
From: NCE Dean
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2025 11:44 AM
To:
Subject: NCE Winter Term Quarterly Newsletter: Advancing Excellence in Teacher Preparation, Educator Advancement & Educational Leadership



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

NCE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Winter 2025

Dean's Letter



Dear National College of Education Community,

Happy New Year! I hope this message finds you well as we begin the winter term.

I want to take a moment to reflect on the great success of our recent Adjunct Connections event. It was wonderful to see such a fantastic turnout! The day was filled with meaningful engagement, professional development opportunities, and the chance to connect names with faces. Our adjunct faculty are an integral part of the NCE instructional team, and we deeply value their contributions to our students' success. My heartfelt thanks go to everyone who attended and to those who worked behind the scenes to host this incredible event.

I'm also excited to share news about our college's ongoing efforts to embrace innovation and leverage AI in education. Our NCE faculty have partnered with the Undergraduate Educator Preparation team to design and lead an AI Professional Development Series. This initiative offers faculty the opportunity to explore the role of AI in education, with each session diving into key topics that help us find cohesive, practical ways to introduce AI concepts to students while enhancing our teaching and learning practices. This series is a reflection of our commitment to staying ahead of the curve and equipping our students to thrive in an ever-evolving world.

In addition, I am thrilled to announce that we are expanding our Teacher Residency Program following a Request for Proposal from Chicago Public Schools (CPS) in fall 2024. NLU has been selected as the sole residency program provider for CPS, beginning with MAT programs in summer 2025 and expanding to BA programs in summer 2026. This growth underscores our commitment to preparing exceptional educators and meeting the needs of our school partners and communities.

Thank you for your dedication to the National College of Education. Your contributions and insights are essential to our shared success. Wishing you a productive and inspiring winter term!

Warm regards,

Carolyn Theard-Griggs

What's New

ISBE Program Approvals

The Illinois State Board of Education approved four Middle Grades Education alternative programs (Science, Social Studies, English Language Arts, and Math). These programs provide a pathway for career changers and school personnel who do not hold a teaching license to become fully licensed middle grade teachers in the state of Illinois.

2023-2024 NCE Year End Review

Our [FY 23-24 Year End Review booklet](#) has been published. The booklet offers a concise overview of the dedication and effort within our community.

Thought Leadership

Publications

The **Fall 2024 issue** of the peer-reviewed journal *i.e.: inquiry in education* has been published. [Volume 16, Issue 2](#) includes the article, "Impact of Video Lesson Analysis on Preservice Elementary Teachers' Teaching and Learning" by Associate Professor **Eun Kyung Ko**.

Associate Professor **Angela Elkordy** authored the chapter titled "Leveraging Affinity Spaces for Jagged Frontier Practices: K-12 Educators' Use of ChatGPT for Teaching and Learning" in the book [Artificial Intelligence Applications in K-12: Theories, Ethics, and Case Studies for Schools](#) published by Routledge.

Associate Professor **Todd Price** authored the chapter titled "Curriculum in the Viral Age: Itinerant Curriculum Theory as a Just Path" in the book [Itinerant Curriculum Theory: A Declaration of Epistemological Independence](#) published by Bloomsbury Academic.

Assistant Professor **Molly Buren** co-authored the article "[Dynamic Changes Toward Reflective Practice: Documented Shifts in Speech-Language Pathologists' Evaluation Practices](#)" in the *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*.

Associate Professor **Leslie Katch** published the article "[Validation of the Dutch Infant Crying and Parent Well-Being \(ICPW\) Screening Tool in Parents of Infants Less than 12 Months of Age](#)" in *The Journal of Pediatrics*.

Associate Professor **Eun Kyung Ko** co-authored the book *Korean American Community History for Youth*. The book serves as a teaching resource that illuminates the experiences, challenges, and contributions of Korean Americans.

Associate Professor **Sadia Warsi** authored two articles in the *National Association of Special Education Teachers (NASSET): November 2024 - Special Educator e-Journal*.

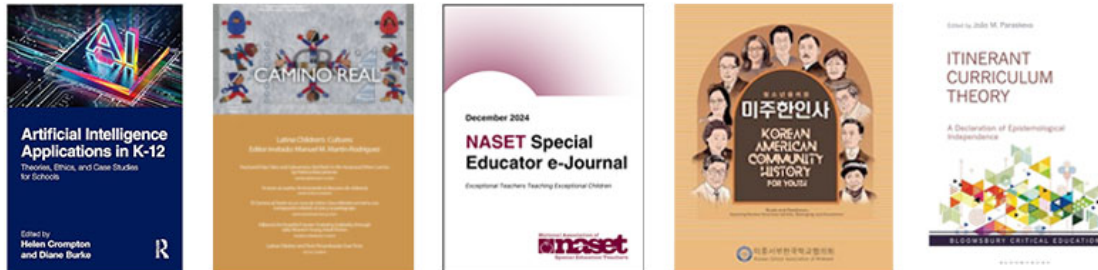
- [Accepting and Understanding the Needs of Muslim Immigrant Families in Special Education](#)
- [Fostering Belonging in Academia: The Importance of Affinity Groups for Muslim and Minority Faculty in Special Education](#)

Faculty authored two articles in the *National Association of Special Education Teachers (NASSET): December 2024 - Special Educator e-Journal*.

- [Understanding Trauma Responses: Supporting War-Affected Refugee Students](#): **Dr. Sadia Warsi**
- [Empowering Amira: A UDL Journey Through Joey Pigza's World](#): **Dr. Sadia Warsi, Dr. Karen Fitzgerald, Dr. Donna Wakefield**

The second edition of Professor **Antonina Lukenchuk's** book [Paradigms of Research for the 21st Century: Perspectives and Examples from Practice, Second Edition](#) has published.

Associate Professor **Ruth Quiroa** published "[Latino Children and Their Picturebooks Over Time](#)" in *CAMINO REAL: Estudios de las Hispanidades Norteamericanas. Special Issue: Latino Children's Cultures*, 19(16). The publication is based on Dr. Quiroa's 2021 sabbatical research.



Presentations

Faculty presented at the [2024 Annual Meeting & Exposition of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics \(NCTM\)](#) in Chicago, IL.

- "Cultivating Mathematical Mindsets Through the Power of Play in Adult Learning" **Bilge Cerezci**
- "Go as in AI AlphaGo: How Go Assists Teachers in Meeting Math Learning Standards in Grades K-3" **Xiuwen Wu**

Several faculty presented at the [56th Annual Conference of the International Visual Literacy Association \(IVLA\)](#) in San Diego, California. Presentations included:

- Developing a Critical Visual Literacy Framework and Tools for Implementation in Teacher Preparation and Education Programs: **Xiaoning Chen, Hyeju Han, Mark Newman**
- Integrating Visualization and Reiki Touch Therapy for Healing and Resilience: A Study with Educators Experiencing Trauma and Stress: **Karen Tardrew**
- Conducting Visual Literacy Professional Development in a P-8 School District: **Xiaoning Chen, Geri Chesner, Hyeju Han, Mark Newman, Karen Tardrew**
- Exploring Personal and Leader Identity through Identity Tableaux: **Geri Chesner**
- Connecting Visual Literacy to Theory: **Geri Chesner**
- Critical Visual Literacy in Action: Navigating Multicultural Picturebooks with Guiding Principles and A Practical Tool: **Xiaoning Chen**

Dr. Vishodana Thamotharan, Director of STEM Initiatives for NCE, developed the poster "What is the Role of a High Needs Teacher? Centering Noyce Scholar Voice in Negotiating Project Vision" which was presented at the [2024 Midwest Noyce Conference](#) in St. Louis, MO.

Associate Professor **Todd Price**, presented "Curriculum in the Viral Age" at the 44th Annual *Journal of Curriculum Theorizing (JCT)* Conference on Curriculum Theory and Classroom Practice in Dayton, OH.

Associate Professor **Sadia Warsi** delivered three presentations at the Critical Questions in Education Symposium hosted by the [Academy for Educational Studies](#) in Pittsburgh, PA.

- Session 1: Discovering Resilience and Hope in Children's Literature on Islam and Muslims
- Session 2: Belonging in Academia as a Muslim Professor: Social Activism and Student Engagement
- Session 3: Utilizing Children's Literature to Explore Themes of Global Justice in Teacher Education

Assistant Professor **Mitch Michalik** and NLU Hawkins Grant Director **Julie Sidarous** presented the poster "Cultivating Collaborative Growth Through Communities of Practice in Teacher Preparation" at the Illinois Association of Teacher Educators 2024 Fall Conference in Carbondale, Illinois.

NCE Dean **Carolyn Theard-Griggs** joined NCE presenters at the [5th Biennial International Conference on Urban Education \(ICUE\)](#) in Cancun, Mexico. NCE faculty presentations included:

- How Pre-Service Teachers Perceive Problem Behavior: A Post-Intentional Phenomenological Study: **Jamillah Gilbert**
- Connecting Hearts, Igniting Minds: The Need for True Belonging in Learning: **Gloria McDaniel-Hall**
- Community-Driven STEM Education: Preparing Generation Alpha in Urban Schools through Diverse Perspectives: **Vishodana Thamotharan** and **Eun Kyung Ko**

Professor **Seema Imam** was in Dallas, Texas for the [2024 Islamic Schools League of America's Annual Retreat](#), "Leading Thriving Schools: Transformational Leadership and Healthy School Culture." Dr. Imam moderated "AI and The Future of Education," and opened the presentation on Artificial Intelligence.

NCE faculty presented at the [National Association for the Education of Young Children \(NAEYC\) Annual Conference](#) in Anaheim, CA. Faculty presentations included:

- Challenging the Norm: "I am a Math Person": **Bilge Cerezci**
- Making Early Mathematics Meaningful and Playful: **Bilge Cerezci**
- The What and How of Phonological Awareness Instruction: Why Rhyming Alone is Not Enough: **Emily Brown Hoffman**

Professor Emeritus **Mark Newman** and Assistant Professor **Hyeju Han** presented "Using Critical Visual Literacy to Explore Diverse Narratives in U.S. History" at the [Illinois Council for the Social Studies \(ICSS\) 2024 Fall Conference](#) in Palatine, IL.

NCE faculty presented at the [Multilingual IL/ESSA 2024 Conference](#) in Tinley Park, IL. Presentations included:

- Optimizing Multilingual Learners' STEAM Learning through AI Integration: **Xiaoning Chen** and **Eun Kyung Ko**
- Bilingual Funds of Knowledge and Teaching Reading in Spanish: **Colleen Hamilton** and **Sandra González-Adamski**
- New Language Acquisition in an Era of Gaming, AI and Google Translate: **Kristin Lems**

Assistant Professor and Co-Director for the Reading Recovery Center for Literacy, **Dana Hagerman** co-presented "Changing through Times of Crisis" at the [14th International Conference on Education and Justice](#) at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa.

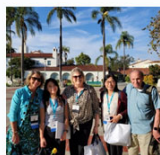
In the Field

Dr. Hannah Graham, Associate Professor of Teacher Preparation and Middle Grades Education Program Chair, has begun a [year-long fellowship at the University of Chicago](#) to study the applications of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) in teaching at the middle grades level.

Associate Professor **Gloria McDaniel-Hall** presented "Re-Thinking What True Equity Looks Like" at the fall in-service on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion held at [Elim Christian School](#) in Crestwood, IL.

The Teacher Preparation and Educational Leadership programs both held their first Advisory Board meetings of the 23-24 academic year. Teacher Prep faculty sought board member feedback on the [NLU New Teacher Induction](#) program and MAT Student Teaching Competency Appraisals. Ed Leadership Studies faculty led an interesting discussion with board members on how school districts are navigating AI tools.

Associate Professor **Mary Hoch**, on behalf of [The Center for Literacy](#), has partnered with [The Links, Inc. – West Towns Chapter](#) to provide professional development and encourage family literacy in the Bellwood School District 88 community. Dr. **Hoch** led a parent workshop, joined by Reading, Language, and Literacy doctoral student, **Valencia Burney**, and Associate Professor **Gloria McDaniel-Hall**, who shared her newest children's book, [Dasia Finds a Way](#).



In the News

Professor Emeritus **Carlos M. Azcoitia** was interviewed twice by Univision Chicago regarding the resignation of all CPS Board members. Dr. Azcoitia has served as a member of the Chicago Board of Education in the past.

Associate Professor **Gloria McDaniel-Hall** interviewed Office of Field Experience Directors Lisa Mozer and Brian Morris on the latest episode of her podcast, [Urban Legends](#). Lisa and Brian discussed teacher licensure pathways, our NCE programs, and the ways people can join.

Celebrations



The Chicago Board of Education appointed **Latasha M. Geverola** as the new chief of Network 11 schools. Geverola is a triple NLU eagle, having received a BA in Elementary Education in '03, an MED in Technology in Education in '08, and an MED in Educational Leadership in '08.

Peter Tragos, '24 Ed.D. in Educational Leadership was recently named Superintendent at New Trier Township High School District 203 for the 2024-25 school year.

Marquita Jones, '19 EdS and current EdD student in Educational Leadership is one of only 27 administrators nationwide to receive the 2024-25 Outstanding Project Lead The Way Administrator award. Marquita is the assistant principal at Phoenix STEM Military Academy in Chicago.

Early Childhood Education Assistant Professor **Lee Tate** successfully defended his doctoral dissertation titled "A Case Study of the Impact of Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) on Academic Achievement in One Pre-K Classroom." to earn an Ed.D in Teaching & Learning: Curriculum, Advocacy, and Policy from NLU. Congratulations Dr. Tate!

Erin Knoll has been selected as the Superintendent for Diamond Lake District 76, beginning July 1, 2025! Dr. Knoll is a quadruple NLU eagle, having received her BA in Elementary Education in '99, an MEd in Curriculum & Instruction in '06, a CAS in Educational Leadership in '08, and an EDD in Educational Leadership in '16.

Cynthia Treadwell, '20 EdD in Educational Leadership, who was recently appointed as Chief Academic Officer for the Gary Community School Corporation.

Nikita Johnson-White, '07 EdD in Educational Leadership, who has been named Chief Financial Officer at Noble Schools.

Gary Sanders, '99 Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, who was appointed this week to the Arkansas State Board of Education.

New Faces



Dr. **Tim Dohrer** joins NLU as Assistant Professor and Chair of the M.Ed. Educational Leadership program. With 35 years of experience in K-12 and higher education, he served as Principal at New Trier High School for 23 years and later directed the M.S.Ed program at Northwestern University and Educator Leadership at Northern Illinois University.

An expert in social-emotional learning, school leadership, and teacher education, Dr. Dohrer is the author of *The Schools We Need Now: A Guide to Designing a Mentally Healthy School*. He consults nationally, leads the SEL4IL Alliance, and serves on advisory boards like "The Leader in Me." He holds degrees from Indiana University, Northwestern University, and Penn State.



Dr. **Jimmy Caldwell** joins NLU as Assistant Professor in the Special Education program. He is a scholar, educator, and advocate with over eighteen years of experience in secondary and post-secondary education. He earned his Ph.D. in Curriculum & Instruction with a specialization in Special Education from the University of South Florida.

His teaching, research, and leadership focus on addressing systemic inequities in education, particularly the experiences of Black students in special education. Dr. Caldwell's scholarship explores the intersections of race, disability, and educational policy.

Follow NCE on Social Media: [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#)

Copyright © 2025, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

National Louis University
122 S Michigan Ave
Chicago, IL 60603

[unsubscribe from all emails](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)