

Leadership Connections™

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Building Brighter Futures



MAY 10-12, 2018



McCormick
Center

FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP

AT NATIONAL LOUIS UNIVERSITY

Welcome!



As Paula Jorde Bloom wrote in *Leadership in Action*, “What most people want more than anything is the chance to belong and make a difference in something they value.”

I am thrilled you chose to join us for Leadership Connections, where you truly belong. You join over 650 early childhood professionals like you and I hope you make the most out of every opportunity to connect with each other to further your network of support, glean additional knowledge, and engage with those who can relate to your trials and triumphs. You truly make a difference and together are “building brighter futures” for children and their families.

With more than 50 presentations and over 30 marketplace exhibitors, I trust that you will gain a great deal, whether you are joining us for the first time, or you are a Leadership Connections regular. I am particularly excited to hear from our keynote speakers, Walter Gilliam and Dana Suskind; learn from our 2018 Visionary Leadership Award honoree, Barbara Bowman, at the Leadership Colloquium; and attend the Public Policy Forum moderated by the McCormick Center’s Teri Talan. I look forward to seeing you at our Networking Reception on Thursday.

If there is anything you need during the conference, McCormick Center staff are here to assist. Please let us know how we can improve your conference experience.

Warm regards,

DONNA JACOBSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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Conference Schedule

Wednesday (pre-conference) | May 9

Pre-registration is required for all pre-conference sessions

9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Judy Jablon: Five Commitments of Optimistic Leadership
9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Luis Hernandez: Mama in Her Pajamas: Checking Our Attitudes About Families
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Janis Keyser: Inviting Mama in Her Pajamas into Partnership: Building Our Toolkit
4:30 pm - 11:00 pm	Guided tour of Chicago (additional fee)
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm	Intentional Networking (pre-registration is not required)

Thursday | May 10

7:00 am - 7:45 am	Continental breakfast
8:00 am - 10:00 am	Skill-building session 1
10:15 am - 12:30 pm	Opening Keynote Luncheon - General session
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Skill-building session 2
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Break
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Skill-building session 3
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	Networking Reception
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	Marketplace (exhibit hall) opens
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Leadership Colloquium

Friday | May 11

7:00 am - 7:45 am	Breakfast buffet
7:00 am - 2:00 pm	Marketplace (exhibit hall) open
8:00 am - 10:00 am	Public Policy Forum - General session
10:00 am - 10:30 am	Coffee break
10:30 am - 12:30 pm	Skill-building session 4
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Lunch buffet
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Taking Charge of Change Reunion Luncheon
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Skill-building session 5
4:15 pm - 5:15 pm	Special interest sessions
4:30 pm - 11:00 pm	Self-guided tour of Chicago (additional fee)

Saturday | May 12

7:00 am - 8:00 am	Continental breakfast
8:00 am - 10:00 am	Skill-building session 6
10:15 am - 12:15 pm	Skill-building session 7
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Closing Keynote Luncheon - General session

FREE: Wifi & McCormick Center App



Check the **schedule**, learn more about our **sponsors**, and **connect** with other attendees using the official **McCormick Center app**.

Download the app using the **FREE WIFI** available throughout the conference area of the hotel.



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Conference Tracks

The interconnected domains of the Whole Leadership Framework guide tracks for the 2018 Leadership Connections™ National Conference.

Whole Leadership Framework FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS (BIRTH TO THIRD GRADE)



DOWNLOAD

Whole leadership is an inter-dependent relationship that exists between the domains of administrative leadership, pedagogical leadership, and leadership essentials, as identified in the Whole Leadership Framework. A balanced perspective is necessary when performing administrative functions.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP is about setting goals, orchestrating work, and mobilizing people to sustain an early childhood organization. Effective administrative leaders establish systems for consistent implementation of program operations to meet the needs of children, families, and staff. There are many important aspects of administrative leadership, with two of the most important being operational leadership and strategic leadership.

PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP attends to educator dispositions and high-quality interactions with children, such as ensuring fidelity to curricular philosophy, assessing children's development and learning, using data for evaluation, and optimizing learning. It is inclusive of instructional leadership.

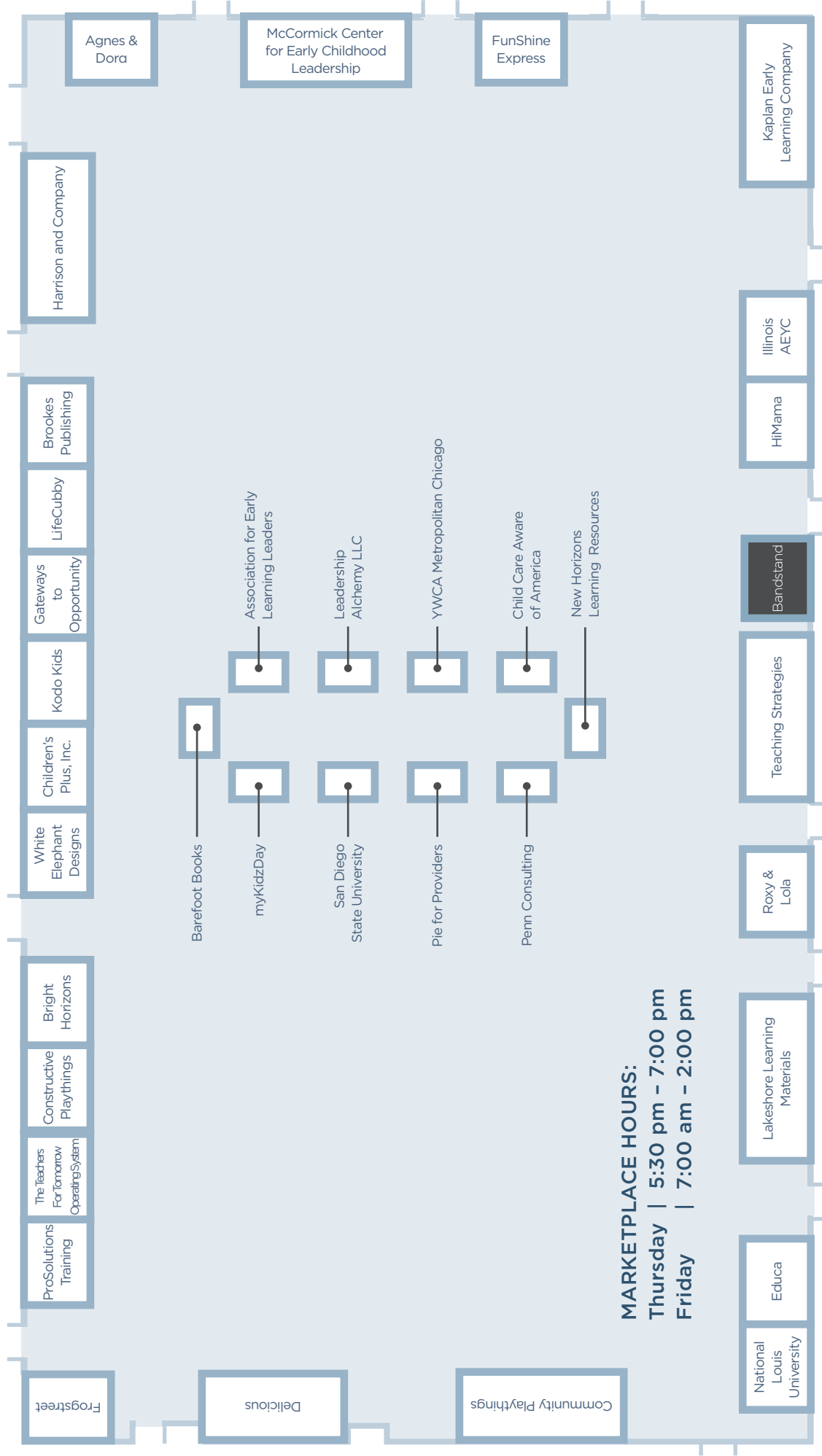
LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS include the personal skills and attributes on which administrative and pedagogical leadership are built. The competencies influence and motivate all other areas of leadership vision and practice. Leadership essentials are embodied by the leader as necessary anchors for success.

Look for these labels throughout the program book. Which tools will you add to your whole leadership toolbox? Which will you refine or master?

Sessions Overview

Track	Thursday			Friday		Saturday	
	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Session 7
Pedagogical Leadership	8:00 am - 10:00 am Creatively Accountable: Let's Simplify Assessment! Beth Ehlis Lake Michigan A	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Leading Programs Caring for Sensory Sensitive Children Jane Humphries Botanic B	3:30 pm - 5:30pm Facilitating Impactful Professional Development Susan MacDonald Lake Michigan A	10:30 am - 12:30 pm Nurturing Leadership Jacqueline Ewonus Birch	2:00 pm - 4:00pm Creating Intentional Coaching Systems: Transforming Organizational Practices from Me to We Kristen Klaussen Willow	8:00 am - 10:00 am Effective Responsiveness Jack Wright River A&B	10:15 am - 12:15 pm Develop Confidence with Challenging Behavior Using Play, Theater-Arts and Mindset Techniques Barb O'Neill Botanic A
	Developing Empowering School Cultures in Early Education Settings Althea Penn River A&B	Using the National Accreditation Commission Classroom Observation Tool to Build Teacher Competency Colleen Haddad Willow	There's Nothing Wrong with My Child! Barbara Doyle Birch	The Best Start: An Intergenerational Approach to Strengthen Parenting and Child Well-Being Kimberly Svevo-Cianci River C	From Parent Involvement to Family Engagement Jill Bradley Lake Michigan A	Tools to Build Teacher and Organizational Capacity for High Quality Literacy Learning Jennifer Adams Ravinia B	Leadership in Early Childhood: Teaching and Learning Approaches for Effective Family Child Care Marsha Hawley Ravinia A
	Professional Development Frameworks: Regulations, Strategies, and State Examples Michelle Adkins Willow	The Significance of Affect on Sensorimotor Processing, Learning, and Development Keith Pentz Botanic A		The Pyramid Model: An Overview for Instructional Leaders Kathleen Villano Lake Michigan B	Tools for Pedagogical Leadership: Guiding Programs That Support Young Children's Growth and Learning Michael Abel River A&B	Creating a Culture of Family Engagement Mary Muhs Lake Michigan A	Moving from Sustainability to Resiliency: Changing Our Language to Change Our Path Forward Maegan Lokteff Botanic B
	Hiring and Managing Consultants to Get the Most Value for Your Program Fran Simon Birch	Early Childhood Expulsion Legislation: From Passage and Implementation to Best Practice Allison Lowe-Fotos Lake Michigan B	Don't Call Me Kid: Understanding and Developing a Multigenerational Workforce in Early Childhood Lacey Tsonis Lake Michigan B	Important Conversations: Advocating for the Children and Families We Care for, and About Geania Dickey Lake Michigan A	Child Care Resource and Referral: Our Nation's Community Connectors Jen Bump Birch	Finding the Right Fit for Family Child Care: Recruiting, Selecting, and Orienting Robyn Kelton Lake Michigan B	Advocating for Policy Change: Be the Change You Want to See Meghan Donohue Ravinia B
Administrative Leadership	Leading the Way: Leveraging Social Media to Engage Communities and Raise Advocates April Dodge-Ostendorf Lake Michigan B	Effective Discipline Policies: Creating a System that Supports Social-Emotional Competence Sarah Garrity Birch	Recruitment and Retention of a Qualified Workforce Katherine Falen Willow	Technology That's Right for You: A Day in the Life of Center Owners and Directors Abhas Jain Willow	Leading Change and Influencing Others: Learning from Neuroscience and Systems Research Kelley Perkins River C	Tips for Improving Staff Morale Susan Testaguzza River C	Making Learning Stick: Training for Change Laura Benbow Lake Michigan A
	Navigating Change as a Leader in Early Education Heather Beaudin Botanic B	Business Bootcamp! Winning at Business Lauren Small River C		Whole Leadership: What Tools Are in Your Toolbox? Barbara Volpe Botanic A	Using the Five Essentials- Early Ed Framework + Surveys to Strengthen Continuous Quality Improvement Debra Pacchiano Lake Michigan B	Thinking Beyond Your Program: Building Systems to Meet the Needs of All Children in Your Community Aminah Wyatt-Jones Ravinia A	Our Profession of Early Care and Education: Are We Effectively "Paying Forward" for Our Workforce? Karen Crockett Lake Michigan B
Leadership Essentials	Building the Essentials of Leadership: Energizing and Strengthening Your Early Childhood Program Marie Masterson Botanic A	Embracing Cultural Diversity in the Workplace Carla Biro Lake Michigan A	Mistakes Into Masterpieces: Turning an Oops Into an Oh Wow Nancy Heathman Botanic B	Early Experiences Elevate Everything: Early Brain and Child Development Dipesh Navsaria River A&B	The Stuff Leaders Are Made Of Sylvia White Botanic B	"JACK THIS" Alpha Jackson Botanic A	Collective Leadership: Activating the Gifts of You and Your Team Monica Brinkerhoff River A&B
	Fake It Until YOU Become It! Luis Hernandez River C	Leadership Essentials: Guiding Principles Valora Washington River A&B		Finding Joy in Our Work: Replacing Stress with Laughter in the Workplace Nancy Heathman Botanic B	This Ain't Stand-Up: Exploring Improvisation as a Useful Disposition for ECE Leaders Kelly Matthews Botanic A	Wired and Tired Angel Stoddard Botanic B	The Importance of the First Conversation of the Day Mecca Johnson River C

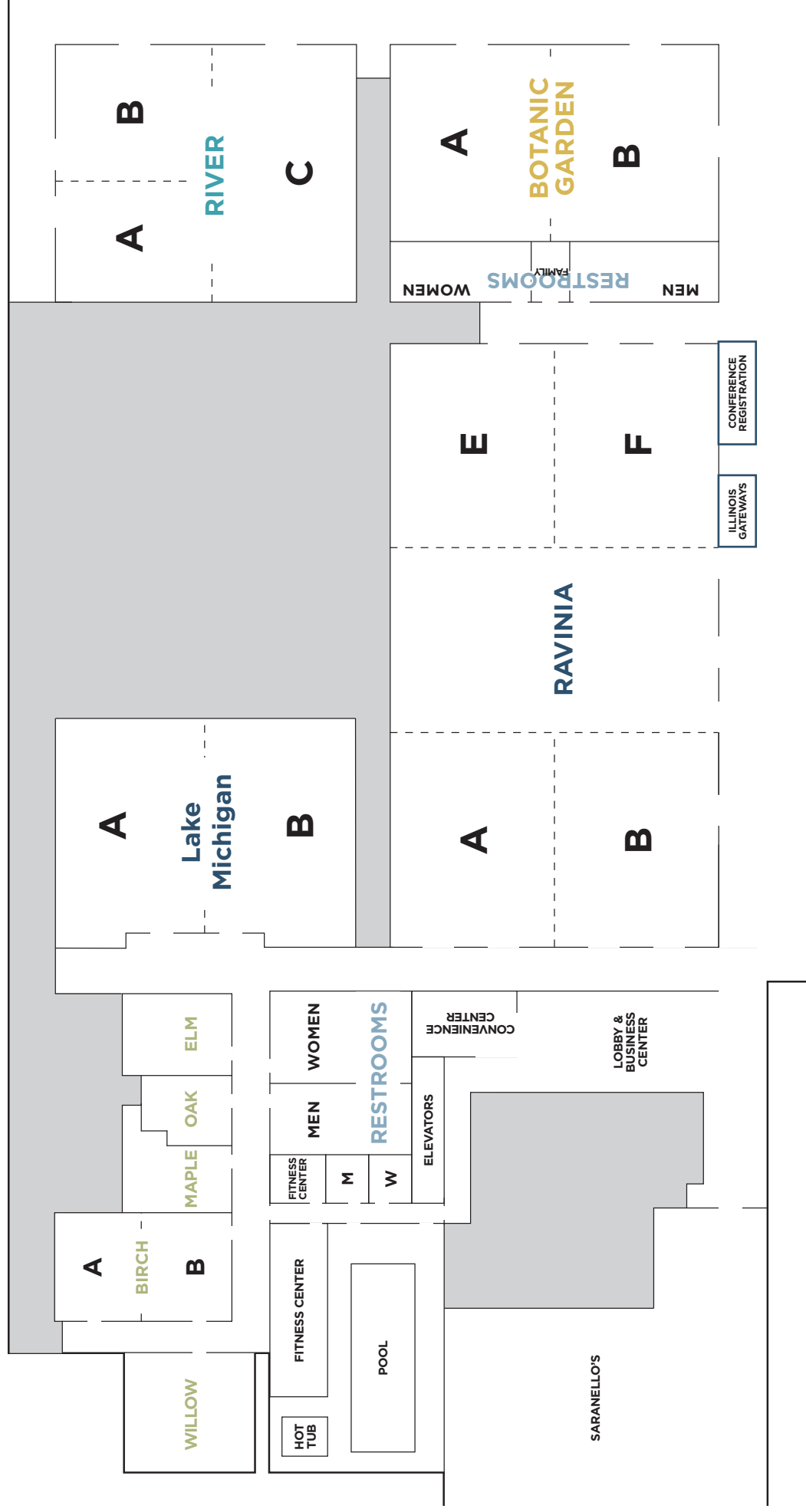
Marketplace Map



Hotel Map

LEADERSHIP CONNECTIONS™ NATIONAL CONFERENCE | MAY 10-12, 2018

Westin Chicago North Shore, Wheeling, IL



Featured Speakers

Opening Keynote Luncheon | Thursday, May 10



Walter S. Gilliam

Walter S. Gilliam is the Director of The Edward Zigler Center in Child Development and Social Policy and Associate Professor of Child Psychiatry and Psychology at the Yale University Child Study Center. Dr. Gilliam is a member of the board of directors for ZERO TO THREE, Child Care Aware of America, and the Irving Harris Foundation; a research fellow of the National Institute for Early Education Research; and former Senior Advisor to the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Dr. Gilliam is co-recipient of the prestigious

2008 Grawemeyer Award in Education for the coauthored book *A Vision for Universal Preschool Education*. His scholarly writing addresses early childhood care and education programs, school readiness, and developmental assessment of young children. His work frequently has been covered in major national and international news outlets, and he actively provides consultation to state and federal decision-makers in the United States and other countries.

Closing Luncheon Keynote | Saturday, May 12



Dana Suskind

Dr. Dana Suskind is a Professor of Surgery at the University of Chicago; Director of the Pediatric Cochlear Implant Program, and Founder and Director of the Thirty Million Words® Initiative, a program dedicated to harnessing the power of language to build a child's brain and impact his or her future. Dr. Suskind is also the author of *Thirty Million Words: Building a Child's Brain*, published in September 2015.

In her book and keynote presentations, Dr. Suskind details the critical importance of early language exposure on a developing child's brain and encourages parents to take an active role in this development. Drawing on her own experiences with patients and the compelling research on the neuroscience of brain plasticity, Dr. Suskind explains that the most important, and astoundingly simple, thing that one can do for a child's future success in life is to talk to him or her.

Dr. Suskind and the Thirty Million Words® Initiative have been profiled by numerous media outlets, including the New York Times, NPR, The Economist, and Slate.com and they have received support from The Department of Education and The Hemera Foundation. She also received the University of Chicago Medical Faculty Award for "Distinguished Leader in Program Innovation." Dr. Suskind lives in Chicago with her family.

Photo by: Gulnara Samoilova | For more information on this Speaker please visit www.prhspeakers.com

2018 Visionary Leadership Award Recipient and Leadership Colloquium Speaker



Barbara T. Bowman

Barbara T. Bowman is a pioneer in the field of early childhood. Throughout her career, she has been an advocate for young children, applying knowledge about child development to her work integrating policy and practice. She is an internationally renowned expert, delivering speeches and lectures and holding local, national, and international leadership positions.

Her understanding of how young children learn and how culture shapes their worldview was forged through her own life, including her time spent at boarding school in Massachusetts, college experience in New York, graduate school education at the University of Chicago, six years living in Iran, one year living in Great Britain, and the last 50 years traveling and working throughout the United States and the world.

In 1965, Bowman co-founded the Erikson Institute to provide leadership training for Head Start teachers, social workers, nurses, and other staff working with young children. Throughout Erikson's history, Bowman has been integral in both its leadership and day-to-day operations, serving at various points as vice president, president, and a board member. Currently, she teaches graduate students as the Irving B. Harris Professor of Child Development and serves as co-principal investigator of a project aimed at improving child-parent centers across three states.

For her, interacting with Erikson students is one of the most rewarding parts of her job. Through her teaching, she challenges students to think critically. Bowman asks her students to reflect on their own culture and life experiences as they try to understand and relate to the children and families different from themselves. Reflection is a core part of an Erikson education and Bowman notes that it is important in helping future early childhood leaders deepen their knowledge and skills.

As Erikson grew, new research, new theories, and new practices have changed the content of its work. What has not changed is the focus on early childhood and the vision of Bowman and the other founders that all children deserve high-quality care and education. More than ever, Bowman has played a leadership role in local, national, and international arenas, influencing the well-being of children and families around the world.

For eight years, Bowman served as chief officer for early childhood education for the Chicago Public Schools, and during the first term of former President Barack Obama, she served as a consultant to the U.S. Secretary of Education. Today, she works to strengthen programs for young children and families by serving on numerous boards and committees, including the Chicago Public Library and the Great Books Foundation. Additionally, she writes and presents at conferences, addressing issues such as the "cradle to prison pipeline" and the need for systematic changes to ensure equitable opportunities for low-income and minority children.



Teri Talan

Teri N. Talan is the Michael W. Louis Chair and Senior Policy Advisor to the McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership and Professor of Early Childhood Education at National Louis University. She is a passionate voice for the McCormick Center's call to action: Leadership Matters – Invest in Leaders. She promotes action by state and national policymakers on early childhood workforce, leadership development, and program administration issues. She holds a law degree from Northwestern University, as well as an Ed.D. in Adult and Continuing Education and M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education from National Louis University.

Dr. Talan's research interests are in the areas of leadership, workforce development, systems integration, and program quality evaluation. She is co-author of the *Program Administration Scale (PAS)*, *Business Administration Scale for Family Child Care (BAS)*, and the reports, *Who's Caring for the Kids? The Status of the Early Childhood Workforce in Illinois*, *Taking Charge of Change: A 20-Year Review of Empowering Early Childhood Administrators through Leadership Training*, and *Closing the Leadership Gap: 2017 Status Report on Early Childhood Program Leadership in the United States*.



Marica Cox Mitchell

Marica Cox Mitchell is responsible for NAEYC's major program efforts in early childhood program and higher education accreditation. She is also leading the alignment among and between the Center for Applied Research, accreditation, and higher education with early childhood and higher education systems across the country. Mitchell has been in the early childhood education field for more than 16 years and has worked in both administrative and classroom settings. Before assuming her current role, she served as the Director of Higher Education Accreditation for NAEYC. Prior to this position, she led the Early Childhood

Professional Development Unit at the District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education where she developed and monitored a wide range of professional development resources designed to increase the quality of early learning programs and advance cohorts of early childhood professionals. These resources included the TEACH Early Childhood DC scholarship program, DC Career Guide for Early Childhood and Out of School Time Professionals, DC Trainer Approval Program, and accreditation facilitation projects.

Mitchell began her early childhood professional journey working in early childhood programs as a teacher assistant, teacher, and curriculum specialist. These diverse experiences and perspectives inspired her to focus on advancing professional practice and recognition. Mitchell holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of the District of Columbia and a Master's of Science degree in Educational Administration from the University of Scranton.



Anne Douglass

Anne Douglass, PhD., is Associate Professor and Program Director of the Bachelor's Degree and Post Masters Certificate Programs in Early Care and Education. She is the founding executive director of the Institute for Early Education Leadership and Innovation at UMass Boston. Her teaching and research focus on child care quality improvement, policy, professional development, and leadership. She studies relational organizational systems, and how they contribute to early educators' capacity to improve teaching practices and partnerships with families.

Her leadership work is dedicated to the design of programs, systems, and policies that support individual and collective leadership for improvement and innovation among early educators. Her research has been published in a wide range of academic journals, and she presents nationally and internationally at academic, policy, and professional meetings. She received her PhD from the Heller School for Social Policy at Brandeis University, her master's degree in education from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education, and her bachelor's degree in political science from Wellesley College.

Dr. Douglass brings almost 20 years of expertise as an urban early educator to this work, as a teacher, administrator, family child care owner and educator, professional development trainer, and organizational improvement consultant. Her two decades of experience as a practitioner working directly with children, families, and teachers informs her deep respect for the expertise of early educators, and has shaped the focus of her research and teaching in higher education.



Sherry Cleary

Sherry M. Cleary is the Executive Director of the New York City Early Childhood Professional Development Institute, which is housed at the City University of New York. She leads the work of a dynamic, intelligent, and passionate team dedicated to building essential systems to ensure a highly effective early childhood workforce for the state of New York, to guarantee that young children have access to excellence. Some hallmarks of the vision and leadership that Sherry has brought to New York include collaborative efforts to create New York Works for Children (New York's early childhood workforce development system), a new competency-based Core Body of

Knowledge, Early Learning Guidelines (Birth to Age 5), the completion of the NYS Trainer Credential, ASPIRE – NYS' workforce registry, and oversight for the implementation of New York's quality rating and improvement system, QUALITYstarsNY. She co-chairs the Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council, for the state of New York, and co-chairs its Work Force Work Group. She is also the President-Elect of the New York State Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NYSAECTE) and has presided over the group in the past. Most recently, Sherry was named to Mayor de Blasio's 6-member Early Childhood Working Group, initially charged with building the model to be used for a Universal Pre-kindergarten implementation in New York City.

2018 Presenters

Michael Abel

Director of Research and Evaluation
McCormick Center for Early
Childhood Leadership

Jennifer Adams

LOCI, Consultant;
NORC Research Scientist
LOCI, a project of NORC at the
University of Chicago

Michelle Adkins

Sr. State TTA Specialist
National Center on Early Childhood
Development, Teaching and Learning

Heather Beaudin

Pedagogical Leader
Wellington County

Jill Bella

Director of Professional Learning
McCormick Center for Early
Childhood Leadership

Laura Benbow

*Manager of Orientation and
Development*
Bright Horizons

Karla Berra

Manager of Orientation & Development
Bright Horizons

Cindy Berrey

Project Director
The Center: Resources for Teaching
and Learning

Carla Biro

Early Childhood Coalition Director
Gr8t Beginnings in Elkhart County

Jill Bradley

Parent Engagement & Training Manager
Illinois Action for Children

Monica Brinkerhoff

*Director of Organizational and
Employee Development*
Child-Parent Centers Inc.

Jen Bump

Senior Advisor
Child Care Aware of America

Karen Crockett

*Lecturer, Professional
Development Coordinator*
The Ohio State University & Action
for Children

Ruth Davis

*Executive Director of Outreach
& Enrollment*
National Louis University

Geania Dickey

Consultant, Special Projects
Arkansas State Childhood Services

April Dodge-Ostendorf

Family Engagement Specialist
Child Care Aware of America

Megan Donahue

Community Engagement Associate
Illinois Action for Children

Barbara Doyle

Educator and Consultant
Barbara T. Doyle, MS, Inc.

KaiLonnie Dunsmore

*LOCI, Director; NORC Principal
Research Scientist*
LOCI, a project of NORC at the
University of Chicago

Charlotte (Bunny) Egerton

General Manager Youth Services
Columbia Association

Beth Ehlis

President/Lead Trainer
FunShine Express

Maria Estlund

Policy Associate
Illinois Action for Children

Jacqueline Ewonus

Program Director
SFU Childcare Society

Katherine Falen

Senior State T/TA Specialist
National Center on Early Childhood
Development, Teaching, & Learning

Sarah Garrity

Associate Professor
San Diego State University

Colleen Haddad

Director of Development:
National Accreditation Commission
Association for Early Learning Leaders

Marsha Hawley

Director, Lead Learn Excel
Ounce of Prevention Fund

Theresa Hawley

Senior Vice President,
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Illinois Action for Children

Nancy Heathman

Quality Initiatives Early Learning Coach
The Family Conservancy

Luis Hernandez

ECE Specialist
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Janet Humphreys

Principal Coach and Consultant
Dynamic Coaching Systems

Jane Humphries

Professional eLearning Specialist
McCormick Center for Early
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Judy Jablon

Executive Director
Leading for Children

Alpha Jackson

CEO & Founder
Big Bold Leadership Company

Abhas Jain

Co-Founder
myKidzDay, LLC

Andrea Johnson

Education Manager
Changing Children's Worlds Foundation

Mecca Johnson

Founder
My Joy Speaks

Ijumaa Jordan
ECE Consultant
Ijumaa Jordan Consulting and Harvest
Educators Collaborative

Leslie Katch
Assistant Professor
National Louis University

Robyn Kelton
Quality Training Specialist
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Childhood Leadership

Ann Keneman
Associate Professor
National Louis University

Janis Keyser
Child Development Site Director
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Kristen Klaassen
Principal Coach and Consultant
Dynamic Coaching Systems

Maegan Lokteff
Executive Director
Grand Beginnings

Sascha Longstreth
Associate Professor
San Diego State University

Allison Lowe-Fotos
Policy Manager
The Ounce of Prevention Fund

Susan MacDonald
*Professional Speaker, Coach
and Author*
Inspiring New Perspectives

Marie Masterson
Director of Quality Assessment
McCormick Center for Early
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Kelly Matthews
ECE Consultant
A Place For You Consulting and Harvest
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Mary Muhs
*Department Chair,
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Jan Munday
Owner
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Dipesh Navsaria
Associate Professor of Pediatrics
University of Wisconsin School of
Medicine and Public Health

Barb O'Neill
Trainer & Consultant
Transform Challenging Behavior

Cassandra O'Neill
CEO | Leadership Alchemy LLC

Debra Pacchiano
VP, Translational Research
Ounce of Prevention Fund

Althea Penn
Educational Consultant
Penn Consulting

Keith Pentz
National Early Childhood Specialist
Kaplan Early Learning Company

Kelley Perkins
*Senior Infant Toddler Technical
Assistance Specialist | ICF*

Kari Rains
Consultant
Creative Educational Strategies & Services

Lorena Rodriguez
Professional eLearning Manager
McCormick Center for Early
Childhood Leadership

Fran Simon
Chief Engagement Officer
Engagement Strategies

Lauren Small
Business Consultant
Early Education Business Consultants, LLC

Angel Stoddard
Instructor
UW Milwaukee

Kimberly Svevo-Cianci
Executive Director
Changing Children's Worlds Foundation

Cynthia Tate
Executive Director
Governor's Office of Early
Childhood Development

Susan Testaguzza
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Lacey Tsonis
Assistant Deputy Director
Maryland Family Network

Liz Twilley
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Child Care Aware of America

Kathleen Villano
Program Manager
The Center: Resources for Teaching
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Judah Viola
*Dean of the College of Professional
Studies and Advancement*
National Louis University

Barbara Volpe
Leadership Academy Manager
McCormick Center for Early
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Margie Wallen
Director of Policy Partnerships
Ounce of Prevention Fund

Valora Washington
CEO
Council for Professional Recognition

Sylvia White
Leadership Consultant
Leading The Leaders, LLC

Jack Wright
Early Childhood Education Consultant
Success With Children

Aminah Wyatt-Jones
Assistant Director, Community Systems
Illinois Action for Children

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Wednesday (Pre-Conference)

9:00 am - 4:00 pm | *Pre-Registration Required*



Five Commitments of Optimistic Leadership

JUDY JABLON | LEADING FOR CHILDREN

Room: River C

This full-day workshop will explore the five commitments of Optimistic Leadership and examine how to use these tools day-by-day to enrich your experience as a professional and to enhance the quality of learning for every child.

9:00 am - 12:00 pm | *Pre-Registration Required*



Mama in Her Pajamas: Checking Our Attitudes About Families

LUIS HERNANDEZ | WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Room: River A&B

At times, our attitudes and responses to families can impair genuine relationships. This session aims to refresh engaging relationships with families, which can lead to a child's successful learning. Meaningful relationships with individual families require core knowledge, defined skills, and much patience. Participants will understand, recognize, and celebrate the special strengths found in every family. And at the heart of our work, how to sincerely engage families in their child's development and learning.

12:00 pm - 4:00 pm | *Pre-Registration Required*



Inviting Mama in Her Pajama into Partnership: Building Our Toolkit

JANIS KEYSER | CONSULTANT

Room: River A&B

Using a strength-based view of families to explore tools for building strong partnerships and family engagement in our programs, including trust-building strategies, effective two-way communication and shared decision making, authentic inclusion of all families, and collaboration with families to build networks of support.

4:30 pm - 11:30 pm | *Pre-Registration Required*

Evening in Chicago Guided Tour

Room: Hallway outside Ravinia Ballroom

Spend the evening seeing the sights of Chicago aboard a luxury coach. A tour guide will give you information about the city and sights. You will have time to get off the coach at multiple locations. A hot box meal will be served when boarding the bus for enjoyment during the 45-60 minute ride into the city. The coach will leave the Westin at 4:30 pm and will return at approximately 11:30 pm. The cost is \$60 and registration is required.

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm | *Special Interest Session*

Intentional Networking: Discovering the Value of Connections

JUDAH VIOLA | NATIONAL LOUIS UNIVERSITY

Room: Birch

Participants will engage in simple activities to increase their comfort and skill level for building meaningful and supportive professional networks.

Love Leadership Connections?

Learn more about other McCormick Center initiatives.

SPECIAL INTEREST SESSIONS

4:15 PM - 5:15 PM | FRIDAY

Aim4Excellence™ National
Director Credential:
Progressive eLearning
Option for Growing
Professionals

Room: Lake Michigan A

L.E.A.D. Early Childhood™
Clearinghouse

Room: Elm

Leadership Academies as
Stepping Stones

Room: Lake Michigan B

National Louis University
(NLU) Options for Education
in Early Childhood

Room: Birch

Tools for Developing
Whole Leadership Skills

Room: Willow

Thursday

7:00 am - 7:45 am | *Continental Breakfast / Ravinia*

8:00 am - 10:00 am | *Session 1*

LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS Building the Essentials of Leadership: Energizing and Strengthening Your Early Childhood Program

MARIE MASTERSON | MCCORMICK CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP | **Room:** Botanic A
Essentials of leadership form the dynamic foundation of the Whole Leadership Framework. This session will guide participants through reflective application to re-energize their professional vision, activate personal priorities and goals, and revitalize communication and effectiveness within their organization.

PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP Creatively Accountable: Let's Simplify Assessment!

BETH EHLIS | FUNSHINE EXPRESS | **Room:** Lake Michigan A
Implementing appropriate assessment in an early childhood classroom can be a daunting task. Simplified documentation can be a powerful tool and enhance high quality teaching with benefits for children, parents and teachers! Join us as we share new, time-saving methods to collect, analyze, and organize children's work.

PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP Developing Empowering School Cultures in Early Education Settings

ALTHEA PENN | PENN CONSULTING | **Room:** River A&B
Empowering school culture is an important dynamic in creating safe and thriving early childhood programs. This session will present best practices that contribute to a healthy school climate and reduce threatening factors that may impede the construction of an empowering school culture.

LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS Fake It Until YOU Become It!

LUIS HERNANDEZ | WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY | **Room:** River C
This session underscores how our bodies convey powerful messages to open doors, influence people, and impact our personal and professional lives. Effective communications mean everything in the early childhood education field. WHY? Because in using positive physical messages with children, families, and team members - we portray strong confidence and a sense of intentional presence.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP Hiring and Managing Consultants to Get the Most Value for Your Program

FRAN SIMON | ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES | **Room:** Birch

Sponsored by: Engagement Strategies

Identifying, hiring, and working with an early childhood consultant can impact the quality and success of your organization. Their expertise can fill knowledge gaps, save time, and benefit all aspects of your program. This session will introduce strategies to help you prepare for, hire, and work successfully with consultants.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP Leading the Way: Leveraging Social Media to Engage Communities and Raise Advocates

APRIL DODGE-OSTENDORF & LIZ TWILLEY | CHILD CARE AWARE OF AMERICA | Room: Lake Michigan B
Social networking is an essential tool for leaders to engage stakeholders, yet many agencies aren't sure where to start or how to tailor efforts to reach their goals. This session explores how to build awareness, engage stakeholders, and promote advocacy online.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP Navigating Change as a Leader in Early Education

HEATHER BEAUDIN | WELLINGTON COUNTY | Room: Botanic B

Get to the heart of who you are as a leader by considering a current organizational problem of practice. During this session, you will explore your selected problem. The group will collectively spend time considering and creating change plans.

PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP Professional Development Frameworks: Regulations, Strategies, and State Examples

MICHELLE ADKINS & KATHERINE FALEN | NATIONAL CENTER ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT, TEACHING AND LEARNING | Room: Willow

This session will present the components required for the Child Care and Development Fund Professional Development framework, and offer state professional development framework examples. Audience members will be encouraged to share experiences related to professional development frameworks and planning in their own program.

10:15am - 12:30pm | Opening Keynote Luncheon - General Session

Room: Ravinia Ballroom | Plated Lunch

Welcome

DONNA JACOBSON | MCCORMICK CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP

Keynote Address: Implicit Biases in Early Childhood Settings

WALTER GILLIAM | THE EDWARD ZIGLER CENTER IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL POLICY

2018 Visionary Leadership Award Presentation

BARBARA BOWMAN | ERIKSON INSTITUTE

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm | Session 2

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP Early Childhood Expulsion Legislation: From Passage and Implementation to Best Practice

ALLISON LOWE-FOTOS, MARIA ESTLUND, & CYNTHIA TATE | ILLINOIS ACTION FOR CHILDREN, THE OUNCE OF PREVENTION FUND, & GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT | Room: Lake Michigan B

Illinois law PA 100-105 aims to end the practice of expelling infants, toddlers, and preschoolers from their early childhood programs. In a panel discussion format, this session will explore how the law came to pass, how it is being implemented, and best practices and resources programs can utilize to implement its practice.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP Effective Discipline Policies: Creating a System that Supports Social-Emotional Competence

SARAH GARRITY & SASCHA LONGSTRETH | SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY | Room: Birch

Learn how the Teaching and Guidance Policy Essentials Checklist (TAGPEC) and a humanistic approach to behavior guidance can help build and support effective early childhood systems. Discover how the TAGPEC and this approach is used to promote children's social-emotional competence.

LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS Embracing Cultural Diversity in the Workplace

CARLA BIRO | GR8T BEGINNINGS IN ELKHART COUNTY | Room: Lake Michigan A

Understanding, responding to, and honoring cultural and economic differences is a significant responsibility of early childhood programs. This session will present important research and practical strategies that foster the strengths and resources of leaders, and create a vibrant and diverse community able to support high-quality settings for children and families.

PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP Leading Programs Caring for Sensory Sensitive Children

JANE HUMPHRIES & KARI RAINS | MCCORMICK CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP & CREATIVE EDUCATIONAL STRATEGIES & SERVICES | Room: Botanic B

Children with sensory processing sensitivities can struggle to manage the dynamics of the classroom environment. This session will equip administrators, coordinators, and teachers with practical knowledge and strategies to foster success for children with sensory sensitivity and promote collaboration with their families.

PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP Using the National Accreditation Commission Classroom Observation Tool to Build Teacher Competency

COLLEEN HADDAD | ASSOCIATION FOR EARLY LEARNING LEADERS | Room: Willow

The National Accreditation Commission Classroom Observation tool measures classroom quality and provides practical supports that empower teachers to build skills. This session introduces key components of the tool that can foster teacher competency in the areas of curriculum, interactions between teachers and children, and health and safety practices.

1:00 pm - 5:30 pm | *Extended Sessions / Session 2 & 3*

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP Business Bootcamp! Winning at Business

LAUREN SMALL | EARLY EDUCATION BUSINESS CONSULTANTS, LLC | Room: River C

Sponsored by: Engagement Strategies

Maintaining strong enrollment and financial stability are essential to maintaining a quality program. Give your center a business checkup, ensuring that the essential elements of your marketing and financial management systems are stable and operating at the highest level.

LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS Leadership Essentials: Guiding Principles

VALORA WASHINGTON | COUNCIL FOR PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION | Room: River A&B

Engage in dialog about four basic principles that guide efforts to “professionalize the field.” How do we respect early childhood educators, seek equity, and acknowledge the field’s strengths, while doing the hard work to enhance competence?

PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP The Significance of Affect on Sensorimotor Processing, Learning, and Development

KEITH PENTZ | KAPLAN EARLY LEARNING COMPANY | Room: Botanic A

Sponsored by: Kaplan Early Learning Company

The healthy development of children depends on genetic, bio-psycho-social, and interpersonal experiences. This session explores mental-health research, the contributions ongoing research has to our understanding of sensory-motor development, processes necessary for children’s learning, the responses of infants to experiences, and the impact of cortisol on learning.

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm | Break

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm | Session 3

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP Don’t Call Me Kid: Understanding and Developing a Multigenerational Workforce in Early Childhood

LACEY TSONIS & CHARLOTTE (BUNNY) EGERTON | COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION & MARYLAND FAMILY NETWORK | Room: Lake Michigan B

Discuss what shaped each generation and how it impacts behavior in the workplace. Identify characteristics and dispel myths of each generation, in order to develop strategies to support employees and enhance interactions between generations.

PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP Facilitating Impactful Professional Development

SUSAN MACDONALD | INSPIRING NEW PERSPECTIVES | Room: Lake Michigan A

Professional development is effective when learners are active participants. This session will introduce leaders to new ways of engaging participants in their own learning through reflective practices and will inspire fresh training ideas with relational strategies to improve the design and delivery of learning materials.

LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS Mistakes Into Masterpieces: Turning an Oops Into an Oh Wow

NANCY HEATHMAN | THE FAMILY CONSERVANCY | Room: Botanic B

New and seasoned leaders make mistakes and are accountable to use problems as opportunities to create solutions and empower positive change. This session explores proactive strategies to turn mistakes into tools for growth that will benefit every aspect of early childhood programs.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP Recruitment and Retention of a Qualified Workforce

KATHERINE FALEN | NATIONAL CENTER ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT, TEACHING, & LEARNING | Room: Willow

Examine challenges programs encounter around recruiting and retaining qualified staff. Challenges include requiring staff to obtain needed credentials and losing qualified staff once they are trained. Discuss and explore unique approaches for recruiting and retaining highly qualified staff.

PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP There's Nothing Wrong with My Child!

BARBARA DOYLE | BARBARA T. DOYLE, MS, INC. | Room: Birch

Concern about a child's progress that cannot be explained by the usual range of typical developmental differences can raise concerns about how to communicate with families. This session will present strategies to encourage collaboration and promote strength-based communication with families that are non-threatening and that lead to positive outcomes for children.

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Marketplace

Room: Ravinia Ballroom

Explore the variety of exhibitors in Marketplace, the Leadership Connections exhibit hall. Both personal and professional products and services will be on display. Marketplace provides an opportunity for conference attendees to learn about new trends, interact with new products, and network with exhibitors.

Networking Reception

Room: Ravinia Ballroom

Build valuable relationships. Connect other conference attendees, presenters, exhibitors, and McCormick Center staff while enjoying finger foods and shopping.

8th Annual Paula Jorde Bloom Leadership Colloquium

Sponsored by Bright Horizons

BARBARA BOWMAN | ERIKSON INSTITUTE | Room: Botanic Ballroom

Moderated by: Chip Donohue, Erikson Institute, and Jill Bella, McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership

Join us for wine and dessert as Barbara Bowman discusses her journey of visionary leadership. This is an opportunity to dialogue with a renowned leader in the field of early care and education while considering your own visionary leadership journey.

Application Deadline

May 31, 2018

TAKING CHARGE OF CHANGE™ (TCC)

COHORT #26

Empower yourself and embrace the change process. Leading an organization to continuous quality improvement is a complex job; get the support you need by joining TCC.

- For Illinois Residents/Directors
- College credit option available
- Six points toward the Illinois Director Credential (IDC) Core Competency Requirements
- 110 total clock hours

LEARN MORE OR APPLY BELOW.

APPLY

DIRECTOR'S TOOLBOX MANAGEMENT SERIES, TRAINING-FOR- TRAINERS

Dive deep into the content of the Director's Toolbox Management Series. We select several trainers from across the country* each year to participate in this initiative. Learn strategies to plan and conduct dynamic workshops using the Director's Toolbox Management Series of fourteen books and trainer's guides.

* Preference given to those from states other than Illinois

LEARN MORE OR APPLY BELOW.

APPLY

Friday

7:00 am - 7:45 am | Breakfast Buffet / Ravinia

7:00 am - 2:00 pm | Marketplace

Room: Ravinia Ballroom

Explore the variety of exhibitors in Marketplace, the Leadership Connections exhibit hall. Both personal and professional products and services will be on display. Marketplace provides an opportunity for conference attendees to learn about new trends, interact with new products, and network with exhibitors.

8:00 am - 10:00 am | Public Policy Forum

Room: River Ballroom **Sponsored by: TCC Software Solutions**

There is plenty of buzz about the Power to the Profession initiative. What do we call ourselves and the profession? For what are we accountable? What level of preparation and minimum qualifications are required to be a professional?

What has been missing from the discourse is clarity about the role of site-based leaders, specifically: principals, directors, family child care providers, and other administrators responsible for oversight of early childhood programs. The Public Policy Forum at Leadership Connections 2018 is the right place to begin this discussion!

Marica Cox Mitchell, Deputy Executive Director of Early Learning Systems at NAEYC, will provide an overview of Power to the Profession, review the scope of stakeholder engagement, and share the decisions made to date. Panel respondents, wearing their program leadership lenses, will be:



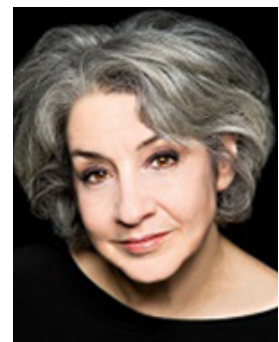
TERI TALAN
McCORMICK
CENTER FOR
EARLY CHILDHOOD
LEADERSHIP



MARICA COX MITCHELL
NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION FOR
THE EDUCATION OF
YOUNG CHILDREN



ANNE DOUGLASS
INSTITUTE FOR
EARLY EDUCATION
LEADERSHIP AND
INNOVATION



SHERRY M. CLEARY
NEW YORK CITY
EARLY CHILDHOOD
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE

10:00 am - 10:30 am | *Coffee Break*

Sponsored by: National Family Child Care Association (NAFCC)

Room: Ravinia Ballroom

Enjoy a cup of coffee, tea, or water. Take advantage of another chance to connect with exhibitors.

10:30 am - 12:30 pm | *Session 4*

LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS Early Experiences Elevate Everything: Early Brain and Child Development

DIPESH NAVSARIA | UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH |

Room: River A&B

The first thousand days of life and the key role human relationships and interactions play in that critical time period will be discussed. The concepts of toxic stress and how early adversity leads to lifelong issues will be reviewed, with practical examples and discussion of research which highlights these areas. Broad policy and programmatic principles that may help address the issue will also be discussed, providing a practical framework for those who work with children and families.

LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS Finding Joy in Our Work: Replacing Stress with Laughter in the Workplace

NANCY HEATHMAN | THE FAMILY CONSERVANCY | Room: Botanic B

Reducing stress and burnout and creating a healthy organizational climate is essential. This session will help you revitalize your staff relationships by finding joy, laughter, and shared strategies that engage minds and bodies and create a positive and enjoyable environment for your staff and families to grow.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP Important Conversations: Advocating for the Children and Families We Care for, and About

GEANIA DICKEY | ARKANSAS STATE CHILDHOOD SERVICES | Room: Lake Michigan A

Advocacy is an important aspect of effective leadership and is necessary to promote optimal outcomes for children and families. This session uses the wisdom of children's literature to guide our work toward positive change and evidence-based strategies that can revitalize your practices and community connections.

PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP Nurturing Leadership

JACQUELINE EWONUS | SFU CHILDCARE SOCIETY | Room: Birch

The Simon Fraser University Childcare Society developed a new leadership model through administrative/ leadership shifts. The SFU team examines and contrasts the new model to that of the typical Leadership model that stems from a hierarchical perspective.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP Technology That's Right for You: A Day in the Life of Center Owners and Directors

ABHAS JAIN | MYKIDZDAY, LLC | Room: Willow

Effective technology use can help center staff bridge the communication gap. This presentation will present strategies to leverage technology to attract new families, measure user interest, manage staff and children, communicate with millennial parents, and manage and collect money.

PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP The Best Start: An Intergenerational Approach to Strengthen Parenting and Child Well-Being

KIMBERLY SVEVO-CIANCI & ANDREA JOHNSON | CHANGING CHILDREN'S WORLDS FOUNDATION
Room: River C

The International Child/Parenting Development Program offers support for the care of children and their families. This session presents the health equity components of stable, protective, and positive environments using an empathy-based approach and active strategies for social and emotional support, learning and leading, and self-control and regulative competencies that benefit children and families.

PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP The Pyramid Model: An Overview for Instructional Leaders

KATHLEEN VILLANO & CINDY BERREY | BRIGHT HORIZONS & THE CENTER: RESOURCES FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING | Room: Lake Michigan B

The Pyramid model is a comprehensive and collaborative approach to supporting children's social-emotional competence. This session will present the model's approaches to support self-regulation, emotional and social competence, and offer tools and resources for targeted and individualized behavior intervention.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP Whole Leadership: What Tools Are in Your Toolbox?

BARBARA VOLPE | MCCORMICK CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP | Room: Botanic A
Administrative Leadership is needed for program leaders to ensure their organization remains stable and continues to grow. This session will explore the tools that leaders need in their toolbox for a strong foundation and the areas of leadership which comprise the Administrative Leadership domain.

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

Lunch Buffet

Room: Ravinia Ballroom

Lunch buffet is included in your registration! Connect with other conference attendees while taking one last trip through the Marketplace. Marketplace closes at the end of lunch.

TCC (Taking Charge of Change) Reunion Luncheon | Saranello's Grand Salon

Sponsored by INCRAA/Gateways to Opportunity

By invitation/reservation only

NLU ECA Cohort, Luncheon

Room: Saranello's Candle Room

Marketplace

Room: Ravinia Ballroom

Explore the variety of exhibitors in Marketplace, the Leadership Connections exhibit hall. Both personal and professional products and services will be on display. Marketplace provides an opportunity for conference attendees to learn about new trends, interact with new products, and network with exhibitors.

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm | Session 5

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP Child Care Resource and Referral: Our Nation's Community Connectors

JEN BUMP | CHILD CARE AWARE OF AMERICA | Room: Birch

CCR&Rs have always led the way advocating for stronger support for families and the child care programs that serve them. Learn about the eventful history of CCR&R and how these community-based organizations continue to evolve in an ever-changing early childhood landscape.

PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP Creating Intentional Coaching Systems: Transforming Organizational Practices from Me to We

KRISTEN KLAASSEN & JANET HUMPHREYS | DYNAMIC COACHING SYSTEMS | Room: Willow

Explore strategies to create an intentional, individualized system that supports effective and sustainable coaching linked with professional development. The approach joins evidence- and research-based implementation science and best practices of coaching to transform organizations.

PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP From Parent Involvement to Family Engagement

JILL BRADLEY & AMINAH WYATT-JONES | ILLINOIS ACTION FOR CHILDREN | Room: Lake Michigan A

Family and community engagement are essential for children's care and education. This session will examine important strategies and lessons and will help programs plan, implement, and learn from the development of a strong family & community engagement partnership.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP Leading Change and Influencing Others: Learning from Neuroscience and Systems Research

KELLEY PERKINS | ICF | Room: River C

Learn about two influential approaches to leadership and management by discussing connections to your role as a leader. One approach is grounded in neuroscience research and the other approach focuses on systems development.

LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS The Stuff Leaders Are Made Of

SYLVIA WHITE | LEADING THE LEADERS, LLC | Room: Botanic B

Consider how leaders need to remain competent and how they rely on character when leading and making decisions. Today many leaders do not lead well because they are actually attempting to manage instead of leading. In this session you will learn to apply leadership principles that apply to all leaders.

LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS This Ain't Stand-Up: Exploring Improvisation as a Useful Disposition for ECE Leaders

KELLY MATTHEWS & IJUMAA JORDAN | HARVEST EDUCATORS COLLABORATIVE | Room: Botanic A
Leadership dispositions and ability to improvise can radically impact mindfulness, attention to detail, and relationship building as key components of a program's success. This interactive session explores how improvisation can open communication and energize relationships in early childhood settings.

PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP Tools for Pedagogical Leadership: Guiding Programs That Support Young Children's Growth and Learning

MICHAEL ABEL | MCCORMICK CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP | Room: River A&B
Practice and experience innovative methods program leaders use to improve teaching and learning. Instructional leaders, coaches, and mentors gain insight about how to inspire and motivate staff to improve their practice. Explore the tools for pedagogical leadership aligned to the Whole Leadership Framework.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP Using the Five Essentials-Early Ed Framework + Surveys to Strengthen Continuous Quality Improvement

DEBRA PACCHIANO & MARGIE WALLEN | OUNCE OF PREVENTION FUND | Room: Lake Michigan B
The Five Essentials-Early Ed surveys provide leaders with information about organizational conditions essential to program improvement. Explore tools and data for understanding the conditions, discussing root causes, and designing changes. We'll also discuss needed state and local policy changes.

4:15 pm - 5:15 pm | Special Interest Sessions

Aim4Excellence™ National Director Credential: Progressive eLearning Option for Growing Professionals

JANE HUMPHRIES & LORENA RODRIGUEZ | MCCORMICK CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP | Room: Lake Michigan A

Struggling with leading your early childhood program? Needing to obtain professional development to support your State's quality initiatives? Then the AIM4Excellence curriculum is for you! Aim4Excellence is an online national director credential. The research-based curriculum includes nine self-paced modules. Come join us to learn more about enhancing director effectiveness by receiving specialized training in leadership and management.

L.E.A.D. Early Childhood Clearinghouse

MICHAEL ABEL | MCCORMICK CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP | Room: Elm

Come explore the extensive data that is accessible through the L.E.A.D. Early Childhood™ Clearinghouse. It is a comprehensive resource focused on early childhood leadership. The clearinghouse includes national- and state-level data about the status of the early childhood leadership workforce; higher education programs and academies designed to develop leaders; and a comparison of states' policies to ensure quality leadership. Discover your state's status and how the clearinghouse is a tool for supporting professional development.

Leadership Academies as Stepping Stones

BARBARA VOLPE | MCCORMICK CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP |

Room: Lake Michigan B

Hear about McCormick Center Leadership Academies from center-based, family child care, and technical assistance program leaders. They will discuss their motivation to pursue professional development, what they learned during their journey, and bold changes they made in their programs as a result.

NLU Options for Education in Early Childhood

LESLIE KATCH, AYN KENEMAN, & RUTH DAVIS | NATIONAL LOUIS UNIVERSITY | Room: Birch

Come connect with National Louis University (NLU) faculty, alum, students, and enrollment staff! This session will provide a brief overview of what NLU has to offer professionals in Early Childhood Education through advanced degree and bachelor level programs. Network with NLU alum and current students and hear about their NLU experience. Light refreshments will be provided.

Tools for Developing Whole Leadership Skills

JILL BELLA & TERI TALAN | MCCORMICK CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP |

Room: Willow

Whether you are an early care and education program administrator or someone who works with administrators, this informational session is for you! Learn about a variety of assessment tools and professional learning opportunities offered by the McCormick Center that will help develop whole leadership skills.

4:30 pm - 11:30 pm | *Pre-Registration Required*

Evening in Chicago Self-Guided Tour

Room: Hallway outside Ravinia Ballroom

Spend the evening seeing the sights of Chicago. This self-guided evening will allow you four hours of time to explore downtown Chicago on your own. A hot box meal will be served when boarding the bus for enjoyment during the 45-60 minute ride into the city, in case you were unable to secure restaurant reservations, which are highly recommended. The coach will leave the Westin at 4:30 pm and will return at approximately 11:30 pm. The cost is \$40 which includes which includes the hot box meal and bus transportation. Registration is required.

Saturday

7:00 am - 7:45 am | *Continental Breakfast / Ravinia*

8:00 am - 10:00 am | *Session 6*

LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS “JACK THIS”

ALPHA JACKSON | BIG BOLD LEADERSHIP COMPANY | Room: Botanic A

Explore four basic concepts to succeed in leadership with JACK: Judgment, Attitude, Communication, and Knowledge. This session builds on your natural abilities to personally and professionally respond to workplace challenges related to supervision. JACK is a strategy to build leadership systems without prejudice.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP Creating a Culture of Family Engagement

MARY MUHS | RASMUSSEN COLLEGE | Room: Lake Michigan A

Investigate how to build a culture of family engagement and learn strategies to make your program stronger. Discover how working with families can be a joyful and empowering experience for everyone, when partnering with families is built into the program's culture.

PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP Effective Responsiveness

JACK WRIGHT | SUCCESS WITH CHILDREN | Room: River A&B

Adults' responses to children's behavior are influential in the way issues are resolved. Children benefit from adult sensitivity and responsiveness. This session will explore factors that influence adults' emotional responses, and provide effective strategies to support children's social skills.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP Finding the Right Fit for Family Child Care: Recruiting, Selecting, and Orienting

ROBYN KELTON | MCCORMICK CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP | Room: Lake Michigan B

Family child care providers face challenges in recruiting, orienting, and retaining high-quality assistants and substitutes who are the right fit for their program. Learn about components of the “Right Fit” approach to meeting these challenges.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP Thinking Beyond Your Program: Building Systems to Meet the Needs of All Children in Your Community

AMINAH WYATT-JONES & THERESA HAWLEY | ILLINOIS ACTION FOR CHILDREN | Room: Ravinia A

Effective strategies empower early childhood systems. This session presents lessons learned from the Illinois early childhood system and addresses recruitment, enrollment, and attendance efforts that help programs build systems in partnership with others. Learn new skills to help children begin kindergarten healthy, safe, eager to learn, and ready to succeed.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP Tips for Improving Staff Morale

SUSAN TESTAGUZZA | LIFECUBBY | Room: River C

Early childhood program success depends on staff communication, collaboration, and morale. This session will help you identify the causes of morale, and will introduce strategies for team-building and creating schedules, improving communication dynamics, and employing powerful perks that staff will appreciate and enjoy.

PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP Tools to Build Teacher and Organizational Capacity for High Quality Literacy Learning

JENNIFER ADAMS & KAILONNIE DUNSMORE | LOCI, A PROJECT OF NORC AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO | Room: Ravinia B

In this session we will share findings from a three-year intervention study focused on improving early literacy outcomes in school- and community-based education settings. We will focus on critical areas for improving instructional and leadership practices and share resources that you can access and use to build teacher and system capacity in your site.

LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS Wired and Tired

ANGEL STODDARD | UW MILWAUKEE | Room: Botanic B

Learn how modern life is wiring our brains and bodies to be tired and stressed all the time, negatively affecting our relationships with staff and families. Discover ways to re-wire your brain to be more connected and present in relationships.

10:15 am - 12:15 pm | Session 7

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP Advocating for Policy Change: Be the Change You Want to See

MEGAN DONAHUE & MARIA ESTLUND | ILLINOIS ACTION FOR CHILDREN | Room: Ravinia B

Policy advocacy creates a framework for successful early childhood programs and initiatives. This session will present the basics of child and family advocacy and explore how policy processes work, so that participants can become more involved as successful community and policy advocates.

LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS Collective Leadership: Activating the Gifts of You and Your Team

MONICA BRINKERHOFF & CASSANDRA O'NEILL | CHILD-PARENT CENTERS, INC. & LEADERSHIP ALCHEMY LLC | Room: River A&B

Fostering collective leadership requires trust-building, navigating power and privilege, and addressing inequities in relationships. This session will help you develop skills for shared-decision making, role-rotation, and reflection that will empower you and your team to find solutions and reach your shared goals.

PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP Develop Confidence with Challenging Behavior Using Play, Theater-Arts, and Mindset Techniques

BARB O'NEILL | TRANSFORM CHALLENGING BEHAVIOR | Room: Botanic A

Supporting children's play effectively is an essential piece for preventing challenging behavior. This session will explore teacher beliefs and behaviors, and present strategies to manage transitions and engage children during circle time, transitions, and play.

PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP Leadership in Early Childhood: Teaching and Learning Approaches for Effective Family Child Care

MARSHA HAWLEY & JAN MUNDAY | OUNCE OF PREVENTION FUND & WEEKDAYS AT MUNDAY'S | Room: Ravinia A

Learn about important leadership skills in family child care by using strategies to develop providers personal growth. Explore innovative ways to take on leadership roles in family child care that make a difference in young children's lives and discuss strategies to grow your business.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP Making Learning Stick: Training for Change

LAURA BENBOW & KARLA BERRA | BRIGHT HORIZONS | Room: Lake Michigan A

Have you trained on a topic multiple times without getting the outcomes you hoped for? Discover strategies that make learning stick! Learn your role as facilitator to ensure the transfer of learning. In addition, explore what to do when a specific training is not the solution.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP Moving from Sustainability to Resiliency: Changing Our Language to Change Our Path Forward

MAEGAN LOKTEFF | GRAND BEGINNINGS | Room: Botanic B

A resilient organization anticipates and is prepared to respond to challenges and adapt to change. This session will explore what it takes to have a resilience mindset that encourages risk taking and innovation to promote a culture of quality in the face of change.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP Our Profession of Early Care and Education: Are We Effectively "Paying Forward" for Our Workforce?

KAREN CROCKETT | THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY & ACTION FOR CHILDREN |

Room: Lake Michigan B

Construct an effective action plan for supporting the early childhood education workforce through personal reflections and examination of emerging staff. Reflect on your professional pathway, identifying components that were most meaningful. Consider the characteristics and needs of novice and emerging professionals.

LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS The Importance of the First Conversation of the Day

MECCA JOHNSON | MY JOY SPEAKS | Room: River C

Self-leadership is an important aspect of a healthy and dynamic organization. This session will introduce the dynamics of self-leadership and evaluate internal conversations, learners, lifters, courage, clarity, and commitment and guide participants to evaluate and maximize their leadership strengths.

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm | Closing Keynote Luncheon

Room: Ravinia Ballroom | Plated Lunch

Welcome

DONNA JACOBSON | MCCORMICK CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP

Keynote Address: Thirty Million Words: A Public Health Approach to Early Learning

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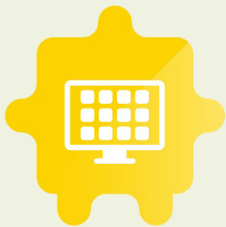


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