

JANUARY 2023

Dear National College of Education community,

Welcome to the winter term! We hope you are recharged from the holidays and enjoyed festivities with your friends and family to ring in 2023.

Here at the National College of Education, we've been busy refining our curricula to ensure we are preparing our educators based on the most current research available in education and for equitable outcomes and to impact communities positively. Likewise, we have been promoting our Alternative Educator Licensure Program designed to address the teacher shortage across the state and nation. This program will launch in summer 2023. We are also proud to introduce our "New Teacher Induction Program" beginning in Fall 2023. Recent NLU graduates from teacher preparation programs will have the opportunity to continue their learning at NLU during their first year of teaching. Teachers will participate in learning modules based on topics teachers face during their first year, as well as monthly discussions, engaging with guest speakers and networking with and supporting one another as they begin their teaching careers.

I've also been spending time thinking about promoting mental health awareness and the ways in which we could promote this for educators in our community and

 [Follow on Instagram](#)

 [Follow on Twitter](#)

In This Edition

[What's New](#)

[Thought Leadership](#)

[Celebrations](#)

[NCE in the News](#)

[Welcome New Faculty
Members and Staff](#)

[Upcoming Events and
Webinars](#)

[Save the Date](#)

beyond. With everything that has happened in education over the last few years, this is a reminder to make sure you prioritize mental health and encourage one another towards fostering self-care. This is essential in order to avoid burnout. My resolution for 2023, which I hope is the same for all of you, is to work hard, but to also take breaks.

What follows below is demonstrations of recent hard work around the College. In this edition of our quarterly NCE newsletter, you can read about the various publications, presentations, and thought-leadership from our faculty. We've welcomed lots of new folks into the College recently, so I encourage you to read their bios to get to know them if you haven't become acquainted with them already. Finally, I'd like to point out our celebrations section that promotes our alumni and the work in which they are currently engaged along with their promotions and success stories.

If you have suggestions or questions on our initiatives or in general, please email me and let me know how NCE can help you or a colleague in your educational journey. You may also view our NCE Resource Guide, a comprehensive overview of the College and its offerings. Take a look [here](#).

Best wishes for the winter term! I look forward to hearing about your work and progress,



Carolyn Theard-Griggs, Ed.D.

Dean, National College of Education

WHAT'S NEW

New Grants

Leslie Katch, associate professor, reports that the Early Childhood Education team has received a \$1.2 million grant from the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) to help build a diverse early childhood

faculty pipeline in Illinois! The grant will provide a specialized pathway in the Early Childhood Administration program for students interested in becoming higher education faculty members and will pay for tuition, books, fees, and computers. Students will complete an internship in the Undergraduate College Ed Prep program to build skills in higher education teaching. Grant funding starts early 2023 and ends June 2024, with the goal of serving at least 25 students.

NCE also received a Hawkins Grant! This grant is awarded through the U.S. Department of Education, The Hawkins Center of Educational Excellence. This is a 4-year award will allow NLU and school district partners—Waukegan School District 60, Wheeling Schools in District 214, and North Chicago School District 187—to increase access, participation, and success of multilingual and diverse school paraprofessionals through a residency model that includes: communities of practice, culturally responsive teaching and learning standards, and multi-lingual supports for academic and licensure success. Ultimately, the model will be replicable for other school districts and district-university partnerships to recruit, grow and retain educators.

New Partnership

NLU is partnering with Illinois ASCD for their PreK/Kindergarten Conference happening in March 2023 in Schaumburg, IL. We are recruiting 15 interested students for March 2nd and 3rd. This is a great opportunity to network and hear conference speakers for free! If you'd like to participate, [please fill out this form](#). If you have any questions, please email Liz Mehringer at emehringer@nl.edu.

NCE Alumna Seeks Tutors for Non-Profit

Alumna **Mary Jane Hender**, '03 Ed.D. Reading and Language, co-founded Reading Power, Inc.! Reading Power, an early literacy tutoring program working one-to-one with elementary school children in North Chicago, Waukegan, and Zion schools, is seeking volunteers to tutor prekindergarten through second grade students. Tutors commit to once-a-week tutoring (2-3 hours) during the school year. No experience necessary; a love for children and reading is required; initial and on-going training is provided by reading professionals. Visit www.readingpowerinc.org or email Kristin Fine at Kristin.fine@readingpowerinc.org to learn more and apply.

FY Year End Review Booklet

We are proud to share that we have compiled a FY 21-22 Year End Review booklet! While this is by no means all-encompassing, it demonstrates the work across the college towards DEI and scholarship. Please take a look [here](#).

Faculty Recognition

We know how amazing our faculty are, but we love seeing them recognized for their hard work! Nominated by students and peers, congratulations to 2022 National Louis University Connections Award winners **Eun Ko** (Teacher Preparation, Science) and **Jennifer Engelland-Schultz** (School Psychology).

Calling All K-5 Reading and Literacy Daytime Tutors

We're in search of K-5 reading and literacy daytime tutors. Our partner Roosevelt University Metropolitan Chicago Tutoring Corps, with Chicago Public Schools is recruiting undergrad and grad students to apply for Spring '23. All majors welcome! [Apply here.](#)

New Issue of Inquiry in Education

The publication of Fall 2022 issue of Inquiry in Education (i.e.) journal is available to read now! [This issue](#) features an editorial, "Standing in the Gap, Post COVID-19" by Carol Burg. i.e. 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. The journal is indexed by ERIC.

In Case You Missed It

- Read about how NLU joined the National Advocacy Network of High-Impact Tutoring Initiatives [here.](#)
- Read about the 2022-2024 [STARTALK](#): Pathway to Chinese Teacher Certification.
- Meet a TFA grad [here.](#)
- Meet a Noyce scholar [here.](#)
- Read about how ECE Programs Make Positive Strides [here.](#)

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

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

Publications:

Karen Tardrew, associate professor, has published the chapter "Using Visual Art Practices to Enhance Educators' Professional Growth" in *Visual Pedagogies in Higher Education: Between Theory and Practice*.

Mary Hoch, associate professor, co-authored the article "Literacy Clinics During COVID-19: Voices that Envision the Future" published in the journal *Literacy Research and Instruction*.

Mary Ann Poparad, associate professor, published an article in *The Journal of Reading Recovery* "Literacy Lessons: Reaching School Improvement Goals." **Tracee Farmer**, assistant professor, co-authored an article "Reflecting on Our Practices When a Child has a Limited Repertoire" for the same publication.

Presentations:

Kristi Stricker, Associate Dean, led a roundtable discussion of "An Examination of Alternative Programs, Residency Programs, Short Term Licenses and Pathways Attempting to Address the Teacher Shortage" during the College and University Faculty Assembly annual meeting. This session took place at the 102nd Annual Conference of the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS).

Xiuwen Wu, associate professor, presented "Using the Ancient Board Game 'Go' (Weiqi Baduk) to Enhance Math Learning in Elementary Classrooms" at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Indianapolis Regional Conference and Exposition.

Arlene Borthwick, professor emerita, was a panelist and co-presenter during sessions at the 38th Annual Q Conference. The panel was called "Conducting Online Q Methodology Research: Processes, Procedures, and Promise" and the presentation was entitled "Educational Technology Faculty Perspectives on Technology Infusion in Teacher Preparation Development."

Seema Imam, professor, attended the first inaugural meeting as a founding member of the Global Association of Islamic Schools (GAIS) in Istanbul, Turkey, as one of 80 delegates of 25 countries. Dr. Imam was a participant in the virtual GAIS Reading Circle chapter presentation panel. Dr. Imam also conducted the wrap-up session, "Action Planning and Share Out," for the Islamic Schools League of America's Annual Retreat in Dallas, Texas. The theme was "From Trauma to Transformation." She has served on The ISLA Board for two decades as well as four years as its Board Chair.

Todd Price, associate professor, presented "Moms for Liberty? The Politics of Parents in Local School Boards" at the 2022 JCT Conference on Curriculum Theory and Classroom Practice hosted by the *Journal of Curriculum Theorizing*.

Kristin Lems, professor, and two of her former students conducted a session at the ITBE Fall Workshop held by Illinois Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages - Bilingual Education (Illinois TESOL-BE). Dr. Lems, with M.A.T. candidates Daune Demus and Jennifer Jackson, presented "Choice Projects for Students and Teachers," sharing some Choice Projects they have done as adults and suggestions for using them with English language learners.

Xiuwen Wu, associate professor, offered a workshop during Learning Disabilities (LD) Awareness Month. The workshop was called "Learning Disabilities (Reading and Math Learning Disabilities) Raising LD Awareness - Workshop for Chinese Community."

Angela Elkordy, assistant professor, was an invited presenter at researchED. Her presentation was called, "Improvement by Design: Leveraging Evidence for Instructional Practices." She also presented an invited talk at McDaniel College, Westminster, MD entitled "Design for Effective Instruction for Digital Age Learners."

Emily Hoffman, assistant professor, presented "The Why and the How of Teaching Emergent Writing: Birth through Kindergarten." at the National Association for the Education of Young Children conference.

Antonina Lukenchuk, professor, presented "Rethinking Just War Theory within the Context of the Russian Aggression against Ukraine in the 21st Century: Implications for Critical Conversations in American Education" at the Society for the Philosophical Study of Education Annual Conference.

Angela Elkordy, assistant professor, was an invited panelist for a webinar on "Learner Variability and Culturally Responsive Practices" jointly sponsored by the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) and Digital Promise.

Todd Price, associate professor and Board Member of the Kenosha Unified School District (KUSD), was recently highlighted on KUSD Social Media for his service. Dr. Price was acknowledged for presenting "Local School Board Decision Making" at the Wisconsin Public Education Network 8th Annual Summer Summit and was also recognized for commitment to students and service as a board member in Wisconsin at the Wisconsin Association of School Boards' Fall Regional Meeting.

Stuart Carrier and **Geri Chesner**, associate professors, presented at the Learning 22 Conference, sponsored by the Learning Guild. Their session was titled "Apply Adult Learning Principles to Improve Learning in Your Organization."

Sherell Wilson, assistant professor, has been invited to present at the 42nd Annual Conference on The First Year Experience. Her presentation is "Strategies for Addressing Psychosocial Needs of First-Year, First-Gen College Students."

Renee Gugel, assistant professor, and **Geri Chesner**, associate professor, presented during the Inspire Teaching and Learning Webinar: The Intersection of Educator SEL and Student Success. They discussed the importance of new teacher support and mentoring.

The 2022 National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Convention included the following NCE faculty presentations:

- Fantasy for Social Justice: Fourth Grade Students' Responses to *A Wish in the Dark*; **Ruth Quiroa**, associate professor
- Jane Addams Children's Book Award Author/Illustrator Panel: Children's Literature Pursuing Sueños of Peace, Equity, Social Justice, & Global Community; **Ruth Quiroa**, associate professor
- Being a Light for One Another: Forming a Self-Study Community of Practice; **Sophie Degener**, associate professor
- Shining a Light on Students' Voices: Youth Writing for Interruption (YWI) Approach; **Tina Curry**, adjunct faculty

Gloria McDaniel-Hall, assistant professor, presented at the AMLE Conference with **Camille Auguste**, adjunct faculty, and **Alia McMurray**, NCE student. Their focus was implementing Culturally Responsive

Teaching and Leading Standards into curricula.

Xiaoli Wen, professor, **Sherri Bressman**, Director of Teacher Preparation, and **Ayn Keneman**, professor, were invited to present at the Early Childhood Credential Completion Cohort (EC4) Statewide grantee meeting. Between 2020-2022, the NLU Early Childhood Education program received three rounds of funding from the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), totaling \$1.2 million, to support early childhood teachers to gain a teaching licensure. This grant funded initiative has successfully supported 83 candidates to achieve their degree and license.

Elizabeth Minor, Director of Educational Leadership Studies, and **Christine Nelson**, assistant professor, presented a Carousel of Panels session entitled "How School Boards Can Support New Principals" at the IASB/IASA/IASBO Joint Annual Conference. **Renee Gugel**, assistant professor, and **Geri Chesner**, associate professor presented "Utilizing Higher Ed to Support Teacher Leader Development" at the same conference.

The 2022 Literacy Research Association (LRA) Annual Conference included the following NCE participation:

- LRA Area 3. Literacy Instruction and Literacy Learning; **Mary Hoch**
- Critical Incidents that Cultivate Critical Racial Literacy Practices for Teacher Education; **Sophie Degener**
- Design-Based Research to Promote Language Equity Within Teacher Preparation; **Colleen Hamilton, Joao Goebel (UGC), Wendy Mendez (UGC), Dora Guzman, Hannah Graham**
- Striving for Dialogue, Consciousness, & Community; **Sophie Degener**
- Re-Envisioning a Reading Specialist Program through an Equity Lens; **Sophie Degener, Tina Curry, Mary Hoch, Gloria McDaniel-Hall, Ruth Quiroa**
- "You don't have to think that much" vs. "I could see where I stand": Student Perceptions of Literacy Classrooms Dedicated to Social Justice; **Hannah Graham**
- Examining Complexities: Enacting Layered Learning in Clinical Teacher Preparation; **Debra Gurvitz and Mary Hoch**
- Chinese American Children Constructing Identities through Multimodal Discourses; **Xiaoning Chen**

Service to the Field:

Vito Dipinto, associate professor, spent a day co-teaching with alum **Andrew Bean**, '12, M.A.T. in Elementary Education, at Catherine Cook School in Old Town where he is the 8th Grade Dean and 8th Grade Science Teacher. Additionally, the two have presented at conferences for the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA) on their innovations in science teaching and learning for the past 8 years.

Bilge Cerezci, assistant professor, has been serving on an advisory group that supported a team of researchers from the Illinois Workforce and Education Research Collaborative (IWERC) at the University of

Illinois. More specifically, IWERC, in partnership with the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools (IARSS), the LEAD Hubs, and Goshen Education Consulting, surveyed over 3,000 current and former educators across Illinois about their working conditions to find out why some teachers leave and some stay. In addition to supporting the research team at IWERC through bi-monthly advisory board meetings, Dr. Cerezci also had the privilege to serve as a reviewer for their final report that was recently published: A Descriptive Analysis of the Illinois Educator Preparation Profiles (IEPP).

CELEBRATIONS

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

The Columbia Board of Education recommended **Michelle Holz**, M.A.T. grad, as the interim chief human resources officer for the 2022-23 school year.

Ivy Tech Community College Fort Wayne and Warsaw has appointed **Douglas Clark**, '00 C.A.S. Early Childhood Administration, as the new Dekko Foundation endowed chair in early childhood leadership and advocacy.

Lynn Long, Curriculum, Advocacy and Policy student, recently accepted an art teacher position in Schaumburg School District 54. Additionally, she was also the recipient of the 2021 Judson University Distinguished Alumni Award & a recipient of the 2022 Northland Pines High School Hall of Fame Award in Eagle River Wisconsin.

Alumna **Lindy Mandel** was awarded the Illinois Charters Elementary Teacher of the Year Award.

M.A.T. alumni **Liz Raser** and **Melissa Ayre** are both new faculty members of Morgan Park Academy.

Tim Matthies, '91 M.Ed. Technology in Education, was inducted into the 2022 Class of the [Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame](#).

Tia Robinson-Cooper has been named chancellor of Ivy Tech's South Bend-Elkhart campus.

Meralis T. Hood, Education Specialist degree in Educational Leadership and Administration, has been appointed as CEO of Entrepreneurship for All (EforAll).

Trisha DiFazio, M.A.T. grad with an ELS Endorsement, co-authored *Social-Emotional Learning Starts with Us* (Shell Education). The book examines the key competencies of self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, relationship skills, and social awareness.

The Illinois Association of School Administrators announced the 2023 Illinois Superintendent of the Year. This year's recipient is **PJ Caposey**, '07 M.Ed. Administration and Supervision, superintendent of Meridian CUSD #223.

Superintendent in Rock Island, Illinois, **Reginald Lawrence**, '16 Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, recently published an article in the NABSE Journal.

NCE IN THE NEWS

NCE programs and community members featured in media outlets

Carolyn Theard-Griggs, NCE Dean, was quoted in [The 74](#) discussing teacher retention strategies. She also authored "There are no easy solutions to teacher shortages. So let's focus on quality" for [District Administration](#).

Carlos Azcoitia, professor emeritus, was interviewed on Univision News discussing [student debt reduction](#) and [CPS enrollment](#). Dr. Azcoitia was also interviewed regarding the monitoring of student [social media](#) in the Chicago Public Schools.

Esmeralda Mora, Teaching and Learning; Curriculum, Advocacy, and Policy student, published *Los quince de Raquel* by Wayside Publishing.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY MEMBERS AND STAFF



Bobby Dillard, assistant professor, earned his Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from National Louis University, a Master's in Educational Administration from Roosevelt University, and a B.A. in Mathematics from Fisk University. Dr. Dillard is both a second-generation teacher and NLU graduate. He began his career as a High School Mathematics Teacher on Chicago's South Side. He brings over twenty years of K-12 school education experience as a teacher, administrator, leadership coach and consultant. His experiences have led to his passion to see greater access for black and brown students to quality math curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Dr. Dillard's research interests include culturally responsive math pedagogy and school leadership development. In his free time, Dr. Dillard enjoys spending time with his wife and three daughters, exercising, reading, and volunteering with social action organizations.



Sarah Lukas serves as the Director of Academic Operations for the Florida Regional Center in Tampa, Florida. Sarah has been part of the NLU family since September 2019, as Adjunct Faculty. In the summer of 2022, Dr. Lukas published her first book with her co-author, colleague, and friend, Dr. Carla Sparks. The book is titled, *Be the Manatee: Affirming Advice for Your Leadership Journey*. As an educator, Dr. Lukas has served in many roles including assistant principal, curriculum coordinator, program specialist, academic and behavioral intervention coach, programming administrator, department head and teacher of high school and middle school students. Dr. Lukas earned her Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership from NLU in June 2020. She also holds an Education Specialist degree in District-Level Educational Leadership from NLU, a Master of Education degree in Educational Leadership from the University of West Florida and a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Science Education from Florida State University.



William Vavrin is a new Outreach Development Specialist for NCE. He loves to work with schools, teachers, and all educators to help them discover pathways to strengthen their capacity and skills in the teaching field. As a former teacher himself, he understands the importance of furthering education and he wants to share that message with other teachers. Outside of teaching, he enjoys rock climbing, photography, and dancing. He also has a passion for social justice and taking care of the environment.



NCE is very pleased to welcome **Suzy Skrtic**, as a new Academic Project Coordinator on the NCE team. Prior to joining National Louis University, Suzy was a Learning Specialist at Chicago Bulls College Prep in the Near West Side neighborhood of Chicago, supporting diverse learners in a range of instructional settings and content areas. She also co-founded and coached the school chess team. Before starting her career in teaching, Suzy managed youth development programs, including a before and after school program and a summer day camp, at the YMCA of Greater Rochester (in New York, where she is originally from). With her passion for education, she focused on advancing initiatives that expanded academic enrichment opportunities for program participants. Suzy graduated from Boston University with a B.S. in Social Studies Education. She later earned her M.A.T. in Special Education and LBS1 endorsement through Relay Graduate School of Education. In her free time, Suzy enjoys reading, traveling, cheering on the Buffalo Bills, and spending time with her husband and dog.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND WEBINARS

Save the Date!
McCormick Center's Leadership Connections

April 26-28, 2023

Save the Date!
Doctoral Research Symposium 2023

More info to come and will be shared [here](#).

May 11, 2023

Save the Date!
Information Sessions

- M.A.T. Early Childhood and Elementary Education - February 6
- M.A.T. Middle Level/Secondary Education - February 7
- M.A.T. Special Education - February 8

For more information, contact Wendy Gaeding at WGaeding@nl.edu.

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

Copyright © 2023, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:
122 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60603

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