

# MSEI

# NEWSLETTER

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## Program Updates

Looking ahead to the spring semester, advising sessions will run from March 18th to 29th. Look out for an email from your advisor in early March with sign-up details. These sessions are vital for staying on course with your educational and professional goals.

In this edition, we spotlight DEC's advocacy efforts as well as a student submission for the Research Corner. Don't forget to review the Career Building Opportunities page for valuable resume-enhancing prospects. Enjoy!

*-Dr. Pansé-Barone, Editor*

## Updates from the Field

The Division for Early Childhood (DEC), along with eight other prominent organizations, submitted comments on the HHS Section 504 Protections Against Discrimination Related to Disability. One notable highlight from the comments is: "We suggest additional conversations specifically with the Office of Civil Rights in the Department of Education and also within HHS, to provide clarification that these proposed regulations apply to non-LEA community-based public and private programs receiving federal funds including Home Visiting, Early Head Start, Early Hearing Diagnosis and Treatment (EHDI), child welfare, etc." The comments can be accessed [here](#).

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# Research Corner

By BreAnna Chambers

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental disorder that impacts social communication and often displays the use of repetitive behavior patterns. ASD is becoming more common. Families of children with ASD who have received early intervention services through Part C birth -two years of age often rely heavily on professionals' knowledge when making decisions for their children. The increase of children who have ASD also means that there is a growing need for early childhood educators who are informed about ASD and have the proper knowledge needed to implement the use of evidence-based practices.

In a study titled, *Discovering Practitioners' Knowledge and Use of Evidence-Based Practices for Autism Early Childhood Interventions* (Layden et al., 2024), the authors conducted a survey study that analyzed training, confidence, and the frequency that early childhood educators and early interventionists use ASD-specific evidence-based practices. Participants were given a questionnaire that used a Likert scale response. The results from the study showed that there is a growing need for early childhood educators and early intervention professionals to be trained in disabilities and developmental delays. Educators who have the proper training could help bridge the gap between children receiving needed supports leading to a much needed proper early childhood education.

For those interested in reading further, the article DOI is here:  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/02711214231219281>



*"The increase of children who have ASD also means that there is a growing need for early childhood educators who are informed about ASD and have the proper knowledge needed to implement the use of evidence-based practices."*





# Career Building Opportunities

*In addition to the leadership and professional development opportunities listed here, consider contributing to the MSEI newsletter!*

## Fellowships

### CHILD HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROMOTION (CHDP) FELLOWSHIP

- About: The CHDP Special Instructor position is a one year, intensive training program in early childhood health and development. The Fellow will allocate 80% of their time to direct clinical activities, with the remaining 20% divided among professional development, didactics, and a capstone project.
- Location: Jackson, MS
- Stipend: Competitive salary
- To Apply: Email a brief statement of interest, CV/Resume, and three letters of recommendation to Courtney Walker (cwalker7@umc.edu) and Rachel Tyrone (rtyrone@umc.edu) by Feb. 16, 2024.

### NATIONAL HEAD START FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

- About: Fellows are offered a one-year experience that includes working full time and participating in professional and leadership development. Applicants who work in local Head Start programs, the field of early childhood, or children and family services are eligible.
- Location: Washington, DC
- Stipend: \$95,000
- To Apply: <https://nhsfp.smapply.io/> Applications are due March 14, 2024.

## Conferences

### National Early Childhood Inclusion Institute

- Dates: May 7-9, 2024
- Location: Chapel Hill, NC
- Registration: <https://inclusioninstitute.fpg.unc.edu/>

### DEC's 40th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Disabilities and Their Families

- Dates: Sept. 17-20, 2024
- Location: New Orleans, LA
- Registration: <https://www.deconference.org/>

## Leadership Opportunity!

The Division for Early Childhood (DEC) has several Communities of Practice (CoP). These are a great way to become involved in our professional organization! Consider joining the EI CoP here (must be a DEC member to join): <https://www.dec-sped.org/earlyinterventioncop>