

## The Certified Moog Programs Consortium: Bi Annual Gathering

Once every other year, staff members from each of the Certified Moog Programs come together to share and learn at The Certified Moog Programs Consortium. This summer, there were 97 attendees including audiologists, teachers, speech-language therapists, development staff and administrators. They represented listening and spoken language programs in Buffalo, Chicago, Cincinnati, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Albuquerque, Phoenix and St. Louis. The consortium provided time to learn together from outside experts and from each other.



The event began with a reconnecting dinner the first evening. The following two days were packed full of information, discussion and hands-on learning opportunities. In keeping with the current trend in technology, Betsy Moog Brooks, Executive Director of the Moog Center, and Christine Hillary Gustus, Director of Admissions and Evaluations, presented information on using iPads. Participants were given the opportunity to explore apps, and teachers worked in small groups to develop and share lessons.

Dr. Karl White, the Director of the National Center for Hearing Assessment and Management gave two presentations focusing on early identification and intervention. An internationally known expert, Dr. White presented a historical perspective, citing the contributions of many “heroes”, among them Jean Sachar Moog.

Wendy Dyer, a marketing consultant, shared an overview with the whole group and then provided in-depth information for the directors and development staff.

Audiologists had an intensive program that included presentations by representatives of Cochlear Corporation, Advanced Bionics and the Moog Center pediatric audiology staff.

Participants had the opportunity to meet in interest groups, to explore current topics and share best practices. As one participant put it, "I took away a lot of ideas that I can use to improve my teaching."

After a full day of learning, Friday's evening activity provided a big dose of fun. Attendees participated in the Moog Center Murder Mystery Dinner Party, complete with gangsters, bootleggers and an array of other characters. It took some doing, but we eventually solved the mystery of *Bullets in the Bathtub!*

Jean Moog closed with an update on outcomes, the growth of the Certified Moog Programs, and their impact on the field. Everyone took pride in recognizing the contribution the Certified Moog Programs have made, collectively serving over 1200 families since their beginning in 1996. She concluded by looking ahead, "It's time to plan for the future."