# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**F. PHILIP HANDY,** *Chairman*

**T. WILLARD FAIR,** *Vice Chairman*

*Members*

**SALLY BRADSHAW**

**LINDA J. EADS, ED.D.**

**CHARLES PATRICK GARCÍA**

**JULIA L. JOHNSON**

**WILLIAM L. PROCTOR, PH.D.**

**JIM HORNE**
**Commissioner of Education**

November 21, 2003

**M E M O R A N D U M #03-62**

**TO:** Exceptional Student Education Administrators
FDLRS Associate Center Managers
District Autism Contact Persons

**FROM:** Michele Polland

**SUBJECT:** **11th Annual 2004 Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) Conference, January 23-25, 2004, Miami, Florida**

The Florida Department of Education (DOE) is aware of the need for quality staff development opportunities for school personnel who work with individuals with autism. To help fill this need, the Bureau of Instructional Support and Community Services (BISCS) has partnered with the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) to implement a variety of staff development activities. We are pleased to provide you with information about two special DOE activities that will precede the 11th Annual CARD Conference in Miami, Florida.

BISCS, through a project with CARD, is sponsoring a Pre-conference Day for Educators on Friday, January 23, 2004. This day is specifically designed to provide educators with information about innovative and effective classroom practices. Dr. Karen Erickson, Director of the Center for Literacy and Disability Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will be the keynote speaker for this event. We encourage you to send as many teachers as possible to this important staff development opportunity. While there is no fee for the pre-conference day, participants must complete and submit the registration form for the CARD/DOE Pre-conference Day for Educators which is available on-line at https://registration.outreach.usf.edu/CARD2004/card2004.htm.

You can make your hotel reservations directly with Hilton Miami Airport and Towers, 5101 Blue Lagoon Drive, Miami, Florida 33126, or call (305) 262-1000. To receive the conference rate of $125.00 per room, identify yourself as a CARD conference participant.

**MICHELE POLLAND**
*Acting Chief*
*Bureau of Instructional Support and Community Services*

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**F. PHILIP HANDY,** *Chairman*

**T. WILLARD FAIR,** *Vice Chairman*

*Members*

**SALLY BRADSHAW**

**LINDA J. EADS, ED.D.**

**CHARLES PATRICK GARCÍA**

**JULIA L. JOHNSON**

**WILLIAM L. PROCTOR, PH.D.**

**JIM HORNE**
**Commissioner of Education**

Just Read, Florida!

**MICHELE POLLAND**
*Acting Chief*
*Bureau of Instructional Support and Community Services*

In addition, Bureau staff will be hosting a meeting for district autism contact persons that will also be held on January 23, 2004. This meeting will provide district staff with an opportunity to receive information about statewide issues related to serving students with autism as well as provide participants with an opportunity to discuss issues specific to their district. A draft agenda for this meeting is attached. District autism contact persons are asked to complete the attached response form and return it to our office by fax at (850) 245-0955 no later than **January 9, 2004.** Participants attending this meeting must also complete and submit the registration form for the CARD/DOE Pre-conference Day for Educators which is available on-line at https://registration.outreach.usf.edu/CARD2003.htm.

We would like to encourage those people who are attending either of these events to consider attending the CARD conference as well. If you would like more information about the conference, please contact Ms. Donna Casella, Education and Training Coordinator, University of South Florida, Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (USF-CARD), at (813) 974-2532. Conference brochures, including the registration form, are available on-line at http://www.umcard.org/brochure.pdf. If you have questions about either of the DOE events, please contact Ms. Sheryl Brainard, Program Specialist, at (850) 245-0478 or by elelectronic mail at sheryl.brainard@fldoe.org.

MP/sbr

Attachments

cc: Donna Casella, University of South Florida