



July 2021

NCE eNews

Welcome to the summer term issue of the National College of Education's quarterly newsletter! This time last year, the uncertainties of COVID-19 swept the nation, but NCE is a vibrant and robust community of practice and scholarship. Together, we continued learning, growing, and innovating to improve the educational outcomes of the students we serve. With the challenging year behind us, we hope you will enjoy reading highlights of recent college news and community accomplishments.

Below you will find stories and information about faculty publications and presentations, alumni career promotions and awards, and NCE in the news. Also included is a list of upcoming events that I hope you will consider attending — and if you haven't already, check out [NCE's on-demand webinars](#) on a wide range of important and timely topics.

Now, as always, we welcome the opportunity to hear from you. If you have ideas for how we can better serve you, please reach out (NCEDean@nl.edu).

With best wishes,

Robert D. Muller, Ed.D.

Dean, National College of Education

WHAT'S NEW

NLU Doctoral Research Symposium: An Evening of Thought Leadership

The annual NLU Doctoral Research Symposium showcases the thought-leadership and achievement of National Louis University's doctoral students and recent graduates. During this year's virtual event, Provost Saib Othman announced NLU's new Outstanding Dissertation Awards to recognize excellence in four categories:

- Promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Innovative research design
- Advancing professional practice
- Community impact and capacity

To learn more about the new NLU Outstanding Dissertation Awards or to apply, [click here](#). To view recordings of the 2021 Welcome and Alumni panel discussion, breakout session presentations, or access the virtual poster session, [visit the event website](#).

Advancing Equity in Education: NCE Convenes Leadership Summit

On May 14, *Re-Visioning Education: Lessons Learned in Leading for Equity* brought education leaders from across the country together to discuss the opportunities, challenges, and lessons learned in leading for equity through the pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement. The event, organized by associate professor **Sophie Degener** and assistant professors **Ryan McCarty** and **Gloria McDaniel-Hall**, included a keynote panel discussion and breakout group discussions and action planning. [Click here to view a recording of the keynote panel discussion](#) facilitated by Dr. McDaniel-Hall.

NCE Named Best for online Early Childhood Education

[Intelligent.com](#) included National Louis University's Early Childhood Education program in its 2021 list of best online degree programs.

Faculty Retirement



After more than 20 years of service, **Barbara Gomez**, professional adjunct lecturer, Curriculum and Instruction and Bilingual Education, will retire from NLU in September. "I have had such great experiences with NLU over the years and have built strong relationships with my colleagues. It's a bittersweet chapter in my life."

Associate professor **Jason Stegemoller** noted, "Barb's students have always loved her. On more than one occasion, students have spoken highly of her to me and asked how they could sign up for another class with her. At our last adjunct faculty meeting, we looked at pictures and shared stories, and I could tell her colleagues will miss her just as much as her students."

Barbara is looking forward to spending more time with her grandchildren during retirement.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

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

Publications:

The Spring 2021 issue of [i.e.: inquiry in education](#) is now available. *i.e. inquiry in education* is a peer-reviewed online journal that serves as a forum for diverse voices of scholars and practitioners from various fields of education and other related disciplines.

Kristin Lems, professor, published the article [“Lyric Videos: Sound, Image, and Meaning for English Language Learners”](#) in *English Teaching Forum*, a quarterly journal for English teachers published by the American English Division within the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Leslie Katch, associate professor, published the article [“Development and Validation of the Infant Crying and Parent Well-Being Screening Tool”](#) in the June issue of the *Journal of Community Psychology*.

Seema Imam, professor, wrote a chapter titled [“Evaluating, Redeveloping, and Action Planning – Advice for Educators”](#) published in *Curriculum Renewal for Islamic Education: Critical Perspectives on Teaching Islam in Primary and Secondary Schools*.

Hannah Graham, assistant professor, co-authored “Restoring What Matters: Reflections on Classroom Language Practices and Ideologies,” a chapter in [Restorative Justice in Education: Transforming Teaching and Learning Through the Disciplines](#) published by Harvard Education Press.

Mary Ann Poparad, Director of the Reading Recovery Center, published, [“Teachers and Children Learning With and From Each Other: What is Possible With Literacy Lessons”](#) in the Spring 2021 issue of *The Journal of Reading Recovery*, a national, peer-reviewed journal.

Adjunct faculty members **Katy Honish** and **Meg Formolo** co-authored an article titled [“What Is Possible Through Widespread Teacher Leader Collaboration?”](#) in the Spring 2021 issue of *The Journal of Reading Recovery*. The article focuses on collaboration among teacher leaders to navigate the teaching challenges that emerged due to COVID-19.

Naomi Bailey, adjunct faculty member, recently published an opinion piece in *Education Week* titled [“We Can Do This”](#) about the do’s and don’ts of hybrid teaching.

Presentations:

Kamau Rashid, associate professor, presented “Racial Oppression and the On-Going Movement for Black Liberation” as part of NCE’s ongoing webinar series exploring contemporary issues in education. Watch the presentation [here](#).

Rob Muller, NCE Dean, and Arizona State University’s **Punya Mishra** discussed the book [Championing Technology Infusion in Teacher Preparation: A Framework for Supporting Future Educators](#), co-edited by **Arlene Borthwick**, professor emerita. The webinar recording is available at [Webinar 2 Systemic Change](#).

Angela Elkordy, assistant professor, **Jack Denny**, associate professor, **Ayn Keneman**, professor, and **Donna Wakefield**, associate professor, presented [“Teaching, Learning and Changing: Adaptive Changes in the COVID-19 Pandemic”](#) at the [2021 MACUL \(Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning\) Virtual Conference](#).

During this year’s [ESSA/Multilingual Illinois 2021 Conference](#), **Kristin Lems**, professor, presented “Honoring Black Lives in ESL Classes and Graduate Coursework.” **Kavita Venkatesh**, Residency & Alternative Pathway Program Director, and **Wendy Gaeding**, Director of Outreach, presented “Residency Programs: Responsive, Nimble, and Context-Based.”

Mary Hoch, associate professor and Director of The Reading Center, and **Michelle Fry**, adjunct professor, presented "Lessons in Literacy: Establishing Social Presence in a Socially-Distanced World" at the Fourteenth International Conference on e-Learning and Innovative Pedagogies.

NCE faculty presentations during the 2021 Annual Meeting of the [American Educational Research Association \(AERA\)](#):

- "Developing Critical Reflection and Inquiry Among Teacher Candidates in an Elementary Mathematics Methods Course" presented by **Bilge Cerezci**, assistant professor
- "'We Couldn't Name It in the Beginning': Collaborative Self-Study to Disrupt the Status Quo" presented by **Sophie Degener**, associate professor
- "Bilanguaging Love: Uncovering Latina/o/x Bilingual Students' Ways of Knowing in the Epistemic Borderlands of Dual-Language Immersion" presented by **Colleen Hamilton**, assistant professor
- "How Do We Create Teachers Who Take Responsibility for Student Learning?" presented by **Shaunti Knauth, Director of Engaged Research**
- "Incorporating Feedback as Core Practice in Math Methods Course from the Practice-Based Teaching Perspective" presented by **Xiuwen Wu**, associate professor

Service to the Field:

Todd Price, associate professor, was elected to the Kenosha Unified School Board, beating three other challengers. In [Kenosha News](#), he noted that talking to and getting to know voters was an essential strategy for his campaign.

Barbara Gomez, professional adjunct lecturer, is an [ITBE SIG Co-Chair](#) for the Higher Education Special Interest Group (SIG) and facilitated the group's meeting at the 2021 ITBE Convention. **Sylvia Rivera**, adjunct, has been named [ITBE Officer](#), serving as Operations Manager.

Antonina Lukenchuk, professor, will serve as Editor-in-Chief of [Higher Education Studies](#) for the next two years. Higher Education Studies is a double-blind peer-reviewed international journal dedicated to promoting scholarly exchange among teachers and researchers in post-secondary education.

CELEBRATIONS

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

Nominated by her class at Jane A. Neil Elementary, **Ashley Bumpers**, '20 M.A.T., was named [WGN's Teacher of the Month](#).

Megan Rice, '13 M.Ed. in Urban Education, is a recipient of the 2021 [Golden Apple Award](#).

Erick Pruitt, '14 Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, has been named new superintendent for the [Ankeny Community School District](#) in Iowa. The district's board of education called the hiring "historic," as Dr. Pruitt will be the first person of color to lead the district.

Don Carmichael, '95 M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction, was elected by his community to serve on the [District 128](#) school board.

Jessica Pepple, '18 Ed.S. in Educational Leadership, is the first-ever director of diversity, equity and inclusion for King Philip, Norfolk, Wrentham, and Plainville school [districts](#) in Massachusetts.

Fred Hunter, '20 Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, is now the executive director of [Polaris Tech Charter School](#).

John Munch, '21 Ed.S. in Educational Leadership and current Ed.D. student, has been named the next superintendent of [District 106](#).

Alexandra Oreluk, '20 M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction, is the new principal of Willow Springs School in District 108.

Jonathan Stack, '09 M.A.T. in Secondary Education, is the [new principal of St. Barnabas Elementary School](#).

Milo Cejovic, '12 M.A.T. in Secondary Education, is Niles West High School's new [assistant athletics director](#).

Joshua Halverson, '15 M.Ed in Technology in Education, is the new director of technology & network support specialist at [Woodridge School District 68](#).

Shanie Keelean, '08 M.Ed. in Administration and Supervision, is the new superintendent of [Holland Public Schools](#).

Michael D. Morgan Jr., '13 M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction, was selected as the first-ever [director of systematic equity and inclusion for Sun Prairie School District](#) in Wisconsin.

Shawna Cooper-Gibson, '01 M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction, will be [Boston College's](#) new vice president for student affairs effective August 9, 2021.

NCE IN THE NEWS

NCE programs and community members featured in media outlets

Gloria McDaniel-Hall, assistant professor, was quoted in the *Chicago Tribune* article "[Burned Out But Hopeful: Teachers look back on trying year with an eye on profession's future](#)."

Stu Carrier, Director of Educational Leadership Studies, was featured in the *Tampa Bay Times* article, "[He's never missed a Gasparilla race. And the pandemic can't stop him](#)" about his dedication to this event.

Laura Font, adjunct faculty and member of the University Supervisor Advisory Board, was included in an NPR episode [Parents with Disabilities Face Extra Hurdles with Kids' Remote Schooling](#).

Alicia Adams, '21 M.A.T., appears in "[Come Teach Special Education in Chicago Public Schools](#)," a video with veteran and new CPS teachers describing the rich relationships, supportive teams, and creativity in the classroom that a special education teaching position can offer.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY MEMBERS



Molly Buren is our newest assistant professor in the Middle Grades Education program. Before joining NCE, she completed a two-year post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, working as a research study coordinator for Project ASSIST, a longitudinal parent advocacy intervention study with families of youth with autism. Molly's teaching experience includes serving as a special educator working with high school and middle school students in Chicago Public Schools and instructing courses on disability, families, and collaboration at UIC, NLU, and Elmhurst College. Molly holds a Ph.D. in Special Education from the University of Illinois at Chicago, a M.A.T. from National Louis University, and a B.S. in Sociology from Northwestern University.



Dana Hagerman joins our Reading Recovery Center as an assistant professor. She comes to us from Edgewood College in Madison, WI, where she served as associate professor and associate dean in the School of Education. An expert in early literacy, Dr. Hagerman holds a Ph.D. from UW-Madison in Curriculum and Instruction. Her research interests include qualitative research in early literacy development, including a longitudinal study of language and literacy practices of immigrant students and their families over time and across spaces. More recently, she has studied literacy in personalized learning classrooms and teaching for, with, and about, social justice in the middle school setting.



Virginia "Jeannie" Zeitlin is joining NCE on a full-time basis as an Assistant Professor in Special Education. For the past four years, Dr. Zeitlin has served as an adjunct faculty member and student teaching program supervisor. She has developed and redesigned teacher preparation classes, worked with the Office of Field Experience to assist students with their special education placements, and supported M.A.T. students navigating edTPA preparation, delivery, and submission. Before joining NLU, Dr. Zeitlin spent 35 years as a special educator serving as a speech/language pathologist, co-teacher, program and curriculum supervisor, special education director, and assistant superintendent. She completed her doctorate at NLU in Disability and Equity in Education, and she holds four additional Master's degrees in multiple areas of education.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND WEBINARS

Candid Conversations Webinar: Off to a Good Start: Supporting the Well-Being of Early Career Teachers

August 25

4-5 pm CST

[Register now](#)

Join us for our upcoming webinar, **Off to a Good Start: Supporting the Well-Being of Early Career Teachers**, as we dive into one of the most important topics confronting today's K-12

educational landscape. With stakeholder voices at the center of our discussion, this webinar brings together a panel of teachers and school leaders to address:

- Significant influences, circumstances, or factors that shape a sense of well-being among early-career teachers;
- The role of formal and informal relationships in supporting the well-being of early career teachers;
- How school culture and organization impact the well-being of early career teachers;
- The connection between teacher well-being and teacher retention rates.

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Questions, comments or suggestions? Contact us: NCEDean@nl.edu