

July 2023

Dear National College of Education
Community,

In my last quarterly newsletter address, I mentioned the importance of mental health and self-care. As we approach the summer term, I believe this is more important than ever. In these next few months that can be a bit slower, as we close off the academic year, I encourage you all to stay present. Go for a walk, smell the flowers, see a play, do something that makes you smile and feel good so that we can come back to the classroom in the fall feeling refreshed.

I also know that in this day and age, educators are asked to maintain a work/life balance, but this can be difficult to put into practice. Education is challenging and oftentimes an undervalued profession.

Teacher support, collaboration, and collegiality is critical for the long-term success of teachers. However, we cannot implement social-emotional learning without learning to take care of ourselves.

As we head into the warmer months, I encourage you all to look for what your own work/life balance looks like and tune into your needs. This is *your* time. If you are looking for ways to tend to wellness and resilience, you may watch a recording of a [webinar](#) we hosted in May about this very topic.

I also hope you will take some time to look at the fantastic work that is being done at this institution. Our faculty are in the field and showcasing their research. Our alumni are making us proud. You may read about their

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successes and other initiatives around the National College of Education below.

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 summer term! I look forward to hearing about your work and progress



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

WHAT'S NEW

NLU Celebrates Earth Day

National Louis University hosted a variety of events in honor of Earth Day, primarily run by NLU's Think Green group president, **Kristin Lems**, professor, and her staff/faculty/student group. During the two-day festivities, students could make their own art to honor the Earth, donate used books to Better World Books, watch a short film about the planet over lunch, sign up for volunteer events, and learn about scholarship opportunities.

Let the Little Light Shine

Gloria McDaniel-Hall, assistant professor, organized a viewing of the documentary, "Let the Little Light Shine", a film by Kevin Shaw that follows a community that got together to fight for a top-ranked African American elementary school's future. About 40 faculty and students gathered in the Chicago Campus Atrium to watch and then joined the director for a discussion.

Mathematics Specialist Endorsement

NCE recently received approval for an Elementary Mathematics Specialist Endorsement, making NLU the first in the state of Illinois to offer this! Thanks to **Sherri Bressman** for

presenting this proposal at the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board of ISBE meeting in Springfield.

In Case You Missed It

- The Reading Recovery Center for Literacy welcomed 40 Teacher Leaders from Florida, Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin for professional learning that connected literacy to equity, social justice, and advocacy. In addition, seven individuals were recognized for earning a Reading Recovery Teacher Leader credential. These educators were nominated by their school districts to engage in rigorous study and leadership field experiences to become early literacy experts who organize and deliver job-embedded professional development and coaching for interventionists, special education, and teachers of multilingual children in their districts.
 - Congratulations to two of our NCE faculty, **George Litman**, professor of mathematics education, and **Kate Zilla**, associate professor of special education, for their recent retirements. We want to give them recognition for their years of service to our institution!
- The Doctoral Research Symposium took place on May 11th! We had 133 in attendance for the welcome panel, with three alumni panelists sharing their doctoral stories. Then, there were eight breakout sessions for doctoral candidates to share their research. You may watch recordings of this year's session and view the poster presentations via Padlet [here](#).
- Congratulations to **Anquineice Brown**, '17 MAT Elementary Education, the recipient of a 2023 Golden Apple award! View all of NLU's Golden Apple winners [here](#).
- Teacher Appreciation Week occurred in May. Check out the [NLU blog](#) to read about some featured Teacher Appreciation Week educators.
- Discover new ways to stay connected with cohorts, classmates and friends with NLU's new [Alumni Portal](#)! From alumni volunteer opportunities, networking events and class reunions, career services to an exclusive alumni directory, this is your "one stop shop" to engage with your alma mater. You can also use the portal to update your contact information, submit class notes for the alumni magazine, find out what's new at NLU and more. If you haven't signed up yet, click [here](#).
- Calling all interested CLAVE Doctoral Fellowship 2023-24 Applicants! Recipients receive up to \$5,000 with an additional \$300 book and materials allowance for each of the two years of this Fellowship. The online application provides full information on eligibility requirements. [Application](#) Deadline: Thursday, August 31, 2023 CLAVE Doctoral Fellowship questions can be directed to Ruth E. Quiroa, Ph.D. at RQuiroa@nl.edu and/or CLAVEfellowship@nl.edu.
- National Louis will be entering its second year of recruitment for Horizons4 in the fall.
- [Apply](#) or an ECACE scholarship. This is available for degrees or credentials in early childhood education and may cover up to the total cost of attendance after other

financial aid received - costs such as tuition and fees, transportation, room and board, and books and supplies. Deadline is August 7, 2023.

- Recently, Dean **Carolyn Theard-Griggs** attended NCE's inaugural Brain Trust luncheon. This alumni group of district and business leaders will serve in the capacity of thought leadership, giving direction for teacher preparation, discussing new ideas in education, and providing support and counsel.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

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

Publications:

Arlene Borthwick, professor emerita, published "Perspectives of Educational Technology Teacher Educators: Mavericks, Champions, or Change Agents?" in the *Journal of Digital Learning in Teacher Education*.

Molly Buren, assistant professor, co-authored "Parents' Experiences Transitioning From Early Intervention Services to School Services" in the *Journal of Early Intervention*.

Kristin Lems, professor, published "Native Land Acknowledgments: What Are They? Why Write Them?" in the *Evanston RoundTable*.

Adjunct faculty **Kendra Tlusty** and **Nicole Tschohl** co-authored and published an article entitled "Dancing in the Sky with Ava" with Jen York and Sonya Roe in the Spring issue of *The Journal of Reading Recovery*.

Sherri Bressman, professor, Kavita Kapadia Matsko (Northwestern University), **Eun Kyung Ko**, associate professor, **Lisa Mozer**, executive director, field experience & PK-12 partnerships, and **Jeffrey Winter**, professor, have published "Two Sides of a Coin: Examining Mentor and Student Teacher Relationships During Student Teaching" in *Teaching and Teacher Education*, Volume 130. The article is a culmination of research starting in 2019 on how mentor teachers and student teachers prioritize different types of interactions in their mentoring relationships.

Presentations:

20+ NCE faculty participated in the American Educational Research Association annual meeting, the world's largest gathering of education researchers:

- "Educational Trends From International Data" by **Antonina Lukenchuk**
- "Tight and Loose Spaces in Collaborative Interactions: Sustaining the Intellectual Work of Longitudinal Self-Studies" by **Sophie Degener**
- "Advising Black Doctoral Women: Using a Professional Development Program to Explore the Systemic Disadvantages in Doctoral Advising" by **Estee Hernández**
- "Latino Achievement: The Role of the Teacher in the Success or Failure of Latino Students" by **Sandra Gonzalez-Adamski**
- Engaging Higher Education Students in Creating Curricular Content to Increase Equity" by **Gloria McDaniel-Hall**, **Elizabeth Teahan** (UGC), **Sadia Warsi**, **Terry Jo Smith**, **Shaunti Knauth**
- "Moms on the March: School Board Politics, 'Parents' Rights,' and the 'New Oppressed'" by **Todd Price**

- "Teaching Educational Research Methods: Student Perceptions and Faculty Reflections" by **Antonina Lukenchuk**
- "Implementing Practice-Based Teacher Training: Reinvigorating the Preparation of Special Educators by **Xiuwen Wu, Kathleen Kotel, Kate Zilla, Diane Salmon**
 - "Examining the Transfer of Visual Literacy Strategies Among Middle and Secondary Preservice Teacher Education Candidates" by **Mark Newman, Xiaoning Chen**
 - "A Comparative Hermeneutic Study of Dewey's Dialectics and German Philosophers of Education and Pedagogy" by **Todd Price**
- "Modeling Norms From the Field: The Playful Approach to Early Mathematics" by **Bilge Cerezci**
- "Inspired Researcher Engagement and Identity Development" by **Antonina Lukenchuk**
- "Visual Self-Study to Find Professional Truth and Understanding" by **Karen Tardrew**
- "Validating the Doctoral Writing Process Questionnaire at a Hispanic-Serving Institution: Connections to Well-Being, Multimodal Writing" by **Jason Stegemoller**
- "Chicana Scholar-Activist Testimonios on Academic Twitter" by **Estee Hernández**
- "Student Perceptions of Critically Oriented Literacy Classrooms" by **Hannah Graham**
- "Addressing Equity and Antiracism in a Reading Specialist Program" by **Sophie Degener, Tina Curry, Mary Hoch, Gloria McDaniel-Hall, Ruth Quiroa, Courtney Brookins**
- "A Pipeline of Black Male and Latinx School Leaders: Addressing Equity and Culturally Proficient Practice" by **Harrington Gibson, Cheryl Watkins**
- "Enhancing Preservice Teachers' Performance Competence in Leveraging Visual Literacy to Support Multilingual Students in STEM" by **Xiaoning Chen, Vishodana Thamotharan, Eun Kyung Ko, Xue Han**

The 19th International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry was held at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. **Seema Imam**, professor, delivered a research presentation which was part of the panel Autoethnography and Hope. Dr. Imam's presentation was entitled "Data Collection in Autoethnography: Reflections, Journals, Research Notes, Critical Inquiry into Three Examples that Problematicize a Critical Past."

Service to the Field:

Jennifer Engelland-Schultz, assistant professor, served as Respondent for "Formulating Assessments for the Culturally Responsive Teacher and Leader (CRTL) Standards," a Center Partnership Lunch and Learn hosted by the Center for Success. Dr. Engelland-Schultz joined the presenters and moderator for a rich dialogue that revolved around the process used to determine assessments for CRTL standards, anchor assessments for CRTL standards, examples of CRTL assessments that provide assurance that students understand and are able to use the standards, as well as advice for colleagues on the journey of aligning CRTL standards to assessments in preparation programs.

Kristi Stricker, associate dean, and **Todd Price** and **Donna Wakefield**, associate professors, attended the Annual Spring Conference of the Illinois Association of Colleges

for Teacher Education. They spent time with legislators from throughout the state discussing issues important to higher education. Drs. Stricker, Price and Wakefield all serve on the IACTE Executive Board.

Ayn Keneman, professor, conducted a literacy workshop on the Chicago Campus focusing on interactive read aloud for NLU's Jumpstart interns working at El Valor's Guadalupe Reyes Center. Dr. Keneman worked with Brisa Garcia, Jumpstart Site Manager, to design the workshop for the interns started in spring. They will facilitate future workshops this year with the Jumpstart interns and families of El Valor in support of high-quality early education and kindergarten readiness.

Jack Denny, associate professor, **Angela Elkordy**, assistant professor, **Ayn Keneman**, professor, and **Donna Wakefield**, associate professor, recently participated in a course through ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education). The course "Artificial Intelligence Explorations and Their Practical Use in Schools," focused on the following ISTE Standards for Educators- Learner 1.a, Citizen 3.a, and Designer 5.b, Facilitator 6.c, Facilitator 6.d and Analyst 7.c. The NLU team met to explore content and work on projects together. One of the requirements for the course was designing a capstone experience in order to pass the course. The team's project focused on AI applications in Higher Education.

Congratulations to **Seema Imam**, professor, for passing her portfolio submission for Apple Learning Coach! This professional learning program trains instructional coaches, digital learning specialists, and other coaching educators to help teachers get more out of Apple technology. Candidates engage in self-paced lessons, workshop sessions, and personal creative projects to gain a deeper understanding of how to support teachers as they integrate technology into learning.

Xiaoning Chen and **Colleen Hamilton** are the co-directors for the 2023-2025 STARTALK Teaching Chinese in Multilingual Classrooms grant awarded to National Louis University. The grant provides funding to provide a pathway toward the Illinois Bilingual Endorsement to prospective and current educators who plan to teach Chinese in K-12 classrooms. In alignment with the STARTALK goal to increase highly effective critical language teachers, this teacher training program plans to recruit and support up to 20 prospective and current teachers to address the critical need for Chinese language programs in the U.S. The program will focus on ensuring that participants are prepared to teach Chinese in multilingual classrooms with the most effective pedagogy and strategies to plan, deliver, and assess instruction using the STARTALK Principles and Teacher Effectiveness for Language Learning (TELL) criteria. STARTALK is a federal grant program managed and funded by the National Security Agency.

Dean **Carolyn Theard-Griggs** appeared on the panel "Making pathways into teaching accessible, practice-based, and focused on equitable instruction" at the Leadership Collaborative Convening with Deans for Impact. The panel had former fellows from a diverse range of institutions describe efforts to foster pathways into teaching that are accessible, practice-based, and focused on equitable instruction, and the leadership decisions that they have made in doing so.

CELEBRATIONS

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

Congratulations to alumnus **Kyle Schmitt**, the new principal of Melbourne Central Catholic High School.

Kathleen Kotel, assistant professor, was recognized for her leadership and contributions as a founding board member of GiGi's Playhouse at the 20th Anniversary Gala. Twenty years ago, Dr. Kotel and a few mothers with a mission to increase awareness and acceptance of people with Down Syndrome gathered to plan the opening of the first playhouse.

Arlene Borthwick, professor emerita, was recognized for an "Outstanding Paper Award" at the 34th Annual Conference of the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education. The award-winning paper is entitled "Candidate Perspectives About Technology Infusion in Their Teacher Education Preparation Program."

Current Educational Leadership student **Jessica McIntyre** was named District 102's new school chief.

Congratulations to **Xiuwen Wu**, associate professor, who has been awarded an Iwamoto Grant. The Iwamoto North American Foundation for Go will fund Dr. Wu to conduct a comprehensive review of research linking mind sports and cognitive science. The one-year research study will investigate how mind sports, specifically Go, can enhance the cognitive development of youth.

The Chasing Hope Foundation nominated **Melissa Faron**, Office of Field Experience, for an Annie Award. The Chasing Hope Foundation seeks to recognize and reward those individuals who represent the highest standard in special education through The Annie Awards. Inspired by the legacy of Anne Sullivan, a noted teacher of Helen Keller, the Annie Awards are given annually to recognize excellence in special education.

Briana Morales, adjunct faculty, was named Southwest Region's 2023 Illinois Teacher of the Year!

Agnieszka Hanni, Ed.S. in Higher Education Leadership, is the new vice president for enrollment management and marketing at North Central College.

Heather McCarthy, graduate of our Curriculum and Instruction program, was selected as a finalist for the 2023 Women Changing the World Awards.

Kim Kurklis, '96 M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction, was honored as the 2023 Connie Reyes Award winner.

Congratulations to **Efrain Martinez**, '21 Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, who has been appointed the new principal for Conrad Fischer Elementary.

Congratulations to **Cameron Parker**, '05 M.Ed. Curriculum and Instruction, for being appointed as the next principal for Emma E. Booker Elementary School.

The Port Washington-Saukville School Board hired **Brenda Arnett**, '96 M.A.T. Elementary Education, to

Congratulations to **Carolyn Neher**, '96 M.Ed. in Early Childhood Leadership and Advocacy, who is the new

Congratulations to **Jessica Lombardi**, Educational Leadership graduate, who has been

become the next Port-Saukville School District's first finance director.

associate director of Children's Disaster Services, a program of Brethren Disaster Ministries.

named the interim superintendent for Huntley Community School District 158.

NCE IN THE NEWS

NCE programs and community members featured in media outlets
Carlos M. Azcoitia, professor emeritus, was interviewed on an episode of [Chicago Tonight](#), a television program presented by WTTW. The episode's top story recognized the 10-year anniversary of the historic decision to close 50 Chicago Public Schools. He was also recently on [Univision](#) discussing the new state legislation to report bullying to families.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY MEMBERS AND STAFF



NCE is pleased to welcome **Maya Foster** as a new staff member who has joined the NCE team as Senior Administrative Coordinator. Maya is an NLU graduate with a love for helping children and teachers to thrive. With a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education, Maya is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Early Childhood Administration here at NLU. For two years, Maya worked as a Teacher at the Learning Bridge Early Education Center, a non-profit child care center in Evanston, and developed a hands-on approach to child development that stresses giving each child individualized attention. During her time at Learning Bridge, Maya led a successful fundraiser that raised \$2,000 for families affected by COVID-19. Maya feels it is important that she shows her commitment to her community through service. In addition, Maya ran and operated a youth Tennis lesson club for children ranging in age from 2 to 10 years at Evanston Township High School, providing all equipment and facilities for underrepresented children in the community. It is Maya's goal to continue to make a positive impact in the field of education.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND WEBINARS

Teaching and Leading with AI in P-12 Education: Possibilities

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Join **Angela Elkordy**, associate professor, in an engaging and collaborative discussion with fellow educators on unlocking the potential of AI in P-12 education. The event will begin with learning the fundamentals and trends in AI, and then will go into breakout sessions around the topics of Leadership and AI Policy & Possibilities, Ethics, Equity & Bias, and AI Tools to Support Teachers & Leaders.

Aug. 4, 2023

For any inquiries, please contact maria.taylor@nl.edu

Upcoming Information Sessions

M.A.T. Early Childhood and Elementary (4:00 pm CST)

[Http://nl.zoom.us/j/95110087870](http://nl.zoom.us/j/95110087870)

July 11, 2023

M.A.T. Middle Level and Secondary (5:00 pm CST)

[Http://NL.zoom.us/j/94591759718](http://NL.zoom.us/j/94591759718)

Upcoming Information Session

M.A.T. Special Education (4:00 pm CST)

<http://nl.zoom.us/j/98693058764>

July 13, 2023

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