

FALL 2017

ERICSA Times

NEWS FROM ERICSA & THE CHILD SUPPORT COMMUNITY

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SAVE THE DATE!

2018 ERICSA Conference
April 15– 19, 2018
The Plaza Resort & Spa
Daytona Beach, FL



**EASTERN
REGIONAL
INTERSTATE
CHILD SUPPORT
ASSOCIATION**

ST. LOUIS CONFERENCE

Overarching Wrap-Up

TERRI NICKEL MATSON, *Immediate Past President*



Let me start with an overarching thank-you to everyone who helped make the St. Louis conference such a huge success. With 420 participants from 42 states, 21 tribes, one U.S. territory (Guam) and one foreign country (Germany), ERICSA enjoyed another banner year for our annual training conference.

Experts from around the country presented updates, insights and research on procedural justice in child support, the modern American family, lessons learned from the National Child Support Noncustodial Parent Employment Demonstration grant (CSPED), responsible fatherhood, training methods, child support guidelines and a wide range of intergovernmental topics.

We also heard the latest from the federal OCSE, including (*continued on next page*)

Visiting the Exhibit Hall

Tribal traditions



ST. LOUIS
CONFERENCETHANK YOU
FROM OUR HOST
STATE DIRECTOR

JOHN GINWRIGHT



Missouri hosted the 54th Annual Training Conference and Exposition of the Eastern Regional Interstate Child Support Association in the great city of St. Louis. We saw several familiar faces and made a lot of new friends. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all staff, volunteers, and vendors who contributed to making our conference a success. Our thanks also go out to the ERICSA team for creating a comfortable atmosphere for sharing information and building new relationships to help our children and families. We look forward to seeing you again at the next conference, and encourage you to come back anytime for a visit to the great city of St. Louis, Missouri.

an overview of the final rule that we have now learned to call the "FEM" rule (Flexibility, Efficiency and Modernization).

The world premiere of "Planet Support," a mock trial in two acts that spanned the globe, was adjudicated by The Honorable Neal Nielsen of Wisconsin, with a colorful cast of cohorts. And fun was had by all as we danced our way to the final Intergovernmental Team Wars competition on Thursday morning! All of the 2017 conference materials are now available on our website.

I urge all of you to become more involved with ERICSA. We welcome committee participation from all our members, whether it be in planning next year's conference program or onsite activities, to voicing your ideas for intergovernmental improvement, to sharing insight and analysis on current child support policy and legislation. You can participate in monthly committee calls, or join the program planning committee in Daytona Beach this September, or help with onsite activities at next year's conference. New committees for the 2017-18 year are forming now; simply email our President, Pam Sala, at salap@oakgov.com.

Networking at the President's Reception



Networking at the President's Reception



Networking at the President's Reception



Selling charity raffle tickets

2018 CONFERENCE IN DAYTONA BEACH

Let's Meet Somewhere the Sun Kisses the Ocean

PAM SALA, *President*



Start planning now for the 55th Annual Training Conference & Exposition of the Eastern Regional Interstate Child Support Association, April 15 to 19, 2018. ERICSA's next conference will be held in Daytona Beach, FL at the Plaza Resort & Spa.

We will have an exciting conference program and there is plenty to do in Daytona Beach after a day of workshops, such as the Richard Petty Driving Experience, Daytona Lagoon Waterpark, Marine Science Center, Southeast Museum of Photography and of course, the beach!

Look for news on this site and email updates so that you can register early at discounted rates and book your hotel room. And don't forget, ERICSA offers two Gordon Moseley Rising Start scholarships every year – applications are due by March 1.

Hope to see you there!



DAYTONA BEACH CONFERENCE PLANNING

THOMAS HORAN, *President-Elect and
Daytona Beach Planning Committee Chair*

Although it seems like we were at the great Conference in St. Louis just yesterday, it is time to begin thinking about the next great conference that we will have in Daytona Beach in April of 2018!

Program Planning has begun, President Pam Sala has sent out requests for interest in the Program Planning Committee and we had a wonderful response. At this point we have a fairly full roster of participants, and hopefully most will be able to attend the program planning meeting in Daytona Beach on September 13 and 14, 2017.

In the meantime, I am busy working through the list of duties for this position! I would appreciate it if each of you will begin thinking about and submitting your ideas for sessions, plenaries and any other ideas you may have. A proposed title with a brief description would be great and if you have a speaker in mind that's even better! Please email to horant@actor.com and copy Rieda Abrams-Miller at AbramsR@actor.com.

Thank you!

**PREVIOUS FELIX
INFAUSTO AWARD
RECIPIENTS**

2016 – James Dingeldine
 2015 – Susan Schroeder
 2014 – Cyndy Lucas
 2013 – Nancy Crawford
 2012 – John Graham
 2011 – Robyn Large
 2010 – Jeff Ball
 2009 – Lee Sapienza
 2008 – Sara McCollum
 2007 – Christine Brogdon
 Dingeldine
 2006 – J. Gordon Moseley
 2005 – Mary Ann Nore
 2004 – Yvette Hilderson
 Riddick
 2003 – Ruth Bell Clark
 2002 – Catherine Bayse
 2001 – Arlene L. Robinson
 2000 – Margaret Campbell
 Haynes
 1999 – Paula Haedel
 1998 – Gloria Harrelson
 1997 – Vernon Drew
 1996 – Hugh O. Stevenson
 1995 – Steve Grossbard / Sarah
 Cooper
 1994 – Joseph DiPrimio
 1993 – Susan Paikin
 1992 – Gordon F. Bailey, Jr.
 1991 – Delores Van Horn
 1990 – Anthony J. Voci
 1989 – Evelyn Green
 1988 – Judge Robert D.
 Thompson
 1987 – Anita Crawford
 1986 – Judge Joseph M.F.
 Ryan, Jr.
 1985 – John Bischoff
 1984 – John Sylvester
 1983 – Felix Infausto



**2017 FELIX INFAUSTO
AWARD WINNER**

*Patterson
Poulson*

TERRI NICKEL MATSON

This year's Felix Infausto award, the highest honor bestowed to the apotheosis of outstanding leadership and contribution to ERICSA, went to Patterson Poulson, a past president and board member since 1999.

Patterson Poulson is the Establishment and Case Management Process Manager for the Florida Department of Revenue Child Support Program, responsible for ensuring the Program's performance in paternity and support order establishment. She has served the Florida program in several capacities including serving as the Tallahassee Region Manager for the performance of 12 sites covering 29 counties. She was worked in the divisions of Interstate Central Registry; Customer Service; and Policy, Monitoring, and Training. She has a wide variety of experience in many aspects of the child support program.

Patterson is the current Secretary of the Eastern Regional Interstate Child Support Association (ERICSA) and serves faithfully on the Board of Directors. She has a BA and MPA from the Florida State University.

Congratulations, Patterson, and many thanks for everything you bring to our association.



Karen Grant



Tracy Pettit

GORDON MOSELEY SCHOLARSHIPS

2017 Conference Scholarship Winners

TERRENCE O'HALLORAN

This year's winners of the Gordon Moseley scholarships were **Karen Grant** from the state of Michigan and **Tracy Pettit** from Missouri.

Karen hails from Grand Traverse, Michigan where she works as an Interstate Case Manager Assistant for the Friend of the Court, 13th Circuit. She has been in child support for two years and she felt she now knew "just enough to know [I] don't know enough." She used her time at ERICSA to attend the break-out sessions and make contacts from all over the country. Her only complaint about the week was that she didn't get enough sleep from all of the excitement!

Tracy works in Cape Girardeau, MO where she has been involved with child support for over 20 years and is now an FSD Supervisor in the Missouri Family Support Division. Her main reaction from this conference was, "I have not been so welcomed in any professional setting as I was by ERICSA members." She found the sessions engaging but she was really impressed by the "family reunion" atmosphere she experienced.

Both scholarship winners found their week in St. Louis enjoyable and worthwhile. We hope they can continue to be a part of the ERICSA family in the future!



Stacie Watkins



Linda Bess



Maria Luz Nunez

2017 Professional Excellence Awards

LAURA BERNACKI STAFFORD

PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR MANAGER/SUPERVISOR

The 2017 ERICSA Award of Professional Excellence for Manager/Supervisor was **Stacie Watkins**. Stacie is a 10+ year veteran of the child support world and works as the Program Manager of the Central Registry Unit for the Tennessee Department of Human Services. Most notably, Stacie worked with staff to create a SOP for responding cases that includes steps to be taken by both Central Registry and the local offices. This greatly increased the effectiveness and efficiency of the unit (and helped other States).

FRONTLINE CHILD SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL

The ERICSA 2017 Frontline Child Support Professional winner was **Linda Bess**. Linda is a 38+ year child support employee from Calhoun County, Michigan Friend of the Court. Her focus is in intergovernmental. She is involved on state forums and grassroots efforts focusing on education of intergovernmental issues. Linda will be retiring later this year (2017).

PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE IN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION

Maria Luz Nunez was ERICSA's 2017 Award of Professional Excellence in Intergovernmental Cooperation winner. Maria is the Supervisor of the Interstate Central Registry in New Jersey. She is a great resource for other states in trouble-shooting difficult interstate cases and educating others on how New Jersey operates.

Congratulations to all three winners!

2017 FUNDRAISER

Kids in the Middle

MIKE MCGUIRE, VP of Exhibitors and Sponsors

Kids In The Middle (KITM) (www.kidsinthemiddle.org) was chosen as the charity for the 54th ERICSA conference fundraiser. KITM was established in St. Louis in 1977 to provide counseling to children when their parents separated, divorced or remarried.

The program allows children to share their feelings in a safe, confidential environment with their counselor and other children. Services are provided regardless of the parent's ability to pay. Using a whole family approach, counseling services for parents are also offered.

Due to our member's generosity, \$9,560.00 was raised for KITM during the conference. In addition to the funds raised, items from the KITM wish list were presented to KITM CEO Meredith Freedman at the business meeting on Thursday morning. Everyone played a role in our fundraising success from collecting and donating items for the raffle, volunteering to sell raffle tickets, creating raffle signs, buying raffle tickets or giving money to the charity at the banquet. Without all of you, we would not have raised \$9,560.00 for KITM.

In our first meeting with CEO Meredith Freedman and Sarah Contarini, KITM's Development Manager,

we explained that we could not guarantee a specific dollar amount for their charity. But assured them that Child Support Professionals are among the most generous individuals they would meet and you proved it. The amount of money raised in three days is awe-inspiring, I thank you for demonstrating just how kind-hearted and giving all of you are by your support of KITM.

On August 24, 2017, we received a thank you note from Sarah and she gave some exciting news! The money that we gave was combined with other funds received in a 24-hour period and another donor matched the contributions. The total for that day was \$136,136, an amount that will allow KITM to provide over 2,669 group-counseling sessions to children and families. The contributions that ERICSA members gave were a key part of this effort, and combined with others to reach that impressive total.

The note ended with this encouraging word: "You all have made such a big impact on the St. Louis community and we are so grateful!"

Thanks for your support of ERICSA's charitable efforts each year!

