Results are promising and will be published in 2013.

Dr. O'Shea also gave the audience a brief overview of the "Principles of Conductive Education Certificate Program" offered through GSU. The Certificate program does not train "Qualified Conductors", rather, the program gives related service providers such as PTs, OTs and Teachers the opportunity to gain an overall understanding of the philosophy and main tenets of Conductive Education (CE) so that they may better collaborate and work alongside qualified Conductive Education Teachers.

- ✚ Julia Horvath, Ph.D., Conductor and Special Education Teacher presented the Peto Institute's unique "Integrated Pre-School Group", which includes both children with physical disabilities and their typically developing peers. The objective of the "Integration Group" is to better prepare children with disabilities for transition into the regular school setting. According to Dr. Horvath, the group has been well received by parents and serves as a strong training model without compromising Peto's CE principles.
- ✚ Christine Ameen, Ph.D., a non-profit management consultant gave participants an important overview of what it means to be a successful non-profit and the key functions of board governance and executive leadership.
- ✚ Kathy Barker, Executive Director of Special Education for Oakland County, MI gave an informative presentation how research, technological advances and expectations being placed on educators has created new pressures and trends in how students with a disability access and receive instruction within the school setting.
- ✚ Patricia Herbst, Executive Director of the Center for Independence through Conductive Education (CFI) presented the results of recent research studies by Dr. Helen Bourke-Taylor, regarding the negative health and wellness consequences faced by mothers raising a child with a disability. Patti discussed how those challenges impact CE programming and how better CE outcomes can be achieved by understanding and supporting mothers.
- ✚ Brian Aenis, Certified Orthotist at Wright & Fillipis, Grand Rapids, MI provided the audience with a history of orthotics and reviewed important basic principles essential

in appropriate brace selection. Hands on examples were provided, along with a valuable question and answer period.

- ✚ Anita Keresztury, Conductor, Center for Independence (CFI), presented the audience with strategies for better collaboration with local non-profits to enhance CE programming. Anita shared several collaborations CFI currently engages in to provide free or low cost extra-curricular activities within the CE setting, including special recreation, parent education, field trips and respite services.

Conference attendees also had the invaluable opportunity to participate in Round Table Discussions and network with fellow professionals!

Honorary Members Inducted into ACENA

BY BRENT PAGE, PRESIDENT

On September 6th, Dave Dvorak, Ph.D., and Dr. Erzsebet Balogh, MD were formally inducted as Honorary Life Members of ACENA. We are indebted to the ground-breaking work these two pioneers have achieved for Conductive Education in North America. In presenting the awards, ACENA President, Brent Page, and ACENA Board Member, Andrea Benyovszky, recognized both recipients for their outstanding service and dedication to Conductive Education in North America and for exemplifying the highest personal commitment to the goals and principles of the association.



Photo: Dave Dvorak, Andrea Benyovszky, Dr. Erzsebet Balogh

8th World Congress on Conductive Education Update!

The 8th World Congress on Conductive Education “*Rhythm and Balance*” will be held in Munich, Germany from October 9th – 12th, 2013. Registration and Abstract submission begins November 2012.

Please check out the Congress website at: <http://www.ce-worldcongress2013.org>

Membership Drive!

New membership applications for the 2013 year begin January 1, 2013. Please become a member of ACENA and join us in promoting and strengthening CE programs in your community! Your voice and your input count.

National Conductive Education Day 2013

BY KRISZTINA A. BERNSTEIN, DIRECTORY OF ADVOCACY

Thursday, February 21st is the 4th annual “National Conductive Education Day”!

This day is a great opportunity to increase awareness of Conductive Education and promote your own program locally.

CE Day was inaugurated in 2010 by ACENA to provide members and CE Centers in North America a common day to focus on conductive education. CE Day was conceived to draw us together as a community to celebrate, publicize and advocate.

Conductive Education Day offers a great opportunity to let people know about CE. Many of the professionals who work with children with disabilities remain unaware of CE, as do many of the families with these children. Of those who have heard about CE, many have misconceptions about it, such as that it is “militaristic” or “harsh”.

In the last few years, some organizations have focused their efforts on developing a general awareness of Conductive Education, broadening knowledge about Conductive Education and building the CE “brand” locally. Based on their efforts, here are some examples of what can be done:

- ✚ Arrange an open-house event;
- ✚ Invite local politicians, leaders in education/rehabilitation;
- ✚ Publish an article in a magazine or newspaper;
- ✚ Distribute CE materials in local malls, and doctors’ offices;

- ✚ Give CE presentation and radio interviews;
- ✚ Ask a government official to proclaim February 21, 2013 as CE Awareness Day;
- ✚ Introduce the CE program in a local TV channel;
- ✚ Post on the Internet.

Once again this year, ACENA is offering members a customizable Campaign Kit, designed to help your advocacy work and includes:

- ✚ Cover letter from ACENA's president;
- ✚ Detailed guide of how to use the campaign kit documents;
- ✚ Template letters to editors, proclamation request, testimonials, and press release;
- ✚ Pamphlet and poster promoting CE.

Files will be downloadable by November 15, 2012 and can be fully customized with ease.

When designing your own campaign, please remember that requests for participation by television stations and political/government representatives should be sent out soon so that they have time to consider the request, schedule it and/or take any needed actions!

Your success, no matter what its scale or size, is a success for all of us working in Conductive Education in North America! ACENA is interested in knowing and sharing your campaign ideas, events and successes ... so please forward stories and pictures to ACENA.

Wishing a successful day for CE and your program!

Conductive Education Baseline Statistics

BY BRENT PAGE, PRESIDENT

ACENA is committed to understanding the breadth of conductive education services in North America. By collecting service data, ACENA helps members better engage in advocacy efforts and provides them with data on both the number of people CE touches and the service hours collectively delivered across the US, Canada and Mexico.

This information can help with local advocacy efforts by showing stakeholders that CE is larger than a single local center, that demand for services is growing, and that CE is worthy of attention and funding.

In June, ACENA circulated a 2011-2012 baseline statistics submission form to all known CE Centers and individual providers, regardless of their ACENA membership status. Completion was voluntary, and ACENA received 16 submissions as of October 2012.

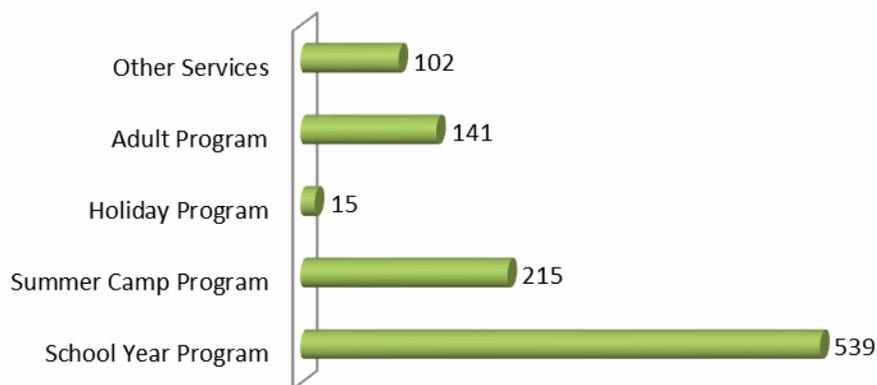
The *Report on Status of Conductive Education in North America* is a first and represents only 42% of the *identified* CE providers working in North America. ACENA is committed to identifying new CE programs and will work towards expanding our data in 2012-13.

If you missed submitting your statistics, please contact acenaorg@acena.org to have your center/provider statistics included. Your statistics and the story they tell count!



*Report on the Status of Conductive Education in North America, ACENA, October 2012. Represents only 42% of *identified* CE Centers/Providers in North America

Conductive Education participants in North America June 2011-June 2012*



*Report on the Status of Conductive Education in North America, ACENA, October 2012. Represents only 42% of *identified* CE Centers/Providers in North America

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