

# LEADERSHIP CONNECTIONS

*where leaders connect*

APRIL 28 – APRIL 30, 2021





# ABOUT LEADERSHIP CONNECTIONS

The vision of the McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership is to empower leaders and advance the field to promote excellence in early childhood education is embedded in Leadership Connections. We strive to be an important catalyst for change as we implement initiatives that strengthen the leadership capacity of early childhood educators.

The conference provides you with opportunities to attend a wide range of sessions relevant to your work as an early childhood leader, network with professionals who relate to your trials and triumphs, and be inspired by powerful specialists in our field.

## THIS YEAR

We are thrilled to have you join us for our 20th annual conference. Our virtual conference not only offers you content during the live three-day conference, but all keynote and break-out sessions will be recorded and available to registered attendees for 12-months after the conference ends.

Plan to set aside the days of the conference to engage with others, attend live sessions, and connect with sponsors. After the conference, you may view the sessions you were unable to attend, so you won't miss any of the valuable sessions!



*\*Registrants have 12-months of access to the keynote and break-out sessions recordings for the days for which they are registered. To have access to all recordings, attendees must register for the full-conference.*



# HOW TO USE THIS TOOLKIT

In creating this toolkit, our goal is to make it as easy as possible for you to share about the Leadership Connections conference! In a time of social distancing, who doesn't need an opportunity to connect with likeminded leaders?

**So, let's come together, share our passion, and look forward to the many connections that will be made this year!**



## HOW WILL YOU CONNECT?



# THEME: REFOCUSING OUR VISION

It's no secret that this past year has been chaotic. Join this conference to not only connect with other leaders but to take the time to refocus your vision. Taking this time to refocus will enable you to be a better leader in the early childhood field.



## HOW DO I REGISTER?

Go [here](#) to register for Leadership Connections 2021!

OR

If you are not able to click this link directly, go to the [www.mccormickcenter.nl.edu](http://www.mccormickcenter.nl.edu), navigate to the events tab, and select Leadership Connections under this tab. The register button will be on this page!

## SPECIAL FEATURES

JOIN FROM  
ANYWHERE,  
ANYTIME

CELEBRATE 20  
YEARS OF MAKING  
CONNECTIONS

DISCOVER A PLETHORA OF  
HELPFUL BOOKS AND  
RESOURCES IN OUR  
VIRTUAL MARKETPLACE

ACCESS CONTENT FOR A  
FULL 12-MONTHS





# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS & AWARDEES

With four keynote speakers and dozens of presenters, the possibilities for connections are endless. Plus, our virtual platform this year allows for you to view all sessions rather than having to choose between presenters.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



### **ALEX KOTLOWITZ**

Bestselling Author, Journalist,  
Documentary Filmmaker

## PUBLIC POLICY SPEAKER



### **DR. IHEOMA U. IRUKA**

Director, Early Childhood Health and  
Racial Equity Program at Frank Porter  
Graham Child Development Institute

## VISIONARY LEADERSHIP AWARDEE, LEADERSHIP COLLOQUIUM SPEAKER



### **DR. AISHA RAY**

Professor Emerita:  
Erikson Institute

## CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER



### **JAHMAL COLE**

Champion of Social Justice  
My Block, My Hood, My City



# LOOKING FOR **MORE** LEADERSHIP CONNECTIONS?

**Register for Pre-Conference Sessions on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CT (4 hours of content)**



**DR. JILL BELLA**

Director of Professional Learning

## **INSPIRING PEAK PERFORMANCE: COMPETENCE, COMMITMENT, AND COLLABORATION**

Reflect deeply about your role as a leader and how you create a climate that inspires peak performance by:

- Establishing a professional learning community
- Utilizing developmental supervision
- Implementing an individualized model for staff development
- Cultivating shared leadership through peer learning teams



**DR. MELISSA CASTEEL**

Director of Quality Assessment  
(City of Chicago)

## **THINKING, ASKING, SAYING, DOING: REVITALIZING LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION FOR POSITIVE IMPACT IN YOUR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM**

Explore the ways cultures, values, beliefs, and assumptions can impact your leadership influence and affect the quality of program relationships, staff commitment, and effectiveness by:



**DR. MARIE MASTERSON**

Director of Quality  
Assessment (IDHS and ISBE)

- Rebalancing leadership priorities and managing stress
- Solving communication challenges with staff
- Strengthening family engagement
- Empowering high-quality teaching through continuous quality improvement

# PLATFORMS AND WAYS TO CONNECT

INSTAGRAM: [@MCCORMICKCENTER\\_NLU](#)

TWITTER: [@MCECL](#)

FACEBOOK: [@MCCORMICK.CENTER](#)

LINKEDIN: MCCORMICK CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR [ENEWSLETTER](#)





# STEP #1: COPY AND PASTE

Choose one of the captions below, copy, paste into your platform of choice, and proceed onto the next step to pair your caption with an image!

Are you looking for a place to connect with other leaders in early childhood? If so, register now for the McCormick Center's Leadership Connections™ Virtual Conference: <https://buff.ly/3IV3LVn>. #LC2021 #LeadershipConnections

I registered for Leadership Connections™ because...  
#LC2021 #LeadershipConnections

I'm most excited for ... at this year's Leadership Connections™ National Virtual Conference with the McCormick Center. Register at: <https://buff.ly/3IV3LVn>. #LC2021 #LeadershipConnections

This year's Leadership Connections™ National Virtual Conference with the McCormick Center features 4 amazing keynote speakers. Join me and register now: <https://buff.ly/3IV3LVn>! #LC2021 #LeadershipConnections

Ready to join a place where leaders connect? Then, register soon for this year's Leadership Connections™ National Virtual Conference with the McCormick Center: <https://buff.ly/3IV3LVn>. #LC2021 #LeadershipConnections



# STEP #2: DOWNLOAD IMAGE

These ready-made images are perfect to catch the attention of your followers. Just pick one, download, and pair with a caption from Step #1.



**Leadership Connections™ 2021**  
 where leaders connect  
 refocus your vision  
 20th anniversary of connecting  
 3 day conference  
 4 amazing keynote speakers  
 30 concurrent sessions  
 12 months of access to content  
 infinite ways to connect



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# STEP #3: SHARE USING OUR HASHTAG

With your caption ready and image downloaded, you are now just moments away from sharing! Don't forget to include one, or both, of our hashtags as shown below. Also, you can tag us or featured speakers if relevant to your post! We'd love to reshare your posts on our page to spread the excitement!

Check in on what others are posting by searching for these hashtags throughout social media.

**#LC2021 #LEADERSHIPCONNECTIONS**







**THE MCCORMICK CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERSHIP  
THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND WE LOOK FOWARD TO  
CONNECTING WITH YOU AT LEADERSHIP CONNECTIONS 2021!**





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Illinois Professional Development System



## BRONZE SPONSORS



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