

# CONNECTIONS

A bi-monthly newsletter connecting MNAFEE members from across the state with relevant peer-requested content.



ISSUE NO. 1  
NOVEMBER 2021

## Message from Board Chair

### **Welcome to the first issue of the MNAFEE CONNECTIONS Newsletter!**

Fall is well underway and winter plans are just around the corner. At MNAFEE, we've been busy too and have exciting things to share with you.

- We had the first session of our exciting ECFE for Equity fall workshop. ([The November 19 session is still open for registration.](#))
- Our Advocacy Committee is doing great work on our platform for the new legislative year.
- The MNAFEE Annual Conference planning is in full gear - stay tuned for updates on keynote speakers and breakout sessions.
- Our [Job Opportunities webpage](#) has been updated. There were many openings this year!
- MNAFEE's newsletter, CONNECTIONS, was developed and designed by the Communications Committee. Take some time and browse the content. We are working hard to include information that is valuable to you and reflective of what you asked for in our survey last spring.

Thank YOU for your work and dedication in this fascinating field. There is so much we can learn and accomplish by connecting!

***Michelle Berscheid***  
MNAFEE Board Chair

## Fall Regional Workshop



MNAFEE FALL REGIONAL WORKSHOP

### ECFE for Equity

There's still time to join the MNAFEE Fall Regional Workshop! Limited spots remain.

Experience a Reflective Dialogue approach to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all parents, children, and teachers.

Virtual event on Zoom  
OCTOBER 29 OR  
NOVEMBER 19  
Choose the date that works for you.

A day-long event for ECFE professional teams (re)committed to creating an environment that is more inclusive for people of color - parents, children, and teachers. Discussion topics include:  
• Create an intentional space that is both welcoming and respectful to address the gap between racial justice

[WWW.MNAFEE.ORG](http://WWW.MNAFEE.ORG)

A day-long virtual event for ECFE professional teams (re)committed to creating an environment that is more inclusive for people of color - parents, children, and teachers.

**Date:** November 19

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Location:** Virtual

[Learn more about this exciting professional development opportunity.](#)

## Advocacy

MNAFEE sees a Minnesota in which all families access comprehensive, high-quality parent education and early childhood programming in public schools. The continuing pandemic makes our vision more important than ever.

The 2021-2022 legislative priorities are currently under development. Watch for updates on the MNAFEE website or in a

## Job Opportunities

Find a job or recruit the best candidates on the [MNAFEE Job Opportunities webpage](#).

Complete the [New Employment Opportunity](#) form, to post a new job opportunity. Once submitted your position will be posted within three to five business days on the MNAFEE site. With state-wide visibility, MNAFEE offers access to a large audience of early childhood professionals.

## Awards

Consider nominating someone or a project for one of the following awards. Full details on the nomination process will be available on the [MNAFEE website](#) in late November. Submissions will be due by February 25, 2022.



**Lois Engstrom Leadership Award** - Presented to a current or past MNAFEE member with five or more years of leadership in Early Childhood Family Education and/or school-based early

childhood programs who has made dynamic contributions to advance the goals and principles of parent education, Early Childhood Family Education, and/or early childhood programming in public schools locally and throughout Minnesota.

**Friend of the Year Award** - Presented to an individual, group, or organization that has made significant contributions to the fields of parent education, Early Childhood Family Education, and/or early childhood programming in public schools in Minnesota.

**Innovative Programming Award**

future CONNECTIONS newsletter.

In the meantime, reach out to your representatives to keep effective and efficient support for ECFE. Templates have been created and are available on the MNAFEE website for this outreach.

- Presented to outstanding projects that exemplify the vision and mission of MNAFEE and are innovative approaches to addressing a community need through cooperation and teamwork amongst individuals and/or organizations, and use of resources.

## Resource Library

### Developing Community Partnerships

Over the next year, the Connections newsletter will include resources from the top 10 topics that you choose in our survey last spring. The resources will be in a community forum of so if other members would like to share additional resources they can add them. Our hope with the resource library is that it will be a collaborative workspace benefiting members across the state.

The top 10 topics include -

- Developing community partnerships. [View resource library.](#)
- Outreach to build your participation.
- Diversity and social justice.
- Child development - newest research.
- Technology - new tips and tricks.
- Technology - engaging your audience.
- Technology - benefits/risks.
- Advocacy - what's new at the capitol.
- Parent education
- What's new? Exciting new topics to teach to preschoolers.

*Follow us on social media to stay connected.*



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