

November 27, 2002

MEMORANDUM #02-102

TO: Exceptional Student Education Administrators
District Autism Contact Persons

FROM: Shan Goff

SUBJECT: Upcoming Florida Department of Education/Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) Staff Development Opportunities

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 10th Annual CARD Conference in St. Petersburg, Florida.

BISCS, through a project with CARD, is sponsoring a Pre-conference Day for Educators on Friday, January 17, 2003. This day is specifically designed to provide educators with information about innovative and effective classroom practices. Dr. Cathy Pratt, Director of the Indiana Resource Center for Autism at Indiana University, 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/CARD2003.htm>.

In addition, Bureau staff will be hosting a meeting for district autism contact persons that will also be held on January 17, 2003. 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) 922-7088 no later than **January 3, 2003**. Participants attending this meeting must also complete and submit the registration form

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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://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/conf2003/index.htm>. If you have questions about either of the DOE events, please contact Mr. Mike Muldoon, Program Specialist, at (850) 488-1106 or by e-mail at Michael.Muldoon@fldoe.org.

SG/mmh

Attachments