



51ST ANNUAL
N4C CONFERENCE
AND PROFESSIONAL
INSTITUTE

PROGRAM GUIDE

March 23-25, 2023

JW Marriott • 614 Canal Street, New Orleans, LA

51ST ANNUAL N4C CONFERENCE AND PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTE

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Welcome to the 51st Annual NCCCC Conference and Professional Institute in lively and lovely New Orleans, Louisiana! After a three-year hiatus from gathering in person for this annual conference, it is wonderful to join together again with friends and colleagues, old and new. Whether this is your first time joining us or you are a long standing N4C member and conference attendee, we are so delighted you have taken this time to connect, learn, and fellowship with such a devoted, knowledgeable, and supportive group of professionals.

This conference and the wonderful work of the organization would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of the N4C Board of Directors. These are individuals just like you... program administrators, faculty, teachers, and practitioners working day in and day out and devoting some of their time to ensure we are able to gather at the annual conference, connect on monthly meet-ups, get the latest CCAMPIS support and information, and attract new members in order to grow the professional network that is the beautifully diverse fabric of N4C. To them, I say, "Thank you," and to you I say, "Consider getting more involved." There are many ways to get your feet wet and your hands dirty, so ask us how you can join a committee, serve on the board, or help in any way.

We sincerely hope that your time away from your day-to-day work is fulfilling in every way! Use this time to connect or reconnect, rejuvenate, and reflect. There are so many engaging and thought-provoking sessions to attend over the next few days that will grow you professionally and personally. We encourage you to take advantage of the intentionally planned times to strengthen your connections – sit with someone new at lunch, join a no-host dinner opportunity, and get to know a friendly face at the next coffee break. There is no doubt that you are in the company of good people...your people.

Enjoy and cheers to a fabulous conference,

Kelly Jamison

President, National Coalition for Campus Children's Centers



51ST ANNUAL

N4C CONFERENCE AND PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTE

PROGRAM
GUIDE

CONFERENCE-AT-A-GLANCE

WEDNESDAY MARCH 22, 2023

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Registration and Opening Reception

THURSDAY MARCH 23, 2023

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Coffee and Conversation + Exhibits

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. General Session/Keynote Speaker

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Workshops

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Lunch + Board, Exhibitor and
Sponsor Introduction

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Workshops

3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Workshops

5:30 p.m. No Host Dinners

FRIDAY MARCH 24, 2023

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Coffee and Conversation + Exhibits

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Workshops

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Workshops

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch + Awards

1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Workshops

2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Workshops

4:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Walking Tour

SATURDAY MARCH 25, 2023

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Coffee and Conversation + Exhibits

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Workshops

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Workshops

Mark Your Calendar for the 52ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTE

Keynote Sessions • Workshops • Tours

March 20-23,
2024

The Hyatt
Regency Salt
Lake City

170 South West Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah



CONFERENCE AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Registration and Reception*Ile de France Prefunction Hall*

Pick up your conference material and say “hello” to colleagues.

Board Members, Executive Director, Attendees, and Exhibitors

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Coffee and Conversation*Ile de France Prefunction Hall*

Greet your colleagues, board members, and exhibitors.

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

General Session*Ile De France Ballroom*

Growing Forward: REimagining Our Work with children and students by embracing lessons on resilience, reconnecting with our needs, revisiting our pedagogical roots, and redefining ourselves.

Michelle Rupiper, Ph.D.

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Creating the Three I's: An Interactive, Inclusive, and Interdisciplinary Environment for Pre-Service Students*Conde & Frontenac*

Faculty from across disciplines developed an interactive, inclusive, and interdisciplinary model classroom environment designed to support pre-service students within the early childhood, and early childhood special education field. This session will discuss how the team developed the idea, secured funding through an internal grant within our university, project objectives and the future of the model classroom.

Rebecca Crawford, Clinical Faculty at Eastern Kentucky University

Julie Rutland, Assistant Professor at Eastern Kentucky University

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023 (continued)

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Strategies to Engage Parenting Students and Encourage a Sense of Belonging*Maurepas*

ECE providers are a key support for parenting students.

Through collaboration, ECE providers can help parenting students feel like they belong at school. This presentation will review barriers, resources, and strategies for supporting parenting students.

Kalani M. Palmer, Ph.D., CFLE Associate Professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Reshaping the Look and Feel in ECE*Orleans & Rosalie*

We invite you to come discover how ECE leaders are being forced to change how they lead, who they view and cultivate into leaders, and the impacts these changes will have on our campuses and in our communities.

Kelly Jamison, Associate Director at the University of Florida

Dana Bush, Department Chair at Eastern Kentucky University

Stacey Smith-Clark, Director at Long Beach City College

Marisa Chin-Calubaquib at Stanford University

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Lunch*Ile De France Ballroom*

Lunch and Annual Meeting

Kelly Jamison, N4C Board President

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

You Are Never too Young to Learn*Conde & Frontenac*

Santa Fe, A.K.A. “The City Different,” brings to you a different kind of curriculum. Whether your students are under 6 months old or pushing 6 years, we present to you a one of a kind dual language program.

Nicholas Reilly, Assistant Director at Santa Fe Community College

Julie Nygen, Teacher, Santa Fe Community College

Paloma Solano, Teacher, Santa Fe Community College

Bianca Romero, Teacher, Santa Fe Community College

Rocio Rodriguez, Teacher Assistant, Santa Fe Community College

CONFERENCE AGENDA

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023 (continued)

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Strategies to Create a Welcoming, Engaging, and Inclusive School Environment*Maurepas*

This session highlights concepts and practices for engaging all families in an ECE community and lab school. Strategies to enhance and cultivate meaningful and trustworthy relationships will be shared, along with interactive and reflective activities.

Stacey Smith-Clark, Child Development Center Manager at Long Beach City College

Angelica Hernandez, Lead Teacher at Long Beach City College

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Kindergarten Readiness-A Community Conversation About Assessment Through Collaborative Vision*Orleans & Rosalie*

How do you define "Kindergarten Readiness"? A group of United Way volunteers set out to develop a universal tool for assessing overall readiness and created a successful community collaborative! In this session, you will learn about their efforts!

Holly Curtsinger, Director at Indiana State University

Krissie Pickering, ECED Program Chair at Ivy Tech Community College

3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Gardening Together: Building Community Connections and School Programs Through Environmental Education*Conde & Frontenac*

Hear how your center can use a garden space to grow relationships, funding, interdepartmental collaborations, and university-city goodwill as well as smiling faces, skills, awareness of nature, and meaningful careers.

Sylvia Kohn-Levitt, Associate Director of Environmental Education and Teaching Fellow at Brandeis University

Daria Bandini, Teacher at Lemberg Children's Center, Brandeis University

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023 (continued)

3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Design for Innovation: Sustainable Partnerships in Private/Public Collaborative Development Models*Maurepas*

This presentation will guide participants through the collaboration between a university CDC and an ECE materials and equipment design company. Explore examples of processes, products, and children's input in product design.

Cindy Gennarelli, Director, Early Childhood Innovation at William Paterson University

Gary Bilezikian, President, Guidecraft

3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Rediscovering the Roots of our Professional Development and Early Childhood Pedagogy*Orleans & Rosalie*

Consider coronavirus-endemic strategies for REconnecting with our individual and collective identities as early childhood educators, REflecting on what matters most for learners, and REfining program practices supporting belonging, enduring priorities, inquiry learning, and campus engagement.

Sharon M. Carver, Ph.D., Director at Carnegie Mellon University Children's School

Julie Sweet, Kindergarten Teacher at Carnegie Mellon University Children's School

5:30 p.m.

No Host Dinners*Ile De France Prefunction Hall*

Connect with board members and colleagues for an evening of good food and grand conversations. Meet in the reception/exhibitor area to join groups and then head out to the No Host dinners.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2023

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Coffee and Conversation*Ile De France Prefunction Hall*

Greet your colleagues, board members, and exhibitors.

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Strategies in Adopting and Implementing a New Curriculum in an Early Childhood Program

Conde & Frontenac

The wide range of curricula available to early childhood programs can be daunting when contemplating adopting a new curriculum. How do programs systematically review the current curriculum? What process leads early childhood programs to decide to shift curriculums? How does adoption occur? The presentation will share the perspectives of a practitioner in changing the curriculum used in the Ben and Maxine Miller Child Development Laboratory School. Highlights include the implementation framework, how it addressed and concerns of diverse stakeholders, and demonstrate how training and planning for professional development supported the process.

Elizabeth Schlesinger-Devlin, Director at Ben and Maxine Miller Child Development Laboratory School at Purdue University

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Do Covid Babies Talk Less*Maurepas*

Numerous studies have linked conversational turns to positive child outcomes. Independent research from LENA and Brown University have found babies born during the pandemic are vocalizing less and experiencing less interactive talk. We will explore early talk research and strategies for increasing interactions.

Colleen Tracy Haddad, LENA

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2023 (continued)

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Designing to Support Teacher Well-being and Reduce Turnover*Orleans & Rosalie*

Led by experienced designers, this session will discuss healthy early education workspaces and demonstrate a wide range of thoughtful design and renovation strategies to improve your teachers' well-being and workplace satisfaction.

Mike Lindstrom, AIA, LEED AP/Principal at studioMLA Architects

Joanne Hiromura, RLA, CPSI/Director of Landscape and Playscape Design

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Leadership in N4C: Board, Committee, and Member Engagement for a Vibrant and Relevant Organization

The work of N4C could not be made possible without the dedication and commitment from members just like YOU. Join us as we review the annual report from 2022 and discuss ways to engage members who are interested in furthering the mission of this organization.

Presenter: Kelly Jamison, N4C President of the Board of Directors

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

"It's So Hard to Say Goodbye" Supporting the Transition to Formal Schooling*Maurepas*

Transitioning from a play-based model to a formal school setting can be challenging for young children and families. We will share an overview of research findings and best practices for supporting during the transition.

Katie Swart, Ph.D. Assistant Professor at College of Charleston
Katie Houser, M.Ed., NBCT, Director of N.E. Miles Early

Childhood Program at College of Charleston
Kelley White, Ph.D., Professor at College of Charleston

CONFERENCE AGENDA

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2023 (continued)

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

**Creating a Shared Vision in a Changing Climate
Orleans & Rosalie**

Join us as we share one campus childcare program's journey to recreat(ing) a shared vision. This interactive session will include historical context and discuss leadership models and methods chosen to move forward in this work.
Berni Howe, Director at Kansas State University

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch and Recognition**Ile De France Ballroom**

*Kelly Jamison, N4C Board President, and Tonya Palla,
N4C Executive Director*

1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**A Family Affair: Developing a Family-Friendly Campus
for Our Pregnant and Parenting Students****Conde & Frontenac**

The presenters of this session will share their journey in exploring the 2GenEd model, the family friendly campus, and the challenges and strengths of parenting students.
*Ann Reynolds, CCAMPIS Advisor at Mount Wachusett
Community College*
*Sara Leopaldi, Parenting Student at Mount Wachusett
Community College*

1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**"For Brain's Sake": Promoting Safety, Connection and
Problem Solving in Early Learning****Maurepas**

This is an engaging session to REcharge participants in demonstration and discussion on how learning feels safe, keeps us connected and leads to solving problems in early childhood conflicts...For Brain's Sake!
Kenedria Thurman, Director at Florida A&M University
*Myara Jefferson, Child Care Program Specialist at
Florida A&M University*
*Brittany Highley, Office Administrator at Florida A&M
University*

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2023 (continued)

1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**Nature Play and Aesthetics: Organic Pathways for
Holistic Learning****Orleans & Rosalie**

In the face of learning loss worries from the pandemic, educators must be able to discuss holistic benefits of nature play and aesthetics that cultivate dispositions for life long learning like curiosity, wonder and creativity.
*Marisa S. Chin-Calubaquib, Teacher, Bing Nursery School,
Stanford University*

2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Re-connecting Children with Nature. The Ephemeral
Arts and Loose Parts Project: An Authentic Integrated
Curriculum Approach****Conde & Frontenac**

The facilitators will discuss their multifaceted, inclusive professional development workshop approach while working with teachers and children from campus-based child development centers, and public and private preschool programs. Teacher participants designed and implemented investigative studies using ephemeral art experiences as their topic.
*Cindy Gennarelli, M.Ed., Director Early Childhood Innovation at
William Paterson University*
*Ronni Mendez, M.Ed., Instructional Coach William Paterson
University Child Development Campus*

2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Adulting is Hard! Let's Play and Laissez Les Bons
Temps Rouler!****Maurepas**

Discover how adults can bring the "joie de vivre" back into their program. Discuss how to play together to increase a sense of community amongst the staff while increasing staff morale. Engage in fun activities!
*Mary Sciaraffa, Ph.D., CFLE Professor, Eastern Kentucky
University*
*Janet Whalen Couch, M.Ed, Executive Director, Campus Center
for Young Children, Goshen College*

CONFERENCE AGENDA

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2023 (continued)

2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Using Reflective Supervision and Counseling as a Foundation for Mentoring to Build Sustainability
Orleans & Rosalie

Reflective supervision and consultation (RSC) is a critical component of a high-quality childcare program. RSC enhances the emotional responsiveness in the classroom and the mental health of children, teachers, and administrators.

Amanda Osbourne, Director at Little Buccaneers Early Childhood Center at East Tennessee State University

4:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

N4C NOLA Walking Tour & Spatial Mindfulness Workshop*Ile De France Prefunction Hall*

Visit a sampling of NOLA's indoor and outdoor spaces to better understand their spatial and sensory qualities and how environments impact our wellbeing and effectiveness. Think creatively about how space can affect your educational and workplace environments and if your schedule permits, join us afterwards for more discussion and information about New Orleans' Architectural heritage.

Mile Lindstrom

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Coffee and Conversation*Ile De France Prefunction Hall*

Certificates of Attendance will be available at the registration desk at 11:45 a.m.

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

STEM Internship Collaboration: Designing Learning Experiences that Work for Everyone*Conde & Frontenac*

Let's talk about collaboration for student learning! Come learn about Baby Gator's approach to developing a new STEM practicum experience that worked for everyone. Share your experiences and gain new ideas to take back to your center.

Dawne Morison, Assistant Director at Baby Gator Child Development and Research Center at the University of Florida
Stacy Ellis, Director, at Baby Gator Child Development and Research Center at the University of Florida

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023 (continued)

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

The Benefits of the CCAMPIS Grant
Maurepas

If you are thinking of applying for the CCAMPIS grant, have just started a new CCAMPIS grant or have worked with CCAMPIS for many years, this presentation can help you understand the variety of programs supported by CCAMPIS and how funding may be utilized to support your program. CCAMPIS supports any program whose mission is to provide high-quality childcare services for students/parents and their families so that students can enroll, persist and graduate from their institution. If your institution has an individual center, multiple centers, family childcare homes, special needs programs, or off-campus care, CCAMPIS can fit!

Cecilia Scott Croff at the Borough of Manhattan Community College

Cecilia G. Villagran at South Texas College

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

The Administrator's Toolbox: Essential Skills for Reflective Leadership
Orleans & Rosalie

Participants will explore strategies for self-reflection and identify the important interpersonal skills they already possess. They will determine areas for self-growth and explore ways to integrate new skills into their professional interactions.

Amy Bryan, Associate Professor in HDFS, Priscilla Pond Flawn Child & Family Laboratory at the University of Texas, Austin

Amy Kay, Clinical Associate Professor in HDFS, Director of the Child Care Center at the University of Georgia

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Learning Through Doing: Involving College Students in Campus-Based Child Development Programs*Conde & Frontenac*

Learn how child and family studies students maximized learning through a campus student organization. By capitalizing on volunteer opportunities, students participated in informal activities with teachers, children, and families in a campus-based child development center.

Meg Gravid, Ph.D., Assistant Professor Eastern Kentucky University

Rebecca Crawford, Ph.D., Clinical Assistant Professor at Eastern Kentucky University

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CONFERENCE AGENDA

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023 (continued)

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Volunteers-The Wheres, Whys, Whats, and Hows *Maurepas*

This workshop is to share strategies on how to recruit, develop, and retain volunteers (both individuals and groups with a campus focus) to work with your program.

Danielle Waite, Ph.D., Director at the University of California, Merced

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Coaching Teachers with Learning Stories *Orleans & Rosalie*

Learning Stories can be a wonderful tool for supporting teacher development. In this session, leaders and coaches will learn how to use Learning Stories as a guide for supporting reflective practice and bolstering teaching strategies.

Julia Koumbassa, Director of Professional Development, Learning Story Academy

2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPONSORS

The National Coalition for Campus Children's Centers would like to sincerely thank the exhibitors and sponsors of the 51st Annual Conference. Their continued support of the early childhood education field in general, and of N4C specifically, is recognized and appreciated.



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2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS

Community Playthings
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N4C CONFERENCE AND PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTE

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Daria Bandini

Daria Bandini Graduated from Boston College with a B.A. in Social Sciences and has been a teacher in early childhood education for over 6 years. She has worked in different classrooms over the years including mixed-aged infants and toddlers, Pre-Kindergarten, and now older toddlers. After starting at Lemberg in June, Daria noticed and respected the amazing benefits that the outdoor learning environment has to offer. And after only a few months, she has seen this amazing program affect the children in such a positive way. She enjoys the learning that is so obviously present with the children in the space and cannot wait to continue incorporating it into her classroom throughout the year and through different seasons.

Gary Bilezikian

Gary Bilezikian is the president of Guidecraft, a company focused on design for early childhood education. He is a graduate of Pratt Institute with his BFA in fine arts and arts in education. He worked for the New York City Board of Education developing arts in education programs and teaching design on the high school level and is a children's book author/illustrator. In his current role manages the design, supply chain, and compliance of ECE equipment and materials.

Amy Bryan

Amy Bryan holds a bachelor's degree in Applied Learning and Development, a master's degree in Clinical Social Work, and a doctorate in Human Development and Family Sciences. She has enjoyed successful careers in teaching, school counseling, and social work. Amy has taught a variety of undergraduate courses in Human Development and Family Sciences. In addition to serving as the director of the Priscilla Pond Flawn Child and Family Laboratory at the University of Texas at Austin, she is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Registered Play Therapist, and clinical supervisor in private practice. Her research and clinical interests include early childhood development, education, and mental health—especially understanding and strengthening caregiver-child relationships.

Sharon M. Carver, Ph.D.

Sharon M. Carver, Ph.D., has been the Director of the Carnegie Mellon University Children's School for nearly 30 years. She earned an A.B. in Psychology and completed the K-12 Biology Teacher Certification Program at Princeton University and then earned a Ph.D. in child development at Carnegie Mellon. She taught in the Graduate School of Education and the Department of Psychology at the University of Rochester for five years before returning to Carnegie Mellon.

Since coming to the Children's School, Sharon has worked with educators to strengthen our school's programs, integrate the school more fully into the university, and build strong connections between laboratory schools in Pittsburgh and beyond. Dr. Carver is also a full teaching professor in the Department of Psychology and the Associate Dean for Educational Affairs in the Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Marisa S. Chin-Calubaquib

Marisa S. Chin-Calubaquib has contributed enthusiastically to the field of Early Childhood Education for over 30 years. Currently a teacher and resource specialist at Bing Nursery School at Stanford University, she has also supported teachers in their life-long learning by instructing graduate students, mentoring pre-service teachers in the field, conducting research, as well as regularly presenting at both national and international conferences. The wide range of topics that Marisa has explored, investigated, and presented include anti-bias and anti-racist education, education for sustainability, play schemas and loose parts, fostering LGBTQ-inclusive programs, aesthetic inquiries with young children, inter-university collaborations, and reconceptualizing early childhood teacher education. Marisa has also served on the board of directors and executive board of an early childhood professional organization since 2017, working directly with other teachers, administrators, and professors from programs around the country.

N4C CONFERENCE AND PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTE

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Rebecca Crawford, Ph.D.

Dr. Rebecca Crawford is Clinical Faculty in the College of Education and Applied Human Sciences at Eastern Kentucky University. She previously served in roles as a preschool teacher, including Head Start, public preschool, and university lab school, and director of a university lab school. In her current role, Dr. Crawford primarily works with Child Development and Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education students and helps to prepare them for their careers. Her interests are: assessment of young children, coaching, mentorship & professional development, social media influence on young children, and inclusion of all children.

Holly Curtsinger

Holly Curtsinger is the Director of the Early Childhood Education Center at Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN. A former preschool teacher and children's librarian, Curtsinger has served children and families in various capacities for over 20 years. Curtsinger holds an AS in Early Childhood Education from Harford Community College, Bel Air, MD, a BS from Indiana University, an MLS from Indiana University, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction with an area of concentration in Early Childhood Education from Indiana State University. Curtsinger is the mother of 9-year-old twins. She has been a member of the United Way of the Wabash Valley's Success by 6 Community Impact Council since 2009.

Stacy Ellis

Stacy Ellis, Director, received her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education from the University of Florida in 2008. She has worked with young children and early educators in the child care, public school, and non-profit sectors for over 25 years. Currently, Dr. Ellis is the Director of the three Baby Gator Child Development and Research Centers at the University of Florida and is responsible for the operations of the centers, grant writing, center collaborations, and renovation and construction. Her interests include teacher training and development, mentoring and practice-based coaching, professionalization of the field (increased teacher qualifications and compensation), and multi-disciplinary collaboration.

Cindy Gennarelli M.Ed.

Cindy Gennarelli M.Ed. is the former director of a NAEYC accredited campus-based child development center. She has been an adjunct professor since 2001 teaching P-3 undergraduate, alternate route, and masters courses. She is the director of Early Childhood Innovation and the EC Professional Development Schools partnership program at a university. She has presented at local, state, and national conferences on topics around curriculum, standards, STEM, 21st-century learning, and documentation. She has authored/co-authored several early childhood articles.

Meg Gravil, Ph.D.

Dr. Meg Gravil is an Assistant Professor of Child and Family Studies in the College of Education and Applied Human Sciences at Eastern Kentucky University. She has many years of experience in early childhood education research and evaluation, primarily focusing on program quality, child outcomes, teacher-child interactions, and nature-based learning in formal and informal learning environments. Dr. Gravil is a Master Environmental Educator and advocates for play in early learning environments.

Colleen Haddad

Colleen Haddad is a LENA Advisor for Child Care Strategy and Special Projects. With over 30 years of experience in early care and education. She is dedicated to advancing quality early learning environments and positive child outcomes. Her roles have included educator, university child development center director, nonprofit administrator, adjunct faculty, PD specialist, coach, and accreditation specialist. Colleen earned a bachelor's degree in child development and a master's degree in early childhood education with a special education endorsement from Florida State University. Colleen has presented at both regional and national conferences throughout her career, including presenting Do Covid Babies Talk Less at multiple conferences this year. Colleen has also presented at previous NCCCC conferences on continuous quality improvement processes and National Accreditation Commission.

N4C CONFERENCE AND PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTE

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Julie Harp Rutland, Ph.D.

Julie Harp Rutland, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the College of Education and Applied Human Sciences at Eastern Kentucky University. Dr. Rutland has experience in many roles, including that of a teacher, administrator, researcher, and early interventionist working directly with young children and their families. She has authored chapters, and articles, and presents at a variety of venues including state and international conferences annually, with a focus on early intervention, sibling intervention, and working with families. In addition to her professional experiences, Dr. Rutland is a parent of 4 children, with one having multiple disabilities. The combination of these experiences has provided a unique lens in which Dr. Rutland views early childhood education.

Angelica Hernandez

Angelica Hernandez has been a preschool educator for 17 years, 12 of those at Long Beach City College Child Development Center and Learning Lab. Angelica is bilingual in Spanish and English and has presented workshops and orientations for students, educators, and families. Angelica maintains a Child Development Site Supervisor Permit through the CA Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Angelica earned her Associate of Arts Degree from Long Beach City College with a specialization in Infants and Toddlers and is finishing up her degree in Child and Family Studies from Eastern Kentucky University. Angelica was named LAUP (Child 360) 2017 Educator of the Year and serves on various committees.

Ms. Highley

Ms. Highley is a parent of two young children, that attend the center and practice the presentation strategies in their home environment. She has been the office administrator for almost 5 years, motivating school business efficiency and parent engagement. Ms. Thurman, Ms. Jefferson and Ms. Highley have presented to national early childhood audiences including administration, faculty, staff and children.

Joanne Hiromura, RLA, CPSI

As Director of Landscape and Outdoor Playscape Design, Joanne Hiromura, RLA, CPSI, is responsible for the full range of landscape architectural services in the design of outdoor environments for people of all ages. Her work focuses on designing play, including designing play for special populations through therapeutic and sensory garden spaces. Her broad portfolio of design work includes outdoor play and recreation spaces in public parks, schools, childcare centers, numerous nonprofit institutions, and zoos. Joanne enjoys designing for dynamic urban and campus settings as well as smaller, more natural play areas.

Katie Houser, M.Ed. NBCT

Katie Houser, M.Ed. NBCT is the Director of the N.E. Miles Early Childhood Development Center at the College of Charleston. She has an M.Ed. in Special Education with a concentration in teaching students with Emotional Disabilities as well as an M.Ed. in Administration and Supervision. Mrs. Houser has a passion for student-led learning and believes in building a positive classroom environment that encourages inquiry, language, and curiosity.

Berni Howe

Berni Howe holds a Bachelor of Science in Education and Human Sciences (Child Development) from the University of Nebraska and a Master of Science in Family Studies and Human Services (Early Childhood Education) from Kansas State University. In her 20-year career, she has held roles as a classroom teacher, administrator, training, and technical assistance specialist. Currently, she serves as the Director of the K-State Center for Child Development.

Kelly Jamison

Kelly Jamison is the Associate Director of the Baby Gator Child Development and Research Center at the University of Florida where she oversees each of the three center directors and deals with staffing, professional development, and curriculum. Kelly holds a Master of Science degree in Health Education and Behavior and has worked with young children, in various capacities, for over 20 years. Kelly has experience as a teacher, health educator, and center director in Early Childhood Education and has presented at local and national conferences on leadership, staff development, and program administration.

N4C CONFERENCE AND PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTE

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Ms. Jefferson

Ms. Jefferson has been a lead teacher at FAMU for nearly 7 years and holds an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education. She has provided early childhood stakeholders with engagement and information, as well as organized the center's Conscious Discipline Action Team, driving success in many elements of childcare.

Amy Kay

Amy Kay holds a Bachelor's degree in Child and Family Development/Early Childhood Education, a Master's degree in Elementary Education, and a Doctorate in Language and Literacy Education. After an educational career teaching PreK and Kindergarten in the Clarke County School District, she entered into administration as the Director of the Child Development Lab at the McPhaul Center at the University of Georgia. She has been in this role and on the faculty of the Department of Human Development and Family Science for over 17 years.

Dana Keller Bush, Ph.D.

Dr. Dana Keller Bush is the Chair of the Department of Applied Human Sciences in the College of Education and Applied Human Sciences at Eastern Kentucky University and is a Professor of Child and Family Studies. She holds a B.S. in Child and Family Studies from Eastern Kentucky University, an M.S. in Family Studies, Early Childhood Education, and a Ph.D. in Studies of Higher Education from The University of Kentucky. She has presented nationally and internationally on topics of curriculum development and leadership.

Sylvia Kohn-Levitt

Sylvia Kohn-Levitt graduated from Brandeis University in 2020 with a BS in Health, Science, Society, and Policy, where she studied both biology and social sciences. She is currently enrolled in the Bank Street College of Education's Learning and Engagement in Museums and Cultural Organizations program and expects to graduate with an M.S.Ed in 2024. Her work in studying natural sciences has been helpful in providing scientific explanations to children in the garden, and her work with young children in the classroom and volunteering at community gardens has helped in following children's cues to create spaces where the children feel comfortable and excited to ask questions about everything they see in the garden. She has worked at Lemberg since May of 2021 and was trained by Janet Fuchs, who wrote our Environmental Education Curriculum.

Julia Koumbassa, M.Ed.

Julia Koumbassa, M.Ed. has been working in the field of Early Childhood Education for 25 years, wearing many hats that include teacher, director, parent educator, and adjunct faculty. Before recently becoming the Director of Professional Development for the Learning Story academy, Julia spent the last 15 years leading campus-based children's centers. Julia has a passion for Learning Stories and has visited Aotearoa New Zealand twice to study their exemplary approaches to early childhood education.

Sara Leopaldi

Sara Leopaldi is a current parenting student at MWCC. Sara is in her second year of her Early Childhood Education Associates Degree and has grown a passion for working with her fellow students, through a 2GenEd approach. She applies what she learns from her courses when working in the Family Resource Center.

Mike Lindstrom, AIA, LEED AP

As the founding principal of studioMLA Architects, Michael Lindstrom, AIA, LEED AP, is a leader in the design of play and learning environments for children. With more than thirty years in this field, Mike has extensive experience with the complex design, regulatory, and construction processes inherent in creating exceptional space for children. He has had tremendous success engaging organizations and their stakeholders—including staff, parents, children, board members, service providers, donors, and funders—in the design process.

Kelley Mayer White, Ph.D.

Kelley Mayer White, Ph.D. is a professor at the College of Charleston in the department of Teacher Education. She completed her doctoral work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in Early Childhood, Families, and Literacy. Her research interests include teacher-child relationships and children's early literacy development. Prior to graduate school, she spent time teaching kindergarten in public schools outside of Washington, D.C.

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CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Ronni Mendez M.Ed.

Ronni Mendez M.Ed. is the instructional coach at the William Paterson University campus-based child development center and an adjunct professor teaching undergraduate education courses. Ronni has 15 years of experience in EC including teaching and coaching. She has presented at local, state, and national conferences on topics around visual-spatial awareness, curriculum, and sensory exploration

Dawne Morison

Dawne Morison is an Assistant Director for Administration & Research, Diamond Village. Dawne Morison joined Baby Gator in November 2018. She holds an M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education and a B.A. in English and Elementary Education. Dawne has worked with babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and school-aged children for more than 15 years as a teacher and early childhood facility owner/director. She is passionate about nurturing and educating young children about supporting parents as well.

Julie Nygren

Julie Nygren graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stout (UW-Stout) with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and then a Master of Arts from New Jersey City University (NJCU) in Elementary Education. Julie has been teaching professionally for sixteen years and is the lead teacher of our younger Mixed Pre-K classroom (ages 3-4).

Amanda Osborne

Amanda Osborne holds a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education with 9 years of experience. She has worked in the classroom with infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children and currently serves as the Director of East Tennessee State University's Little Buccaneers Early Childhood Learning Program. Amanda facilitates the program's collaboration with the Early Childhood Department by serving as a model and professional preparation site for individuals working with young children. The program employs students studying in various areas: Graduate Assistants, Work Study, and Academic Performance Scholarship recipients are employed as co-teachers and teacher assistants.

Kalani M. Palmer

Kalani M. Palmer is an associate professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) in the Professional Studies in Education department. She is an applied researcher and evaluator with experience in clinical settings, classroom settings, as well as nonprofit youth- and family-serving organizations. She is the project director for the federally funded program, Child Care Access Means Parents In School (CCAMPIS) at IUP, which supports student-parent enrollment, retention, persistence, and graduation. She teaches courses on development, learning, family, leadership, poverty, collaboration, and human service administration. Dr. Palmer received a BA in Art/Art Education from Carlow College, a small private school in Pittsburgh, PA. She holds an MS in Applied Developmental Psychology with a concentration in Program Design and Evaluation from the University of Pittsburgh. She received her Ph.D. in Applied Developmental Psychology from the University of Pittsburgh. She is also a certified family life educator (CFLE) (full status), a credential awarded by the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR).

Krissie Pickering

Krissie Pickering is the Early Childhood Education Department Chair at Ivy Tech Community College, Terre Haute, IN. Pickering holds a BS in Early Childhood Education with Kindergarten and MIMH endorsements from Saint Mary of the Woods College. Additionally, she holds a MED in Curriculum and Instruction with an area of emphasis on Early Childhood Education from Indiana Wesleyan University. Pickering has been a member of the United Way of the Wabash Valley's Success by 6 Community Impact Council since 2013.

Nicholas Reilly

Nicholas Reilly professionally taught for twelve years at Kids Campus before stepping into administration. Six of those twelve years were from running our Pre-K classroom (ages 4-5) as the lead teacher before becoming Assistant Director. Nick holds a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Multicultural Education (age 3 through 3rd grade) from New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU). Nick is considering the pursuit of a Master's Degree in either Educational Leadership or Curriculum & Instruction, also from NMHU.

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CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Ann Reynolds, MS CRC

Ann Reynolds, MS CRC, has worked with pregnant and parenting students at Mount Wachusett Community College for eight years. She oversees the CCAMPIS program at MWCC, and over the years has built strong partnerships with her CCAMPIS colleagues across the country. Ann has presented at several conferences, sharing her knowledge of working with this rapidly growing population.

Rocio Rodriguez

Rocio Rodriguez is a teacher assistant, representing one of our two infant classrooms. Rocio graduated in 2020 with her certificate in Early Childhood Education and is planning on graduating with her Associate of Arts in Early Childhood Multicultural Education by the end of this year.

Bianca Romero

Bianca Romero has been teaching at Kids Campus for over three years where she is working on her Associate of Arts in Early Childhood Multicultural Education through Santa Fe Community College (SFCC). Bianca currently runs our Late 2's classroom.

Elizabeth Schlesinger-Devlin, Ed.D.

Elizabeth Schlesinger-Devlin, Ed.D. is the Director of the Ben and Maxine Miller Child Development Laboratory School. Elizabeth has been in the early childhood field for over twenty-five years. She is a practitioner in the field and as the Director of MCDLS her role is to maintain the day-to-day program, facilitate research within the lab school, and most recently implemented the new Early Learning Matters (ELM) curriculum. Elizabeth's background is as an early childhood teacher, earning her master's degree in the field with distinction, then earning her doctorate with distinction in Instructional Leadership specifically researching the complexities of early childhood curriculum development which include professional development, teacher training, authentic assessment in both children and teachers, mentoring and coaching pre-service teachers in the lab school and guiding developmentally appropriate practices in a research/lab early childhood program.

Michelle Rupiper, Ph.D.

Dr. Michelle Rupiper retired from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she worked for 25 years to develop well-prepared, competent teachers who understand how children learn and are equipped to meet their needs. She has served as a classroom teacher for infants through school-aged children as well as directed community-

based programs. Her belief that children deserve the best education opportunities possible has resulted in her conducting numerous national, regional, and state presentations as well as presentations in Kenya, Mongolia, Thailand, Bahrain, Australia, Qatar, Turkey, and China. She has co-authored three books: *Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum in Action* (2014), *Guiding Children's Social Development and Learning*, 9th ed. (2018), and *Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum: Best Practices in Early Childhood Education*, 7th ed. (2019). Michelle also enjoys spending time in nature, children's literature, travel, and spending as much time as possible with her grandson Tristan and her granddaughter Elise.

Mary Sciaraffa, Ph.D.

Dr. Mary Sciaraffa is a Professor of Child and Family Studies at Eastern Kentucky University. She holds a doctorate degree in Curriculum & Instruction from Louisiana State University. She is also a Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) through the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR). She has worked in several different capacities, which have allowed her to work with both young children and adults. She was an N4C board member for over 10 years and was the director of the LSU Child Care Center. It has always been her professional goal to offer adult students a quality education and thus improve the quality of life for individuals and families. She has presented within a variety of venues with a variety of audiences and has been published in peer-reviewed professional journals, textbooks, and practitioner's books.

Cecilia Scott Croff, Ph.D.

Dr. Cecilia Scott-Croff is a member of the N4C board, the Executive Director of the Board of Manhattan Community College Early Childhood Center, and the President of the New York Association for the Education of Young Children. Her program has been able to successfully apply and receive a CCAMPIS grant since its inception.

Stacey Smith-Clark

Stacey Smith-Clark has worked in the field of early childhood education for over 30 years, spending the last two decades working as a program administrator in campus-based children's programs. She is in charge of the daily operations and management of the Long Beach City College Child Development Center and Lab School in Long Beach, CA, which serves over 150 children and families per year and is a training facility for future educators, nurses, and social workers. She has taught college-level courses on Anti-

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CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Bias Education and Special Education through the Child Development and Educational Studies Department. Stacey earned her Bachelor's Degree in Human Development with a specialization in Social Change and Community Engagement at Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena, CA. She earned her Master's Degree in Human Development with specializations in Anti-Bias Education, Leadership in Education, and Infant and Toddler Development. Stacey is a past President of the National Coalition for Campus Children's Centers and serves as a committee member with various organizations, including the Long Beach Early Childhood Education Committee, CA. Early Childhood Mentor Program, Long Beach Early Intervention Council, and with Long Beach City College Asian Pacific Islander Desi committee.

Paloma Solano

Paloma Solano is our lead toddler teacher with more than ten years of experience in early childhood. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and is currently in the Santa Fe Community College (SFCC) Academic Teacher Licensure Program for early childhood.

Katie Swart, Ph.D.

Katie Swart, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor at the College of Charleston in the Department of Teacher Education. She completed her doctoral work at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Her research interests include the importance of social-emotional learning (SEL) and play for early learning (for ALL children) and building relationships through family engagement.

Julie Sweet

Julie Sweet is entering her third year as a teacher at The Children's School and is a member of the Kindergarten Team. Prior to working at the Children's School, Julie taught for seven years in pre-K and kindergarten enrichment programs in the South Hills of Pittsburgh. Julie is a graduate of Miami University in Ohio with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mass Communications. She had a 15-year career in advertising before returning to school at Robert Morris University in 2013 to pursue a Pennsylvania teaching certification in PreK-4th grade, which she received in January 2017.

Kenedria Thurman

Kenedria Thurman, the lead presenter, is a seasoned N4C conference presenter, both in person and virtually. She holds a Masters's Degree in Brain-Based Teaching and Learning from Nova Southeastern University and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Florida A&M University.

Cecilia Villagran

Cecilia Villagran holds the position of Child Care Services Developer at South Texas College. She holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration/Marketing from the University of Texas-Pan American. She has been with South Texas College for 22 years and has served as CCAMPIS grant director under the Child Care and Early Childhood Department for the last 18 years. She assisted the department with the creation of the first on-campus child development center/lab school. The child development center celebrated its 15th anniversary in 2022 and is the only nationally accredited center in the college's two county service districts. Ms. Villagran coordinates student/parent CCAMPIS awards, provides academic support for student/parents, and organizes parent involvement opportunities. Ms. Villagran has also written several grants that support the child development center and department.

Danielle Waite, Ed.D.

Danielle Waite, Ed.D. has been the Director of the University of California Merced Early Childhood Education program since before the building was completed in 2009. Over the last 13 years, Dr. Waite has developed a robust volunteer program that enhances the educational, social, and cultural experiences of the children enrolled. Unfortunately, COVID interrupted both the program services for almost a year and as of Fall 2023, the volunteers are BACK! She has worked diligently to engage individuals, groups, and clubs and hopes to expand that net even further.

Janet Whalen Couch

Janet Whalen Couch has a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Western Michigan University. She has over 30 years of experience in Early Childhood Education. As an Early Childhood Administrator, she understands the importance of motivating staff. Janet's passion for doing what is best for children is evidenced by the success of the Campus Center for Young Children at Goshen College. Janet also teaches undergraduates at Ivy Tech Community College.

2023 AWARDS AND GRANTS WINNERS

*Congratulations to the recipients
of the 2023 Awards and Grants!*

The Ambassador Award

Katie Houser

College of Charleston,
N.E. Miles Early Childhood Development Center

Early Childhood Champion

Katheryn Wood

Lane Community College,
Child and Family Center

Rising Star

Tiffany Cozard

Fort Lewis College,
Campbell Child and Family Center

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Jamie Dice Moore, M.Sc., Ph.D. (Incoming July 2023)

2023 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The National Coalition for Campus Children's Center's Board of Directors, Members and Conference Attendees, would like to sincerely thank the Conference Committee for their dedication and hard work. Your efforts are appreciated!

Brett Copeland, Central Georgia Technical College, Chairperson

Becky Helf, University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point

Birgit Monks, Union Institute and University

Linda Reichert, Pennsylvania College of Technology

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University of Florida
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