When:
July 9-12, 2012

Time:
8:00-4:00pm (days 1-3)
8:30-3:30pm (day 4)

Where:
Thomas Fulghum Center
4003 Cogbill Road
Richmond, Va. 23234

Cost:
No Cost for staff from Region 1 School Divisions

Lunch:
On your own

Registration:
Contact:
Carrie Radigan
(804)828-4501
radiganct@vcu.edu

Please register by:
June 15, 2012

*For this particular training event, you can register for part of the week. For instance, you can come for all four days (preferred), or if you have already taken Basic PECS then you can come for days 3-4. Please let me know any questions you may have.

The Region 1 Autism Education Consortium is pleased to announce our first annual Summer Institute:

This year’s Institute will focus on Communication. We are excited to feature the co-creators of the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS), Andrew Bondy, Ph.D. and Lori Frost, M.S., CCC/SLP.

We are also thrilled to welcome Georgia Brown and Mona Pruett. They will be presenting on the fourth day of the training.
**About the presenters:**

**Andy Bondy** is president and co-founder of Pyramid Educational Consultants, Inc. Dr. Bondy is an innovative leader in the field of autism and applied behavior analysis. He directed a statewide public school system for students with autism for fourteen years. He is co-author of the PECS Training Manual. He also wrote the Pyramid Approach to Education, a training manual that offers an integrated orientation to developing effective educational environments blending applied behavior analysis with functional activities and create communication strategies.

Dr. Bondy received his MA and Ph.D. from the UNC Greensboro, and completed his clinical internship in 1976 at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Dr. Bondy has presented numerous papers, lectures and workshops in regional, national and international conferences and conventions on behavior analysis, PECS and the Pyramid Approach to Education. He has remained active in research and writing, and continues to develop new and innovative methods of helping children with autism and related developmental disorders.

**Lori Frost** is vice-president and co-founder of Pyramid Educational Consultants, Inc. She is co-author of the PECS Training Manual. She has been the driving force behind creating this unique system that allows children with limited communication abilities to initiate communication with teachers, parents, and peers. Ms. Frost has a wealth of background in functional communication training and applied behavior analysis. She has assisted in the development of a number of training packages designed to teach language and academic skills. Ms. Frost received her BA in speech pathology and audiology from the University of Arkansas, and MS in speech and language pathology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1982. She has worked in many public and private school settings as a speech pathologist. As a Pyramid consultant, Ms. Frost has traveled across the country and the world, teaching workshops on PECS and the Pyramid Approach to Education. She has presented a number of papers and lectures on autism and communication, co-authored several articles and chapters, and is respected by professionals in her field as a leader in functional communication systems.

**Georgia Brown** received her Master’s degree in Communication Disorders from the College of St. Rose in Albany, NY. Since that time, she has worked in public schools, clinics and in private practice in New York, California and Virginia. She earned her Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Ms. Brown has been working for Southeastern Cooperative Education Program (SECEP) since 1991. She is currently a Principal of the Speech department. She has taught graduate level classes at San Joe State and Old Dominion Universities.

**Mona Pruett** works as a Program Specialist with VCU’s T/TAC. She has worked as an occupational therapist for over thirty years in both the public school and private sector. Mona will be sharing information on communication devices and IPODs and applications.

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**About the Institute:**

This is a four-day institute. Days 1-2 will be a Basic PECS Training. Day 3 will consist of a more advanced PECS training entitled Incorporating PECS Across the Day. Dr. Bondy and Ms. Frost will be presenting this portion of the institute. On day 4, we have invited local experts to discuss ideas to help your students improve communication skills.

**PECS Basic Training (Day 1 & 2)**
(Formally called Two-Day PECS Training Workshop)

This intense two-day training is designed to teach participants to appropriately implement the Picture Exchange Communication System. It begins with an overview of the Pyramid Approach to Education to explore the key components of designing effective educational environments. A historical overview of language training programs used with non-verbal individuals is discussed along with how to set the stage for an abundance of communication opportunities. Participants will learn how to implement the six Phases of PECS, including attributes, through presenter demonstrations, video examples and role-play opportunities. Participants will leave the workshop with a fundamental understanding of how to implement PECS with individuals with autism, related developmental disabilities, and/or limited communication skills.

**Incorporating PECS Across the Day (Day 3)**

This workshop consists of strategies for incorporating communication within functional activities throughout the day. Teaching of advanced language concepts is explored. This presentation describes strategies for incorporating PECS across an entire day within functional contexts with expectations for the student to use language beyond single picture requests. Specifically, “Advanced” PECS lessons that teach a variety of linguistic concepts and syntactical structures are described.

**Social Pragmatic Speech and Assistive Technology (Day 4)**

Georgia Brown, speech therapist extraordinaire, will be presenting “The Communication Spectrum: Focus on the Established Skills of Students with ASD”, which includes conversation discourse, perspective taking and complex semantics. Georgia is bound to give you many ideas of how to help your students improve their language skills with practical fun ideas.

Mona Pruett will then be sharing different devices that are available for our students with less verbal language. She will also be discussing the IPAD and the wonderful applications that are available.