

Subject:

NCE Newsletter Fall 2024

NCE Quarterly Newsletter



**NATIONAL LOUIS
UNIVERSITY**
National College
of Education™

Fall 2024

Dean's Letter

Dear NLU Community,

Welcome to the fall term! As we begin this new academic year, I'm excited about the opportunities ahead and the continued growth of our programs. Below are three key initiatives the college will focus on this year:

Service Excellence

Our commitment to Service Excellence remains at the heart of everything we do. By emphasizing social-emotional support for our students, fostering team collaboration, and modeling best practices, we aim to enhance the student experience and establish a culture of service excellence in every aspect of university life. This initiative leverages the collective expertise of our faculty and staff, ensuring that our commitment to service is evident in every interaction, both inside and outside the classroom.

Enrollment, Persistence, Graduation, and Sustained Employment

Our New Teacher Induction Program continues to thrive, and we are pleased to welcome a new cohort this fall. This no-cost program, designed for first and second-year NLU graduate teachers, provides ongoing peer support, problem-solving opportunities, and access to learning modules. This year, we are excited to add 1:1 mentoring and school visits, offering participants even more hands-on guidance and real-world experience. The program's success speaks to our commitment to supporting our graduates as they transition into their professional careers.

Leveraging Generative AI

NCE faculty recognize the potential of Generative AI in transforming how we teach and learn. While we embrace technological advances, we also ensure they are used thoughtfully. AI can help us identify efficiencies and improve learning outcomes, but applying this technology through the lens of equity and inclusion is crucial. I'm proud to share that our faculty are actively engaged in professional development around AI in education, with some leveraging their skills to position themselves as experts in the field. By thoughtfully integrating AI, we can close learning gaps and equip our students with the tools they need to succeed.

As we move forward, I encourage each of you to continue to foster an environment of collaboration, support, and growth. I look forward to this academic year and continue to feel fortunate that at the National College of Education, we get to be a part of the preparation and support of tomorrow's educators.

Thank you for your dedication to NLU,

Carolyn Theard-Griggs

Carolyn Theard-Griggs, Ed.D.
Dean, National College of Education

What's New

Tutoring Partnerships Continue to Expand

NLU is excited to announce a new partnership with **Pear Deck Tutoring**, a fully remote tutoring service. Pear Deck offers tutoring across all subjects, from K-12 to higher education. With this partnership, NLU now offers six paid and volunteer tutoring options, allowing out graduate and undergraduate students to earn extra income while gaining valuable, hands-on experience in their field.

Faculty Recognition

Nominated by the NLU community, three NCE faculty members received Faculty Excellence Awards at the 2024 National Louis University Connections. Congratulations to **Dr. Carla Sparks**, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership and Director of Florida Regional Center, who was honored with the Excellence in Teaching Award. **Dr. Kristin Lems**, Professor in ESL Bilingual Education, was honored with the Excellence in Service and Engagement Award. **Dr. Xiaoning Chen**, Associate Professor in ESL Bilingual Education, was honored with the Excellence in Inquiry Award.



Thought Leadership

Publications

The book "[Transforming Educator Preparation for Changing Times](#)," has been published. Edited by former NCE Dean Robert Muller, it features chapters authored by 34 NLU faculty and staff. The book explores how teacher preparation, educator advancement, and leadership development programs have adapted to meet the needs of contemporary schools. This timely work addresses the significant challenges facing the nation's teacher and education leader preparation pipeline and underscores the crucial role of colleges of education.

Assistant Professor **Shannon Hammond** published "[Guest Editorial: The Power of the Science of Behavior in Today's Literacy Crisis](#)" in *Behavior and Social Issues*, Volume 33, Issue 1.

Associate Professor **Gloria McDaniel-Hall** co-authored a chapter titled "Critical Race Theory in Education: The Hero's Journey" in the book [Resisting Divide-and-Conquer Strategies in Education: Pathways and Possibilities](#).

Assistant Professor **Emily Brown Hoffman** co-authored the book [Emergent Literacy in Early Childhood](#), published by The Goodheart-Willcox Company. The book provides up-to-date research on how children learn to read, write, and speak from birth through age five.

Associate Professor **Mary Hoch** co-authored "[Re-Centering Students and Teachers: Voices from Literacy Clinics](#)" in *The Reading Teacher*, Volume 78, Issue 2.

Associate Professor **Mary Hoch** and Adjunct Faculty **Michelle Fry** published the article "[Self-Perceptions on Efficacy in Reading Teacher Education: A Case Study in an Online Literacy Clinic](#)" in *The Reading Professor*, Volume 47, Issue 1.



Presentations

Associate Professor **Leslie Katch** presented "The Infant Crying and Parent Well-Being Screening Tool: Clinical Implementation Results" at NRCEC, the [National Research Conference on Early Childhood](#), hosted by the Administration for Children and Families in Arlington, VA.

Assistant Professor **Molly Buren** presented "Empowered Partnerships: Cultivating Effective Collaboration with Diverse Caregivers" at the Division of International Special Education and Services (DISES) International Conference held in Panama City, Panama.

Professor **Kristin Lems** presented at two conferences in the Netherlands. The poster session, "Orthography in English Learner Reading Comprehension," was presented at [Highlights in the Language Sciences Conference](#) at Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands. "Multimodal Expression Increases Student Engagement: Artistic and Digital Tools" was presented at the [Thirty-First International Conference on Learning](#) at Utrecht University.

Associate Professor **Jason Stegemoller** presented "Shaping Linguistic Landscapes to Foster Belonging at Hispanic-Serving Institutions" at [Linguistic Landscape 15](#) held in Wellington, New Zealand.

Associate Professor **Eun Kyung Ko** presented a poster and a workshop at the [2024 Noyce Summit](#), themed *Preparing and Retaining a Skilled and Compassionate STEM Teacher Workforce for High-Need Schools*, in Washington, DC.

Associate Professor **Jack Denny**, Associate Professor **Angela Elkordy**, Associate Professor **Donna Wakefield**, Professor **Ayn Keneman**, and Associate Professor **Stuart Carrier** presented "[How do Educators Use Generative AI for Teaching and Learning \(Higher Ed\)?](#)" at the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) [ISTELive 24](#) in Denver, CO.

Associate Professor **Renee Gugel** was one of two panelists for *EdWeek's* summer virtual professional development, "[Principals, Lead Stronger in the New School Year.](#)"

Reading Recovery Center for Literacy members recently presented at the 2024 Teacher Leader Institute in Palm Springs, CA.

- First Year Teacher Leader's Summit: **Tracee Farmer** and **Dana Hagerman**
- Supporting Attention and Flexibility Across the Lesson: **Connie Obrochta** and **Dana Hagerman**
- General Session 2 - Reading Recovery Updates: **Tracee Farmer**
- General Session 4 - IDEC (International Data Evaluation Center) Update: **Tracee Farmer**

In the Field

Associate Professor **Todd Price** participated in the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) [2024 Washington Week](#) in Washington, DC. During Washington Week, members advocated on behalf of professional teacher preparation and met with legislators around important issues, including the longstanding need to reauthorize the Higher Education Act and Title II Teacher Preparation.

Professor and Board Member of El Valor **Ayn Keneman**, Associate Professor **Leslie Katch**, UGC Director of Jumpstart and Associate Board Member of El Valor **Brisa Garcia**, and College Relationship Manager **Anna Figueroa**, attended the [51st El Valor Anniversary Don Quixote Gala](#), "Golden Age of Mexican Cinema," at the CineCity Studios in Chicago. National Louis University sponsored this event, allowing El Valor to continue serving the community through dual-language early childhood programming and housing for adults with disabilities.



In the News

The **National College of Education** was highlighted by Dr. Ruth Davis, NLU Executive Director of Partnerships, on WGN-TV's *Daytime Chicago*. NLU is partnering with Back 2 School America to help students and educators nationwide. Back 2 School America makes age-level school supply kits given out free to children.

Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus **Camille Blachowicz** is quoted in the *Newsweek* article, ["Chicago School Scores Drop After Doubling Spending."](#) Dr. Blachowicz spoke of factors hindering students' academic progress, including the teacher shortage and chronic absenteeism.

Celebrations



Theodorea Regina Berry, was appointed Dean of Bloomfield College of Montclair State University in New Jersey. She received a MEd in Curriculum and Instruction in '95, an EdS in Leadership in Curriculum and Teaching in '98, and a EdD in Curriculum and Social Inquiry in '02.

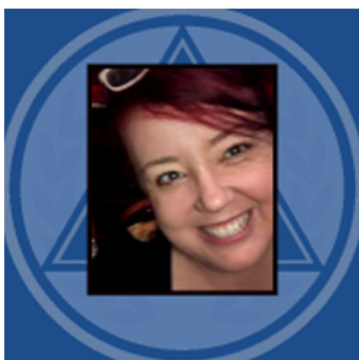
Jomane Thompson, '22 MEd and current EdD in Educational Leadership student, was promoted to Assistant Principal at Gotha Middle School in Orange County Public Schools, FL.

Alison Schoeffmann, '15 EdD in Educational Leadership, was named the principal of Orrington Elementary School by the District 65 Board of Education.

Eduardo Galvan, '03 MED in Educational Leadership, was appointed as interim superintendent of Milwaukee Public Schools

Maureen Miller, NCE Office of Field Experience, received the Illinois Educational Technology (IETL) Lifetime Achievement Award.

New Faces



Kelli Henson joins NLU as an Associate Professor of School Psychology. She brings extensive experience in the field, having previously worked with the Florida and National Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Projects and the School Psychology program at the University of South Florida. She holds a Master's in Applied Developmental Psychology from Fordham University and a Doctorate in School Psychology from the University of South Florida, focusing on reading leadership and evaluation. Dr. Henson is a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Her research interests include communication of assessment results, Tier 3 behavior and academic interventions, data-based decision-making, and effective graduate student education in school psychology.



Sarah-Anne Lanman has joined NCE in the dean's office as Academic Project Coordinator. She brings 11 years of experience in public education from Munster High School, where she taught photography, yearbook, and newspaper. While there, she advised the nationally award-winning Paragon yearbook and **Crier** newspaper. In 2023, she was recognized by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association as part of its National High School Journalism Teacher of the Year program, and in 2022, she was named one of the Yearbook Advisers of the Year by the Journalism Education Association.

Upcoming Events



Save the Date!

NCE Adjunct Connections

January 11, 2025
NLU Wheeling campus

This event offers our adjunct faculty a unique opportunity to build a sense of community, connect with fellow adjuncts, meet with their programs, and receive professional development on timely topics in higher education. We look forward to bringing everyone together!

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