

JULY 2022

Dear National College of Education community,

As many of you may know, I assumed my role as Dean of the National College of Education on June 1, 2022. I have been taking this time to learn about NCE's mission, policies, and initiatives, and I'm very much looking forward to what the future holds for NCE. Please allow me to introduce myself:

I come to NCE with experience as both a classroom educator and a policy advocate at both the state and district level. Prior to joining NCE, I spent several years as the Dean of the College of Education at Chicago State University. I have also been a faculty and administrator in multiple settings, as well as a classroom teacher for grades K-3 for 10 years, and currently serve as School District #161 School Board President.

I hold an Ed.D. in Curriculum, Instruction, and Educational Policy from Loyola University Chicago, an M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction from National Louis University, and a BA in Elementary Education from University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. I'm thrilled to return to my alma mater and honored to take on this new role in my career.

As far as my personal life goes, I am a mother of four teenagers and married to a retired Chicago Public Schools principal. To say that education has been imbued into my life is an understatement. I'm fascinated with my children's lens and am pleased that I have the opportunity to chat with them and their friends of different age groups to hear about their school systems—both the positive aspects and also areas for potential change. My children's perspective informs my work.

Since the pandemic and global injustices, educators have been faced with incredibly challenging times;

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In This Edition

[What's New](#)

[Thought Leadership](#)

[Celebrations](#)

[NCE in the News](#)

[Welcome New Faculty
Members and Staff](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

however, at NCE, I believe we have the opportunity to wrestle with these challenges and figure out among stakeholders what's next in education. Realizing there is a lot of work to be done, I strive to advance the reputation of this college as a national leader in educator preparation and work towards the commitment that every child deserves a great teacher.

If you have suggestions or questions, 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 summer term and I look forward to meeting and working with you all,



Carolyn Theard-Griggs, Ed.D.

Dean, National College of Education

WHAT'S NEW

Funds for Student Teachers

NCE and the Undergraduate College teacher preparation students now have access to the U.S. Department of Education's Experimental Sites Initiative. This has made \$96,285.00 of work study money available to 80 student teachers for the 2021-2022 academic year. For more information, contact [Lisa Mozer](#), Director, Field Experience & PK-12 Partnerships.

School/District Partnership Expansion

In addition to the growing residency programs, M.A.T. Year Long Internship sites that accept teacher candidates for extended paid field experience have increased 137% from last fiscal year to this year!

Doctoral Research Symposium: A Great Success!

The Annual Doctoral Research Symposium across NLU had nearly 150 in attendance, 26 breakout session presenters, and 33 poster session presenters on Padlet. It was a celebratory evening showcasing doctoral candidates' research journeys. Read more [here](#).

New Roles

After a long search, **Elizabeth Minor** has been named NCE's new Director, Educational Leadership Studies. Additionally, **Jaclyn Rivard** has been appointed as chair of NCE's Higher Education Leadership doctoral program. Both bring deep program knowledge to their roles, institutional perspectives, collaborative spirits, and commitment to their colleagues and students. Additionally, former NCE Dean, **Robert Muller**, will continue with NCE as a Distinguished Professor of Practice. He will be teaching in the PK-12

Educational Leadership and Higher Education Leadership programs, advising doctoral candidates, and contributing to special projects in the Provost's office.

New issue of i.e.: inquiry in education out now!

The i.e. editorial team has announced the publication of the Spring 2022 issue of i.e.: inquiry in education. This issue features a collection of eight articles and includes the editorial entitled "It Was the Worst of Times, and It Was the Best of Times": Reflections on Our Times by Antonina Lukenchuk, professor. 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. i.e. is indexed by ERIC. Please enjoy Volume 14, Issue 1 [here](#).

In Case You Missed It

- NCE has three alumni who have been named Golden Apple winners! Learn more about two of them [here](#).
- View the NCE Impact Report [here](#).
- Read about the third annual Teaching and Learning Community event [here](#).
- Read about NCE's Teacher Mentor program and its impact [here](#).
- Read about NCE's faculty research [here](#).

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

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

Publications:

Sadia Warsi, associate professor, co-authored "Engaging Special Education Teacher Candidates with Disability-Themed Novels During the Pandemic" in the National Association of Special Education Teachers (NASSET) Online [Special Educator e-Journal](#).

Todd Price, associate professor, is co-editor of *The Curriculum Journal*, Volume 33, Issue 2, Special Issue: [Challenging Curricular Hegemony Through International Perspectives](#).

Jaclyn Rivard, assistant professor, co-authored "[Toward Institutionalizing Successful Innovations in the Academy](#)," a featured article in *To Improve the Academy: A Journal of Educational Development*, Volume 41, Issue 1, Spring 2022. This journal is the flagship peer-reviewed publication of the Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education (POD Network).

Mark Newman, professor, is serving as the editor for a new book series to be published by Rowman & Littlefield on Teaching History Today and in the Future.

Emily Hoffman, assistant professor, has two new publications. She has a chapter titled "4 Multimodal Narrative Composition in Urban Preschool(ed) Places: What Counts as Narrative and Whose Narrative Counts?" in the book *Multimodal Literacies in Young Emergent Bilinguals: Beyond Print-Centric Practices*. She also had an article published in the [Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education](#) called "The digital literacies of early childhood educators: perceptions of collaborative online learning."

Seema Imam, professor, has an article titled "Students' Sense of Belonging at Full-Time Islamic Schools in the United States: A Phenomenological Study" in the *Journal of Education in Muslim Societies*, Volume 3, Number 2, Spring 2022, pp. 57-78, published by Indiana University Press.

Presentations:

Several NCE faculty presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA):

- **Arlene Borthwick** "Understanding Stakeholder Perspectives on Technology Infusion in Teacher Preparation: Educational Technology Faculty Perspectives"
- **Todd Price** "Critical Race Theory as Policy as Curriculum?"
- **Angela Elkordy** "Actionable Knowledge: Educators' Beliefs, Practices, and the Science of Learning"
- **Xiuwen Wu** "The Game Go in Elementary Classrooms: Teachers' and Students' Perceptions of Go's Benefits for Mathematics"
- **Xiuwen Wu, Kate Zilla, Kathy Kotel, and Diane Salmon** "High-Leverage Practices and Implications for Special Education Teacher Preparation: Voices From First-Year Teachers"
- **Sophie Degener** "When 'Nice' Isn't: Confronting Niceness to Center Equity in Literacy Teacher Education"
- **Bilge Cerezci** "Within and Beyond Breakout Rooms: Preparing Teacher Candidates to Be Social Justice Advocates During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic"
- **Angela Elkordy, Jack Denny, Donna Wakefield, and Ayn Keneman** "Teaching, Learning, and Changing: Instructional Practices in K-21 Contexts in the Post-COVID Era"

Lisa Mozer, Director of Field Experiences and PK-12 Partnerships, and **Kavita Venkatesh**, Residencies and Alternative Pathway Program Director, presented "University-District Partnerships: Building Pipelines of Educators Together Through Year-Long Internships & Teacher Residencies" to West40 Administrators.

Kristi Stricker, Associate Dean, led a discussion group related to the proposed Part 25 ISBE Teacher Education Licensure changes and **Todd Price**, associate professor, led a discussion group on the Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading Standards at the Illinois Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (IACTE) spring conference.

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 (NCTM) 2022 Indianapolis Regional Conference and Exposition.

Todd Price, associate professor, worked to develop the theme (Curriculum Studies in the Anthropocene) for the 2022 American Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies (AAACS) Annual Conference. He also gave welcome/introduction remarks.

Molly Buren, assistant professor, presented a webinar "Barriers to Advocacy: Experiences Among Rural Parents of Children with Disabilities" for the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD).

Angela Elkordy, assistant professor, presented "AI for Everyone," a 90-minute workshop preparing educators to participate in the Day of AI, for The Islamic Schools League of America (ISLA).

Seema Imam, professor, presented "One Muslim American Professor's Identity Construction: an Autoethnography" at the 18th International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry. Seema was also an invited moderator and speaker for "Education Series, 21st Century Alternative to K-12 Schooling for Muslim Children" at the ICNA-MAS 47th Annual Convention, organized by the Islamic Circle of North American and the Muslim American Society.

Antonina Lukenchuk, professor, presented "Resolving the Dilemma between Your Teaching Responsibilities and Your Scholarly Writing Pursuits" at the 34th Annual Textbook & Academic Authoring Conference (TAA).

CELEBRATIONS

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

Marcus Campbell, '16 Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, is the new superintendent of Evanston Township High School.

Vishodana Thamocharan, Director of STEM Initiatives, and Eun Kyung Ko, associate professor, have been awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) Noyce Scholarship multi-year grant of approximately \$1.1 million for their project "Engaging Noyce Scholars in Anti-Racist Community-Based Teaching in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics." Read more [here](#).

Jo-Ellen Fairbanks, '06 Certificate of Advanced Study, was named superintendent of the Luxemburg-Casco school district.

Kevin Deering, '10 M.Ed. Administration & Supervision, has been hired as the Mequon-Thiensville School District's executive director of educational services.

Joshua Dakins, '05 CAS Administration and Supervision, will be the new principal of George Washington Middle School D103.

Xiaoning Chen, assistant professor, and Jason Stegemoller, associate professor, received notice that NLU has been awarded the STARTALK year-round teacher training grant for their project "NLU Pathways to Teacher Certification." Read more [here](#).

Michael Graham, '22 Higher Education Leadership alumnus and NLU's very own VP of Operations and Technology, wrote a guest [post](#) on OPM Research for Inside Higher Ed.

LaShawnda Holland, '09 M.Ed. in Administration & Supervision, has been appointed as the Wauwatosa's School District's Director of Diversity and Inclusion.

Alumna **Christy Martino** is the new principal of Promise Road Elementary, a Noblesville School.

Alumna **Valerie Martinez** has been appointed Principal at Thacker Avenue Elementary School for International Studies.

At the 136th National Louis University Commencement, **Christine Nelson**, assistant professor, was recognized with the Graduate Faculty of Year Award.

Amber Reedy, '21 Ed.S. in Educational Leadership, has been appointed as an assistant principal at Heritage Lakes School in Carol Stream.

Lori Sweeney, '21 Ed.S. in Educational Leadership, is the new principal of Jefferson Elementary.

Sam Moorner, M.Ed. in Educational Leadership, is the new assistant coach for men's basketball at Warner University.

Carie Cohen, '11 Disability Studies, '18 Special Education Endorsement, and a past university supervisor for NLU, is District 26's assistant superintendent for student services.

NCE IN THE NEWS

NCE programs and community members featured in media outlets

Carlos Azcoitia, professor emeritus, was filmed by Univision several times recently. First, he [commented](#) about ISBE's changes to student assessments in schools, then he discussed [teacher shortages](#), and he also commented on [student safety](#).

Brittany Tauber, '21 M.Ed. Curriculum and Instruction with Advanced Specialization, was interviewed for the [article](#) "The 16 Best Read-Aloud Books For Kindergarten — To Inspire Budding Readers"

WELCOME NEW FACULTY MEMBERS AND STAFF

Shalon Beerdeke is the new Career Advisor for graduate students and Alumni at the NLU Career Bridge. She brings to the role an extensive background in marketing and non-profit leadership and counseling. Shalon is passionate about education and particularly enjoys working with individuals in transition, helping to guide and motivate them through their journeys and onto their new paths toward success. She is here to assist graduate students with resumes, cover letters, interview prep, job searching and handling general anxiety that goes along with the whole process. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Shalon and to refer our graduate students and alumni for any and all career-related questions or concerns.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND WEBINARS

Summer Institute in Digital Literacy

July 10-15, 2022

RSVP NOW

Meet with colleagues from around the country and around the world to immerse yourself in learning at this year's Summer Institute in Digital Literacy Conference. It's the best way to restore and re-invigorate your personal and professional identity as a lifelong learner.

The program is a week-long interdisciplinary gathering that includes K-12 educators and school leaders; higher education faculty and researchers; school, public and academic librarians; media literacy educators working in non-school contexts; and journalists and creative media professionals.

All week long, you will:

- Participate in meaningful conversations and develop collaborative relationships
- Create meaningful digital resources that you can implement or use in your own work context
- Share ideas for how to integrate digital inquiry and creative production into K-12 classrooms, libraries, and/or maker spaces through intentional planning, experiential learning, collaboration, and innovative assessments of student learning.

NCE Open House

Thursday, August 11th, 5-7pm CT

RSVP NOW

From freshman, transfer, degree completion to degree-seeking—we invite you to join us for our university-wide virtual open house! This event is open for two hours, and our representatives will be available to speak with you at the time most convenient for you. You can learn about our associate's, bachelor's, master's, doctoral and certificate options; plus, you'll explore virtual booths, hear program-specific presentations, and chat 1-on-1 with Financial Aid representatives.

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