

Subject: NCE Summer Term Quarterly Eblast: Advancing Excellence in Teacher Preparation, Educator Advancement & Educational Leadership

July 2024

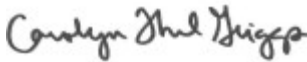
Dear National College of Education Community,

Welcome to the summer term! I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the National College of Education's graduating class of 2024. Best wishes to all of you as you embark on your careers and become change-makers in your fields. It was my honor to attend the commencement ceremony and introduce our NCE speaker, Sylvia Peters, an esteemed NLU alumna, educational pioneer, and a valued member of my NCE Brain Trust alumni advisory group.

We have exciting initiatives and events coming up this year:

- **Adjunct Connections:** Scheduled for early fall, this event is designed to help our NCE adjunct faculty build a sense of community, connect with colleagues, and participate in professional development sessions.
- **New Teacher Induction Program:** After the success of our inaugural New Teacher Induction program, a new cohort will begin in August. Designed for first and second-year NLU-graduate teachers, the NCE faculty-facilitated program offers online peer support and problem-solving, free access to learning modules, 30 continuing professional development credits, and is at no cost to participants.
- **Launching NCE Ambassadors:** The NCE Ambassadors initiative supplies faculty, staff, and partners with NCE-specific branded clothing to wear out in public or the field. This serves as a conversation starter and networking tool, promoting engaging discussions about our impactful work in the college.

As we navigate this summer term, let's focus on inspiring and supporting one another. By working together, we can drive meaningful change and enhance the impact of education. I look forward to hearing about your work and progress,



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

WHAT'S NEW

Scholarship Gift

Kathleen and Geoffey Dixon have pledged \$200,000 over the next three years to support several NCE initiatives and needs,

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including student scholarships, the teacher induction program, high-dosage tutoring, and content test fees. Kathleen (Kay) is an NLU Life trustee and NCE Brain Trust member; she is also an NCE alumna ('96, '04, '14) and current NCE Field Supervisor.

STEM Summer Camps

NCE, in partnership with Illinois Math and Science Academy (IMSA) and CPS, will host two STEM Summer Camps at no cost to the child participants. As part of these camps, NCE Teacher Candidates will serve as paid Teaching Assistants. View the flyers: [K-2 Summer Camp](#) & [3rd-4th Makey Lab](#)

In Case You Missed It

- NCE is proud to announce two alumni, **Precious Allen**, and **Olga Nuñez-Johnson**, are 2024 Golden Apple Excellence in Teaching Award recipients! Read more about these alumnae and their awards [here](#).
- NCE invited all current teacher preparation candidates to attend an NLU Principal/Administrative Panel and hear firsthand from Chicagoland school and district leaders about their tips and best practices for new graduates looking to be hired. View the event here: [HR & Principal Panel 2024 Recording](#).

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

NCE faculty and alumni continue to serve as thought leaders through their service to the field, publications, and presentations.

Publications:

Dean **Carolyn Theard-Griggs** co-authored the article "[Racial and Ethnic Differences in Time to Completion of Academic Enrichment Program Applications](#)," published in *Cureus: Journal of Medical Science*.

Dean **Carolyn Theard-Griggs** authored an article, "[Why Teacher Induction Programs are Essential to Teacher Retainment](#)," published on LinkedIn.

Professor **Mark Newman** has authored the book [Teaching History Today: Applying the Triad of Inquiry, Primary Sources, and Literacy](#), published by Rowman & Littlefield. This book is a volume in the Rowman & Littlefield *Teaching History Today and in the Future* book series that Dr. Newman edits.

Associate Professor **Todd Price** published "[Transformations of Choice and Diversity in Education: Bildung from Wilhelm von Humboldt through John Stuart Mill to Milton Friedman](#)" in *Educational Theory*.

Associate Professor **Tracee Farmer** and Assistant Professor **Dana Hagerman**, Co-Directors of the Reading Recovery Center for Literacy at NLU, each published an article in the spring *Journal of Reading Recovery*. Dr. Farmer's article is titled "Creating Conditions for Learner Independence," and Dr. Hagerman's is titled "Authentic Reading Experiences through the Lesson."

Assistant Professor **Bilge Cerezci** published the article "[Practicing a Pedagogy of Discomfort with Teacher Candidates: Observations and Reflections from a Year-Long Case Study](#)" in *Educational Studies*, Journal of the American Educational Studies Association.

Professor **Kristin Lems** published an article, "[The Interplay Among Silent Reading Rate, Comprehension, and an Audio Reading Model](#)," in the journal *Reading in a Foreign Language*, Volume 36, No. 1.

The [spring 2024 issue](#) of the peer-reviewed online journal, *i.e.: inquiry in education*, has been published. The issue features the editorial "Agreements and Discontents: Reflections on the Turbulent Times" by Professor **Antonina Lukenchuk** and "Establishing Social Presence Through Online Interactions: A Case Study in a Literacy Clinic" article by Associate Professor **Mary L. Hoch** and adjunct **Michelle Fry**.



Presentations:

Professor **Antonina Lukenchuk** presented "Paradigm Shifts in Contemporary Doctoral Teaching and Learning: Epistemological Perspectives and Examples from Practice" at the [International Conference on Modern Research in Education, Teaching and Learning \(ICMETL\)](#) in Oxford, United Kingdom.

Associate Professor **Eun Kyung Ko** was a featured panelist at the [Preserving Korean American History in Chicago](#) event at the Sulzer Regional Library in Chicago. The Korean American Archives project seeks to document the daily lives of Korean Americans in Chicago. The project supports the Teaching Equitable Asian American Community History (TEACH) Act.

Professor **Seema Imam** presented "Alumni Voices in Islamic Schools: Cultivating Belonging and Identity in Islamic Schools" at the second annual Islamic Schools Association of Canada's [ISAC Education Conference](#) in Toronto.

Associate Professor **Ruth Quiroa** presented the paper titled "The Long-lasting Ripple Effects of Mercedes Godoy's (1919) *When I Was a Girl in Mexico*" at the [Children's Literature Association's \(ChLA\) Annual Conference](#) in Madison, WI.

Several NCE faculty members presented at this year's American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting - The world's largest gathering of education researchers showcasing groundbreaking, innovative studies in various areas. Presentations included:

- [Recruitment and Coaching Strategies to Support a Pipeline of Black and Latinx Male Principals](#), presented by Associate Professor **Harrington Gibson**
- [Equitable and Culturally Responsive Assessment and Grading Practices in Higher Education](#), presented by Director of Educational Leadership Studies **Elizabeth Covay Minor** and Assistant Professor **Jennifer Engelland-Schultz**
- [What Would Dewey Think? John Dewey and Continental Philosophy, Revisited in Politically Fractious Times](#), presented by Associate Professor **Todd Alan Price**
- [From Boundary-Crossing to Boundary-Detecting: Teachers' Sensemaking Role in a Research-Practice Partnership](#), presented by Assistant Professor **Blanca Gamez-Djokic**
- [A Study of Latina Mothers and Teachers' Experiences with Home-School Partnerships in Special Education](#), presented by Assistant Professor **Molly Buren**
- [Correlation of Pre-service Teachers' Multicultural Beliefs and Selection and Use of Visuals in STEM](#), presented by Associate Professor **Xue Han**, Associate Professor **Eun Kyung Ko**, NCE Director of STEM **Vishodana Thamotharan**, and Associate Professor **Xiaoning Chen**

Professor **Seema Imam** presented "Autoethnography of a Teacher Educator: Disempowering Phenomenon Being Visibly Muslim in a Landscape of Disdain, Ridicule, and Lies." at the [International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry's 20th annual conference](#) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

The Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence (CTLE) at NLU sponsored several faculty to attend the [TEACHx 2024](#) conference at Northwestern University. Presentations by NCE faculty included:

- [Co-owning Inquiry, Learning Outcomes, and Student Choice in the Higher Education Classroom](#) by Assistant Professor **Molly Buren** and Associate Professor **Todd Price**
- [Modeling Norms from the Field: The Playful Approach to Early Mathematics](#), by Assistant Professor **Bilge Cerezci**

Associate Professor **Leslie Katch** was an invited speaker for the session titled, "Infant Crying and Fussing: Supporting Caregivers and Providers Caring for Difficult to Soothe Infants," at the [Annual Symposium for Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants](#) in Bloomington, IL.

Associate Professor **Colleen Hamilton** delivered two presentations titled "Borderlands Identities & Translanguaging Stance in Language Teacher Education" and "Border-Crossing in Language Teacher Education" at the [12th International Language Teacher Education Conference](#) at the University of Minnesota.

Associate Professor **Gloria McDaniel-Hall** presented "Beginning with Ourselves: The Hardest Part of Culturally Responsive Teaching" at The Teaching Professor Conference in New Orleans, LA.



Service to the Field:

Associate Professor **Gloria McDaniel-Hall** participated in "Real Women Read Day" at Arnold Mireles Academy, Chicago Public Schools.

Associate Professor **Vito M. Dipinto** visited 2012 alumni Andrew Bean's 8th-grade class at Catherine Cook School in Chicago, conducting a "Lego Person" activity. This activity, a part of the "Science Teaching As Coaching" workshop, has been a staple in Dr. Dipinto's methods courses for over 15 years, receiving positive student feedback for its challenging and stimulating nature.

NCE held its final NLU Teacher Preparation Advisory Board (TPAB) meeting this academic year. Retiring Superintendents Dr. Kaine Osburn and Dr. Ken Wallace led a thought-provoking discussion about the past and current status of PK-12 education and future predictions to inform our strategic planning in teacher education.

Associate Professor **Xiuwen Wu** acted as the assistant director of the [Chicago Youth Go Tournament](#) in Evanston, IL. Go is an ancient strategy board game that originated in China over 3,000 years ago and is now played worldwide. Dr. Wu has been researching Go-based learning in mathematics classrooms and developing related math learning tools, such as Go-based math manipulatives.

CELEBRATIONS

Awards, honors, and career promotions NCE students, alumni, and faculty receive

	Liza Johnson, '20, Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, has been named the new director of the Wendt Character Initiative at the University of Dubuque.	Zadia Gadsden, '95 M.Ed. in Curriculum & Instruction, was named the Washington Post's Principal of the Year. The Post presents the awards to encourage excellence in school leadership and contribute to improving education in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.
Mary Morgan Ryan was announced as the new superintendent of Paris-Union School District 95 in southern Illinois.	Jola Dziatkowicz, '15 M.Ed. in Specialized Endorsements, was named principal at Oak Ridge School in Palos Hills for the 2024-25 school year.	Michael Zeman, '09, M.Ed. in Educational Leadership, was named the new principal at Longwood Elementary School District 204 in Naperville.
Portia Ranson, '18 MAT Secondary Education, on her appointment as the new associate principal of Edgewood Middle School District 112 in Highland Park.	Professor Seema Imam received the 2024 Lifetime Service Award at the 25th Annual ISNA ED FORUM of the Islamic Society of North America.	Dave Shafron, '22 Ed.S. in Educational Leadership, was appointed as the athletic director at Grayslake Central High School.
Current Ed. D. in Educational Leadership student Katie Matthews was appointed as the new Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education for the 2024-35 school year at Naperville District 203.	Two Forest Park School District 91 educators, including alumna Erica Conwell ('19 MAT Elementary Education), celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week at the White House. They attended a special event highlighting the contributions of Black educators.	Jamie Lowicz, M.Ed in Educational Leadership, was appointed as the new principal at Atwater Elementary School in North Port, Florida.
Highland Park Township High School District 113 recently approved Lisa Dallacqua, '08 MAT Secondary Education, as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2024.	The Downers Grove School District 58 Board of Education approved Steven Perkins, '21 Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, as the new principal of Herrick Middle School for the 2024-25 school year.	Professor Seema Imam received the 2024 Distinguished Service Award from the Legacy International Online High School, where she also served as the 2024 Commencement Speaker.
Rochelle Bishop Sleet, '17 MAT Elementary Education, was recently named editor and chief content officer of Newsday, a metropolitan New York-based newspaper.	Adjunct Alumna Deanne Rotfeld Levy, M.A.T. Special Education, also a University Supervisor and on the University Supervisor Advisory Board, received the El Premio Águila award from The Centro de Excelencia at National Louis University.	

NCE IN THE NEWS

NCE programs and community members featured in media outlets

Nada Abid, '17 M.Ed. C&I ESL/bilingual, '20 Ed.S. in Educational Leadership, and '24 Ed.D. in Educational Leadership was recently highlighted in a Patch article titled, "[The "Doctor" is in the House.](#)"

In the [most recent episode](#) of her "Urban Legends" Podcast, Associate Professor **Gloria McDaniel-Hall** interviewed **Claudie Phillips**, '85 MEd, a trailblazer in Education and the School Food Service Industry and author of [Knowing Your Heritage Matters: Staying Connected Matters More](#).

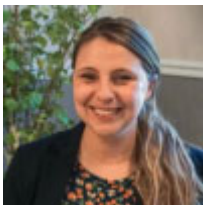
Professor Emeritus **Carlos M. Azcoitia** was recently interviewed on Univision Chicago regarding the Chicago Public Schools budget and changes to the funding formula for the 2024-25 school year. [Watch the video here](#).

WELCOME NEW FACULTY MEMBERS AND STAFF



Mitchell Michalik (Mitch) joins NLU as an Assistant Professor of Special Education. Mitch began his career in special education in 2001 and has worked as a paraprofessional, special education teacher, behavior specialist, and district administrator. Most of his experience comes from working with students with disabilities in alternative, special education settings. Before becoming a full-time faculty member, Mitch worked at NLU on the Augustus F. Hawkins grant.

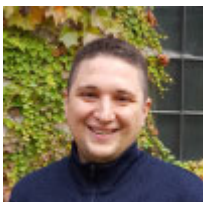
Mitch earned his Ed.D. in Teaching and Learning with a focus on Disability and Equity in Education from National Louis University, his M.Ed./LBS1 in Special Education from UIC, and his B.A. in Secondary Education/History from DePaul University. His research interests include the effects of exclusionary and punitive discipline on students with disabilities, restorative practices in education, behavioral and social-emotional supports, and alternatives to traditional school discipline.



Katie Fitzgerald is thrilled to join NLU as a Field Experience Specialist. She will oversee a caseload of undergraduate education students, helping them complete their field experience requirements with partner schools in the community.

Katie earned her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education with a minor in mathematics from Carthage College and a master's degree in Education with endorsements in Reading and ESL from NLU.

Before this role, Katie spent 11 years as an educator in Wisconsin and Illinois, holding leadership positions such as Behavioral Data Analyst, Department Head, and Gradebook Coach. Her diverse experiences make her confident and ready to support future educators.



Dan Bajic is excited to join National Louis University (NLU) as a Field Experience Specialist. He will manage a caseload of undergraduate education students, helping them fulfill their field experience requirements with school partners.

Dan has demonstrated his commitment to higher education through various roles. At Loyola University Chicago, he advised students and coordinated exams. In the TRIO program at Malcolm X College, he counseled, recruited, and informed adults about college admissions. He sought a new role to support the growth of future educators and the betterment of communities.

Dan holds a Master's in International Studies from DePaul University. He grew up in Schaumburg and has lived in Chicago for over a decade. Married to a teacher, they both volunteer with different non-profits. In his free time, Dan enjoys following politics and current events, researching, gardening, enjoying nature, traveling, and listening to audiobooks and podcasts.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Save the Date!
NCE Adjunct Connections

September 14, 2024

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