



Leadership Connections™

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

A Framework for Success

May 9-11, 2019



Welcome to Leadership Connections 2019!



In Michelle Obama's book, *Becoming*, she recommends that you "find people who will make you better."

This is the very best of advice and this week, we have all surrounded ourselves with people who will make us better in some way. You join over 700 early childhood professionals from over 37 states, the District of Columbia, and four countries, including Canada, Israel, the Faroe Islands, and the United States. In addition to the registrants, there are over 50 presenters and more than 30 marketplace exhibitors. With hundreds of professionals dedicated to early childhood leadership, we 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 learn from our keynote speaker, Myra Jones-Taylor of ZERO TO THREE; be inspired by our 2019 Visionary Leadership Award honoree, Libby Doggett, at the Leadership Colloquium; and attend the Public Policy Forum where we will discuss the critical topic of racial equity.

In addition to the formal opportunities provided by the presenters and exhibitors sharing their expertise and ideas, we hope you find time to connect with each other informally during a morning walk, a night in Chicago, the networking reception, and any other occasion you create or discover. By reaching out to each other, you are growing your networks and making life-long connections with other leaders who understand your struggles and successes.

In this Program Book, we offer "a framework for success" by organizing sessions by the three domains of the McCormick Center's Whole Leadership Framework: Pedagogical Leadership, Administrative Leadership, and Leadership Essentials, which provides clarity for understanding the leadership competencies necessary for effective leadership of early childhood programs.

We are so excited to have you join us for Leadership Connections, the premier national conference for early childhood leaders. Please know that the McCormick Center team is here to make your conference experience a memorable one. If there is anything you need, please connect with one of us. Have a great week and I look forward to learning from you!

Warm regards,

Donna Jacobson

DONNA JACOBSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

McCormick Center Advisory Board

Kay Albrecht

President,
Innovations in Early Childhood Education

Jerry Cutts

Executive Director,
First Children's Finance

Eva Daniels

Family Child Care Consultant

Geania Dickey

Consultant,
Arkansas State University Childhood
Services

Chip Donohue

Principal,
Donohue & Associates

Stacie Goffin

Principal,
Goffin Strategy Group, LLC

Ed Greene

*VP, Children, Youth and
Digital Media Literacy,*
HITN

Luis Hernandez

ECE Specialist, T/TAS,
Western Kentucky University

Kristie Kauerz

Director, National P-3 Center,
School of Education and Human
Development, University of Colorado Denver

Tom Layman

QRIS (ExceleRate) Policy Director,
Governor's Office of Early Childhood
Development

M.-A. Lucas

Principal,
Lucas and Associates

Karen Ponder

Distinguished Fellow,
The BUILD Initiative

Cindy Rojas-Rodriguez

Executive Director,
Together4Children

Kathleen Villano

Project Director,
The Center: Resources for Teaching and
Learning

Margie Wallen

Vice President, National Policy,
Ounce of Prevention Fund

Lana Weiner

Early Childhood Consultant

Cass Wolfe

Senior Vice President,
Early Learning Quality Advancement/
Childcare Resources, Inc.

Conference Schedule

Wednesday (pre-conference) | May 8 Pre-registration is required for all pre-conference sessions

8:45 am - 4:15 pm	Susan MacDonald: Inspiring Early Childhood Leadership: Strategies to Ignite Passion and Possibility
8:45 am - 4:15 pm	Walter Gilliam: Implicit Biases in Early Childhood Settings
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch for all pre-conference attendees
4:45 pm - 11:30 pm	Guided tour of Chicago (additional fee)

Thursday | May 9

6:00 am - 6:30 am	Morning Walk
7:00 am - 7:45 am	Continental Breakfast <i>sponsored by FunShine Express</i>
8:00 am - 10:00 am	Workshop Session 1
10:15 am - 12:30 pm	Opening Luncheon
1:00 pm - 4:15 pm	Workshop Session 2
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Special Interest Sessions
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Networking Reception <i>sponsored by Kaplan</i>
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Professional Headshots <i>sponsored by Funshine Express</i>
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Marketplace (exhibit hall) opens
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm	Leadership Colloquium

Friday | May 10

6:00 am - 6:30 pm	Morning Walk
7:00 am - 7:45 am	Continental Breakfast <i>sponsored by Branagh Group</i>
7:00 am - 4:00 pm	Marketplace (exhibit hall) open
8:00 am - 10:00 am	Public Policy Forum
10:00 am - 10:30 am	Coffee Break
10:30 am - 11:30 am	Marketplace Product Demonstration <i>by Funshine Express</i>
10:30 am - 12:30 pm	Workshop Session 3
11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Marketplace Product Demonstration <i>by Branagh Group</i>
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm	Lunch Buffet Professional Headshots <i>sponsored by Funshine Express</i>
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Marketplace Product Demonstration <i>by Kaplan</i>
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Workshop Session 4
3:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Ice Cream Break <i>sponsored by Smartcare</i>
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	Workshop Session 5
4:30 pm - 11:30 pm	Guided tour of Chicago (additional fee)

Saturday | May 11

7:00 am - 7:45 am	Continental Breakfast
8:00 am - 10:00 am	Workshop Session 6
10:30 am - 12:30 pm	Workshop Session 7

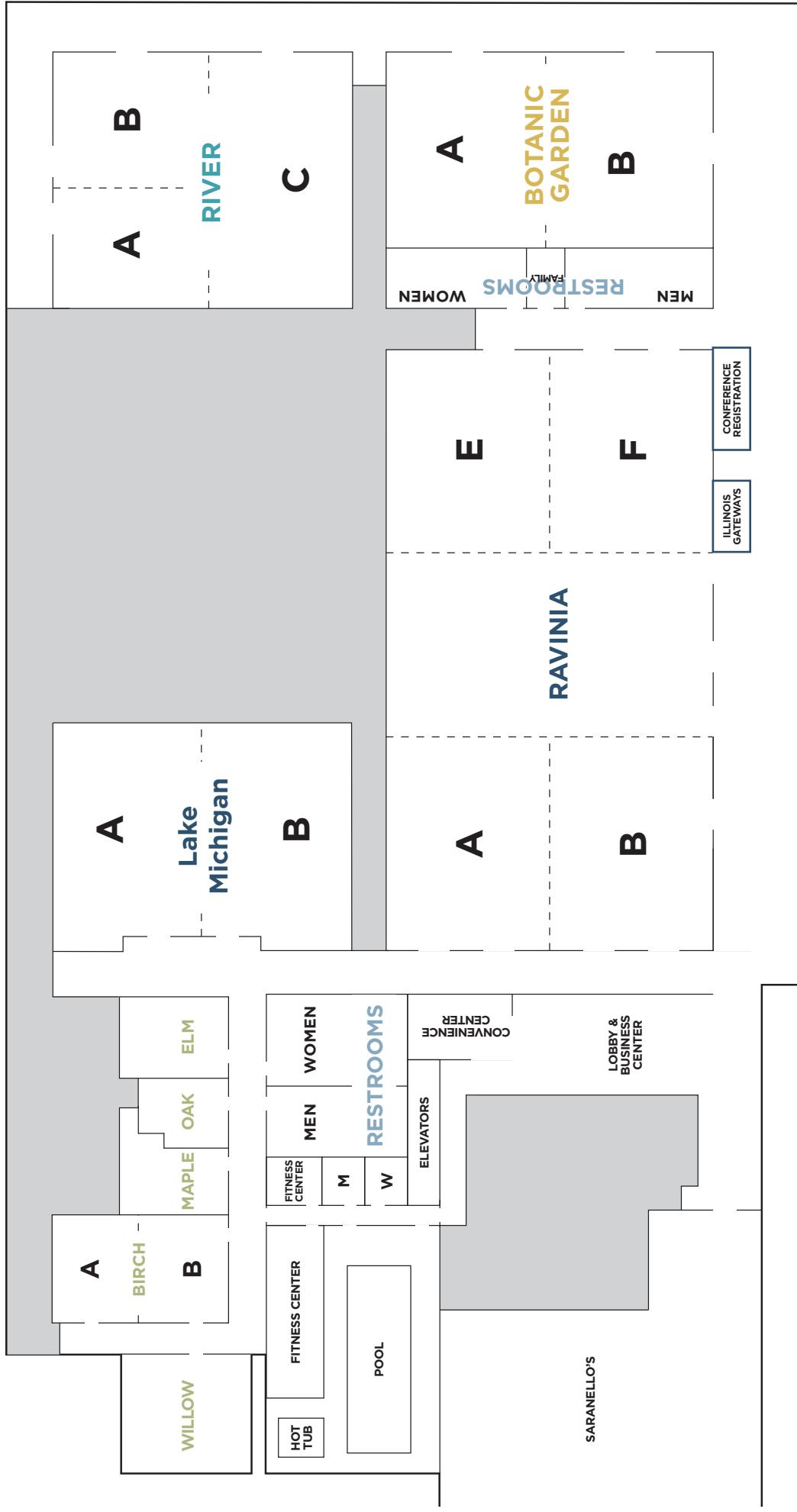
Sessions Overview

Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
Track	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5
Pedagogical Leadership	How Early Childhood Leaders Can Create & Support Trauma... Kyle Ohl & Jessica Smollek Birch	Creating and Supporting Early Learning Environments Maria Boeke Mongillo Botanic B	Creating Empowered & Engaged Employees Michelle Burkhard Willow	Partners in Education: Engaging Families in Early Learning Beth Ehls River A & B	Evaluating Technology Use for Early Childhood Jenna Herdzina Lake Michigan B
	It Takes a Village: Leading Gen X and Millennial Parents Lacey Tsonis & Bunny Egerton Botanic B	Early Childhood Leadership: Changing the Narrative Emmy DaCosta Gomez-O'Dwyer Birch	Pedagogical Leadership - Doing the Right Things to Support Young Children's Learning Steven Erwin Botanic A	Pedagogical Leaders and Community Partners Learning Together Catherine Smey Carston Willow	Using Music, Song, and Movement and Why it Matters Kristin Lems River A & B
	Adaptive Leadership for a World in Flux Shellie Dickstein & Yael Kahn Pinto Lake Michigan A	Professional Learning Communities and Professional Learning Networks Johannes Miðskarð River C	Relationship-Based Leadership Skills: Collaboration on Multiple Levels and Systems Marsha Hawley & Rebecca Klein River A & B	The Stress Test: Strategies to Support Adult Capability and Children's Behavioral Development Jennifer C. Flechtner & Kay Albrecht Lake Michigan B	What Early Childhood Educators Wish Their Leaders Understood About Child Development Peg Oliveira River C
	Early Education Essentials: Using Survey Data to Strengthen Organizational... Debra Pacchiano & Mariel Centeno Willow	Stress and Challenging Behavior: What's the Connection? What's the Impact? Steven Erwin Lake Michigan B	BORE-lation to SOAR-ientation Flora Gomez Botanic B	Cultivating Risk-Taking While Managing Actual Risk Maegan Lokteff Botanic A	Fostering Leadership Strategies Over Time: A Case Study of System Leadership Zeynep Isik-Ercan & Kelley Perkins Willow
	On-Boarding, Orientation, and Beyond for Center Leaders Laura Benbow & Khya Tapp River C	Inspiring Professional Growth: Practical Strategies for Creating a Growth Culture... Susan MacDonald River A & B	Engaging in School, Family and Community Partnerships: One Leader's Experience Lisa Olinger & Geriher Chesner Lake Michigan B	Digital Marketing Techniques to Strengthen Your Early Childhood Brand Kiley May & Patrick Small Botanic B	Powerful Strategies to Move Beyond Superficial Collaboration Grace Araya & Aminah Wyatt-Jones Birch
	Team and Program Building: Fostering Collaboration Among Staff Nancy Toso Botanic A	Your Program's Finances and Staffing - Let's Get You Thriving! Kathy Ligon & Kathie Petchel Willow	Exploring How Leaders Can Utilize Implementation Science Kelley Perkins & Laura Johns River C	Navigating Change as a Leader in Early Education Heather Beaudin Lake Michigan A	Think Money First! Supporting Nonprofit Sustainability and Impact David Greco Lake Michigan A
	Personality at Work: Learning to Lead from the Inside-Out Amy Nelson & Julie McEachron River A & B	How to Create a Culture of Innovation and Risk Taking Chanie Wilschanski Botanic A	Leadership: What Does It Take? Barbara Bowman Lake Michigan A	Taking Charge of Quality Improvement Tom Layman River C	The Art of Leadership: Understanding Yourself to Be an Effective Coach Lisa Ranfoss Botanic B
	Transform Your Leadership Legacy with Essentials for Energy... Marie Masterson Lake Michigan B	Yes We Can! Developing Dynamic Directors Kristen Klaassen & Janet Humphries Birch	Transforming from Manager to Leader... Nicole Chiello & Bailey Kent Lake Michigan A	The Five Guardians of Life Mecca Johnson Birch	Leadership and the Engaging Power of Story Cara McKeown Botanic A
	Session 6	Session 7			
	8:00 am - 10:00 am	1:00 pm - 4:15 pm	10:30 am - 12:30 pm	2:00 pm - 3:30 pm	4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
	8:00 am - 10:30 am	1:00 pm - 4:15 pm	2:00 pm - 3:30 pm	4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	8:00 am - 10:00 am
	Helping Teachers Feel Excited About Teaching Again Missy Brown Botanic B	Evaluating Technology Use for Early Childhood Jenna Herdzina Lake Michigan B	Helping Teachers Feel Excited About Teaching Again Missy Brown Botanic B	Evaluating Technology Use for Early Childhood Jenna Herdzina Lake Michigan B	10:30 am - 12:30 pm
	"The Gangsters": Supporting Young Children Who Have Experienced Trauma Allen Rosales Botanic A				
					Social Emotional Growth and Learning During the Early Years Erin Akers Lake Michigan B

Hotel Map

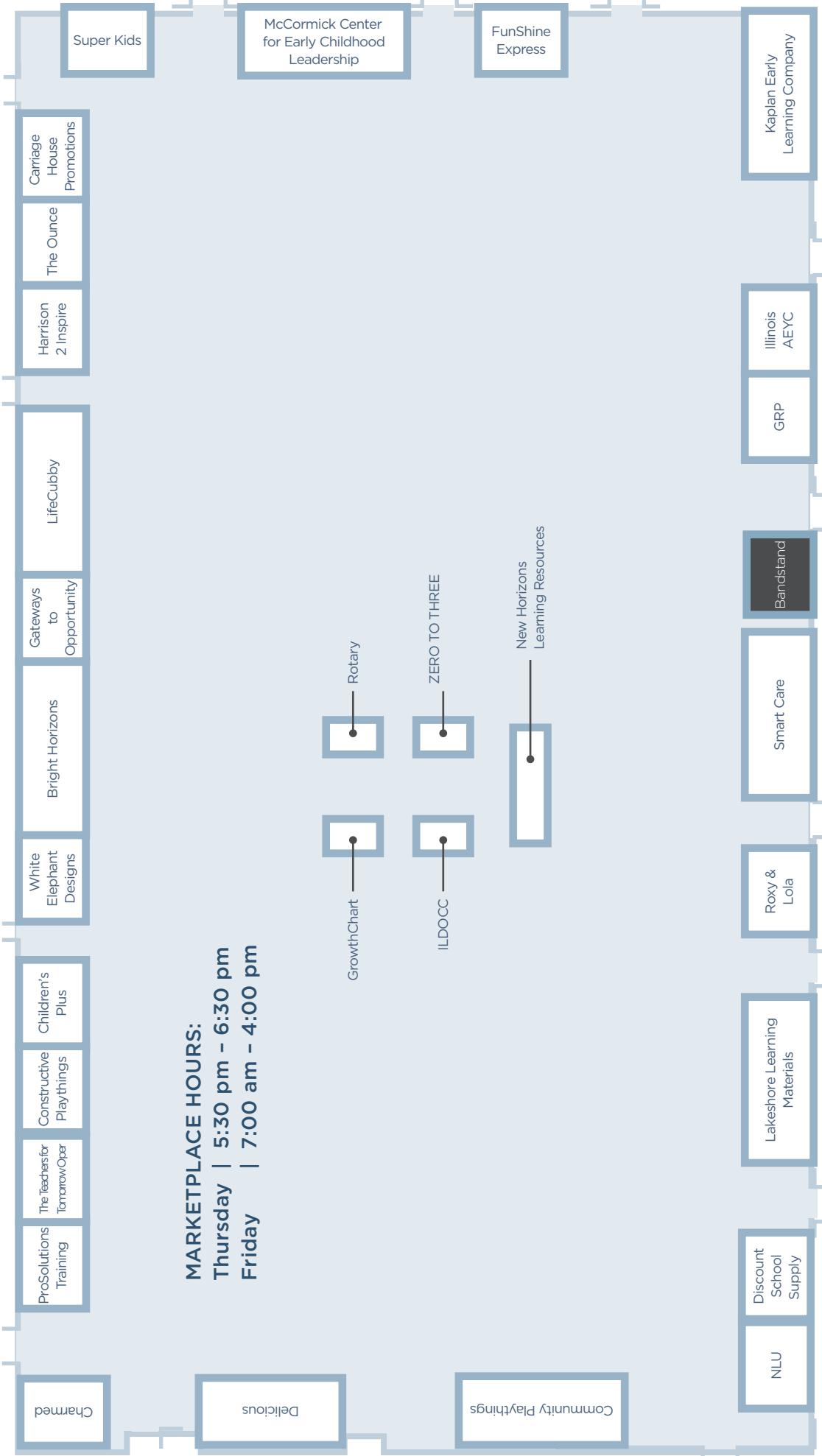
LEADERSHIP CONNECTIONS™ NATIONAL CONFERENCE | MAY 9-11, 2019

Westin Chicago North Shore, Wheeling, IL



Marketplace Map

MARKETPLACE HOURS:
Thursday | 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Friday | 7:00 am - 4:00 pm



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Conference Tracks

The interconnected domains of the Whole Leadership Framework guide tracks for the 2019 Leadership Connections™ National Conference.

Whole Leadership Framework

FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS (BIRTH TO THIRD GRADE)



ABOUT WHOLE LEADERSHIP

Whole Leadership encompasses a broad view of program leadership — evidenced in many areas and collapsed into three domains: leadership essentials, administrative leadership, and pedagogical leadership. The McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership at National University developed this framework in order to clarify the concept of early childhood leadership which is often clouded by inconsistent standards and policies.

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?

Featured Speakers



2019 Visionary Leadership Award Recipient and Leadership Colloquium Speaker | Thursday, May 9

Libby Doggett

Dr. Libby Doggett has devoted more than 40 years to improving early learning programs in cities, states, and the nation. During the Obama Administration, Doggett worked as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Early Learning at the U.S. Department of Education where she oversaw the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge and Preschool Development Grants and served as the Department's liaison on early learning issues with the White House and other agencies. Prior to joining the Administration Doggett worked for a decade to improve access and quality of pre-k and home visiting programs for children and families through the Pew Charitable Trusts. She also worked for the National Head Start Association, directing their HeadsUp! Reading program and served in the U.S. Department of Education during the Clinton Administration as executive director of the Federal Interagency Coordinating Council for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with disabilities and their families. Doggett holds a Ph.D. from the University of Texas in Early Childhood Special Education and began her career as a bilingual first grade teacher. Today, she focuses full-time as a volunteer and a board member on scaling and strengthening evidence-based early learning programs in Austin, in Texas and across the nation.



Opening Keynote Address | Thursday, May 9

Myra Jones-Taylor

Myra Jones-Taylor is the Chief Policy Officer at ZERO TO THREE, a national leader on infant-toddler policy and program development. There, she leads the development and implementation of the organization's policy agenda, priorities, and strategies; oversees the Policy Center, which includes federal and state policy and advocacy; and serves as the principal spokesperson for the organization on public policy matters with policymakers, the media, funders, and partner organizations.



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Public Policy Forum | Friday, May 10



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*.



Aisha Ray

Aisha Ray, Ph.D., is a Professor Emerita of Child Development at Erikson Institute. Beginning as a Head Start teacher, she has taught learners from preschool to graduate school; supported the development of community-based programs serving culturally, racially, and linguistically diverse children, families and practitioners; and led professional development efforts for the early childhood workforce serving children birth to age eight. Her areas of research include racial equity and diversity in early childhood professional development systems; multi-generational Black family child rearing; and the role of fathers in child rearing in low-income Black communities. She has written and presented on effective early education practices and policies for children in poverty, boys of color, and culturally and

linguistically diverse children; family engagement; culturally responsive teacher preparation; and building equitable state early childhood systems. Dr. Ray is the former Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty at Erikson Institute. Currently, she advises a variety of efforts to advance an early childhood workforce that is diverse, competent, adequately compensated and committed to addressing racial equity, including the BUILD Initiative's Equity Leaders Action Network; the Illinois Early Learning Council's Executive Committee; and the National Black Child Development Institute. In addition, she is a community activist engaged in issues related to the Black child development and racial equity in Chicago. Dr. Ray earned a doctorate and a master's degree in developmental psychology from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor; a master's degree in early education from Erikson Institute/Loyola University of Chicago; and a bachelor's degree in history from Grinnell College.



Cynthia L. Tate

As the Executive Director for the Illinois Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (GOECD), Cynthia L. Tate leads strategic partnerships with state agency leadership and private sector partners to develop and implement early childhood policy across multiple state agencies. Dr. Tate is responsible for ensuring that the vision and strategic objectives for Illinois' early childhood system are integrated and coordinated with child and family-focused state-wide initiatives, such as the Governor's Cabinet on Children and Youth. The GOECD is tasked with coordinating the work of the Illinois Early Learning Council. Cynthia L. Tate holds a Bachelor's degree from Fisk University and a doctorate in clinical /community psychology from the State University of New York at Albany. She completed her Clinical/Community Psychology Internship at Rush Medical Center. She has more than twenty years of experience as a clinician, administrator, educator, and consultant. She served on the faculty of the Illinois School of Professional Psychology.

Dr. Tate came to her current position from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, where she was the Senior Deputy for Programs, Practice, Quality and Research. Dr. Tate led the department's clinical practice, professional development, quality improvement, education divisions, and the Early Childhood Developmental Screening program. Previously, as the Deputy Director for the Office of Child Well-Being, Dr. Tate led the implementation of the Title IV-E Waiver: Illinois Birth Thru Three demonstration project. Prior to her appointment as the Deputy Director, Office of Child Well-Being, Dr. Tate was the Deputy Director for the Division of Clinical Practice and Professional Development of IDCFS. She led a professional statewide staff of clinical social workers, consulting psychologists, developmental screeners, and experts in trauma-informed practice.



Ashley Nazarak

Ashley Nazarak, Vice President, Learning and Evaluation, is the head of the YMCA's Learning and Evaluation Department, tasked with cultivating high-quality, evidence-based programming through program assessment, staff professional development, and curriculum design and implementation. Nazarak is charged with elevating the quality of programming across the Y by combining evidence-based best practices with an innovative approach to youth-centered learning. Nazarak also leads the implementation of the Early Learning Quality Initiative, in which the Y aims to be an early learning "network of excellence" where culturally appropriate practices build enduring academic and social-emotional learning skills for all children within the Y's reach; a key feature of the initiative is the Y's anti-bias literacy approach, which combines language and literacy best practices with anti-bias education principles and practices. She holds a bachelor's degree in Child Development from the University of Kansas, School of Applied Behavioral Sciences and a master's degree in Social Work from the University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration.

2019 Presenters

Mike Abel

*Director of Research and Evaluation
McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership*

Erin Akers

*Founder and CEO
ECE Learn 360, LLC*

Kay Albrecht

*President
Innovations in Early Childhood Education, Inc.*

Diane Allen

*Consultant and Business Development,
ECE, Gateways to Opportunity Trainer
At Your Best Early Childhood Trainer & Consultant*

Pon Angara

*Principal and Creative Director
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Grace Araya

*Director, Community Systems
Statewide Supports
Illinois Action for Children*

Heather Beaudin

*Pedagogical Leader
County of Wellington*

Laura Benbow

*Manager, Orientation and Development
Bright Horizons*

Jamie Bonczyk

*Executive Director
Hopkins Early Learning Center*

Barbara Bowman

*Professor
Erikson Institute*

Missy Brown

*Quality Specialist/Training Coordinator
Child Care Resource and Referral at
John A. Logan College*

Michelle Burkhard

*Owner & Chief Inspiration Officer
Grow By 1*

Linda Butkovich

*Report and Certification Manager
McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership*

Melissa Casteel

*Director of Quality Assessment
McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership*

Maribel Centeno

*Director, Practice Development & Improvement
Ounce of Prevention Fund*

Geri Chesner

*Associate Professor,
Teacher Leader Program
National Louis University*

Nicole Chiello

*Regional Director of Operations
Cadence Education*

Shellie Dickstein

*Director, Early Childhood and Family Engagement
The Jewish Education Project*

Bunny Egerton

*General Manager for Youth Services
Youth Services Columbia Association*

Beth Ehlis

*President
FunShine Express*

Steven Erwin

*National Early Childhood Specialist
Kaplan Early Learning Company*

Jennifer C. Fiechtner

*Partner
Innovations in Early Childhood Education, Inc.*

Walter Gilliam

*Professor of Child Psychiatry and Psychology
Yale University Child Study Center*

Flora Q. Gomez

*Quality Assessment Coordinator
McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership*

Emmy DaCosta Gomez-O'Dwyer

*Director of Early Childhood Leadership
Louisiana Department of Education*

David Greco

*President and CEO
Social Sector Partners*

Marsha Hawley

*Director, Implementation and Practice Improvement
Ounce of Prevention Fund*

Nancy Heathman

*Early Learning Coach
The Family Conservancy*

Ann Hentschel

*Quality Research and Program Development Manager
Branagh Information Group, Inc.*

Jenna Herdzina

*Program Manager
Erikson Institute's Technology in Early Childhood (TEC) Center*

Janet Humphreys

*Co-Principal
Dynamic Coaching Systems*

Jane Humphries

*Aim4Excellence Specialist
McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership*

Zeynep Isik-Ercan

*Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education & Co-Director, EC Leadership Institute
Rowan University*

2019 Presenters

Laura Johns

Fellow
ICF

Mecca Johnson

Founder
My Joy Speaks

Ijumaa Jordan

ECE Consultant
Ijumaa Jordan Consulting/Harvest Educators Collaborative

Yael Kahn Pinto

Communal Education Consultant
The Jewish Education Project

Leslie Katch

Assistant Professor, Online Programs
National Louis University

Bailey Kent

President & CEO
The Children's Workshop

Kristen Klaassen

Co-Founder and Principle Coach
Dynamic Coaching Systems

Rebecca Klein

Director, Program Development
Ounce of Prevention Fund

Shaunti Knauth

Director of Engaged Research
National Louis University - NCE Office of the Dean

Tom Layman

QRIS (ExceleRate) Policy Director
Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development

Kristin Lems

Educator, Children's Musician
National Louis University & Freelance

Kathy Ligon

Founder & CEO
HINGE Brokers

Maegan Lokteff

Executive Director
Grand Beginnings

Susan MacDonald

Professional Speaker,
Coach and Author
Inspiring New Perspectives

Marie Masterson

Director of Quality Assessment
McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership

Kelly Matthews

ECE Consultant
A Place For You Consulting
Harvest Educators Collaborative

Kelley May

Marketing & Design Specialist
McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership

Julie McEathron

Early Childhood Instructional Coach
Kansas City Kansas Public Schools

Cara McKeown

Teaching & Learning Specialist
Smart Start of Forsyth County, Inc.

Jóhannes Miðskarð

Assistant Professor in Leadership in Schools, Early Childhood Settings and Social Care Settings
University of the Faroe Islands

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Senior Early Childhood Practice Consultant
Ounce of Prevention Fund

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Emotional Milestones

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VP Translational Research
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Technical Assistance Specialist | ICF

Kathe Petchel

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Assistant Clinical Professor
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Aisha Ray

Professor Emerita of Child Development
Erikson Institute

Lorena Rodriguez

Aim4Excellence Manager
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Allen Rosales

Senior Early Childhood Advisor
YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago

2019 Presenters

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Ounce of Prevention Fund*

Lauren Small

*Business Consultant
Early Education Business Consultants*

Patrick Small

*Instructional Design Manager
McCormick Center for Early
Childhood Leadership*

Catherine Sney Carston

*Associate Professor
Mount Royal University*

Jessica Smolleck

*Early Childhood Mental
Health Coordinator
Grand Beginnings*

William Strader

*Coordinator and Founder
New England Symposium On Play*

Teri Talan

*Senior Policy Advisor and Michael W.
Louis Chair
McCormick Center for Early
Childhood Leadership*

Khya Tapp

*Manager, Orientation and Development
Bright Horizons*

Cynthia L. Tate

*Executive Director
Governor's Office of Early Childhood
Development*

Nancy Toso

*President
Nancy L. Toso Consulting Group*

Lacey Tsonis

*Assistant Deputy Director Resource
and Referral Services
Maryland Family Network*

Barb Volpe

*Leadership Academy Manager
School of Excellence*

Chanie Wilschanski

*Early Childhood Leadership Coach
& Culture Specialist
School of Excellence*

Aminah Wyatt-Jones

*Assistant Director, Community Systems
Illinois Action for Children*

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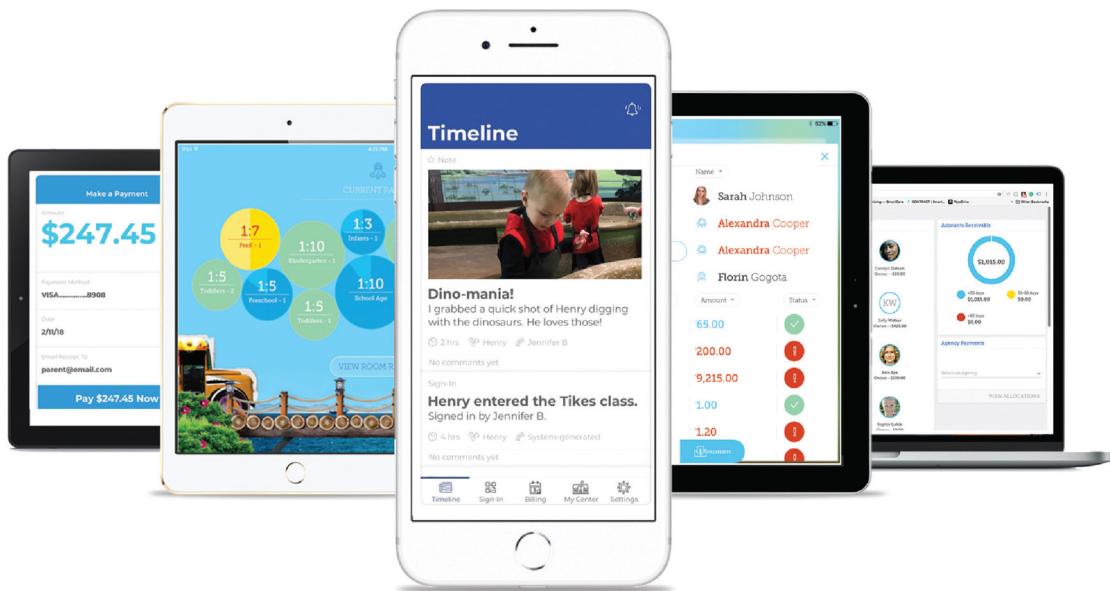


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Wednesday (Pre-Conference)

8:45 am - 4:15 pm | Pre-Registration Required



Inspiring Early Childhood Leadership: Strategies to Ignite Passion and Possibility

Susan MacDonald | Inspiring New Perspectives

Room: River C

Positive strengths-based leadership is a key factor in transforming the quality of early learning programs. Through interactive experiences, you will explore well-researched, inspirational, and motivational leadership techniques, with a focus on strength-based communication, program transformation, positivity, and systemic change.

The fundamental goal of this full-day workshop is to inspire and guide leaders to move past their current challenges toward a vision of new possibilities. Leave refreshed, recharged, and ready to facilitate positive change in their daily work and learning communities.

The strategies in Susan's award-winning book, *Inspiring Early Childhood Leadership: Eight Strategies to Ignite Passion and Transform Program Quality*, will guide the content of the workshop. <https://www.gryphonhouse.com/books/details/inspiring-early-childhood-leadership>

8:45 am - 4:15 pm | Pre-Registration Required



Implicit Biases in Early Childhood Settings

Walter Gilliam | Yale University Child Study Center

Room: River A & B

This presentation will discuss the latest findings regarding expulsion and suspension practices in early education settings, gender and racial dis-proportionality, and potential causes for these disparities, including the potential role of implicit bias. Although the presentation will focus on research findings, attendees will also be exposed to emerging information about how early educators understand implicit bias and how preschool expulsions and suspensions are understood within a social justice and civil rights framework.

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Thursday

6:00 am - 6:30 am | Morning Walk

Room: Hotel Lobby

Invitation to all Morning Walkers! Join Steve Erwin from Kaplan Early Learning Company for a 30-minute outdoor morning walk. Gather in the hotel lobby at 6:00 am to start the day with some fresh air, exercise, and an opportunity to connect with other conference attendees.

7:00 am - 7:45 am | Continental Breakfast

Sponsored by Funshine Express

Room: Ravinia Ballroom

Included in your full conference or single day Thursday registration

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

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP

Adaptive Leadership for a World in Flux

Shellie Dickstein & Yael Kahn Pinto | The Jewish Education Project | Room: Lake Michigan A

Change is constant. Brain research, technology, family needs, and other societal disruptions require leaders to adapt and explore new approaches in early childhood settings. How do we model and create cultures that enable all staff to flourish in changing times? In this session, we will explore and experience important elements of adaptive leadership proposed by Ron Heifetz and Marty Linsky in their ground breaking book, *Leadership on the Line*.

Early Education Essentials: Using Survey Data to Strengthen Organizational Contexts for Improvement

Debra Pacchiano & Maribel Centeno | Ounce of Prevention Fund | Room: Willow

In this session, participants will: (1) get to know the essential organizational supports for early education, including their definitions, mindsets, structures, and practices; (2) review research findings that indicate settings with strong positive survey responses were more likely to have higher quality teacher-child interactions, as measured by the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), and children's attendance; and (3) watch video of leaders and teachers using survey data through rapid-cycles of small-change improvement. Participants will problem-solve challenges and their implications together.

On-Boarding, Orientation, and Beyond for Center Leaders

Laura Benbow & Khya Tapp | Bright Horizons | Room: River C

The retention of teachers and leaders is a challenge for the early childhood workforce. In this session, we will take a deep dive into how to support center leaders from onboarding through orientation and beyond. We will discuss current trends in orientation, benefits of mentorship programs, and how to support leaders as they continue to develop in their roles. Participants will leave with new ideas they can implement immediately.

Thursday

Team and Program Building: Fostering Collaboration Among Staff

Nancy Toso | Nancy L. Toso Consulting Group | Room: Botanic A

Working together as a team is essential to providing quality early education and care. We will explore how to foster collaboration and teamwork among staff to generate shared engagement and investment in your program. You will discover how to create a positive, strengths-based work environment that supports individual passions and talents, as well as how to facilitate effective communication among staff. We will also examine the many roles of early childhood educators and how these contribute to quality programs for children and families.

PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP

How Early Childhood Leaders Can Create and Support Trauma Informed Systems

Kyle Ohl & Jessica Smollek | Grand Beginnings | Room: Birch

Participants will gain an understanding of the basic concepts of trauma and brain structures, and how trauma affects the body. Participants will leave with practical strategies that leaders can implement in their programs, how to create continued support in a trauma informed system, and build the capacity needed to support both teachers and families.

It Takes a Village: Leading Gen X and Millennial Parents

Lacey Tsonis, Maryland Family Network | Bunny Egerton, Columbia Association | Room: Botanic B

Understanding families is an important aspect of leading a team in serving and meeting their needs. In early care and education, Generation X and Millennial parents have unique perspectives and approaches to raising their children. Understanding who they are and how they approach parenting can help you build supportive relationships and lead others to engaging in meaningful relationships. Come explore how Generation Xers and Millennials approach parenting and what you can do to engage them. This workshop will benefit anyone who works with, supports, or leads family members between the ages of 18 and 36 years.

LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS

Personality at Work: Learning to Lead from the Inside-Out

Amy Nelson, Emotional Milestones | Julie McEathron, Kansas Public Schools | Room: River A & B

Leaders who understand personality priorities work more effectively, leveraging the individual and collective strengths of their teams while better navigating areas of potential conflict. We become intentional in creating the conditions that allow us to thrive when we understand how to solve problems, what motivates us, and under what circumstances we do our best work. This workshop will teach you to identify personality priorities and give you the tools to build your awareness of others, inspire positive communication, and manage interpersonal challenges. You will receive resources and interactive activities you can share with everyone on your team!

Transform Your Leadership Legacy with Essentials for Energy and Innovation

Marie Masterson | McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership | Room: Lake Michigan B

Transform yourself, your staff, and your program's strengths to ensure maximum impact within and outside of your program. This interactive session invites you to apply proven strategies to energize leadership, intensify program impact, and implement action steps for change. Overcome typical challenges and barriers and situate these as critical inflection points to promote needed growth, with whole leadership solutions for your program's revitalization and success.

Thursday

10:15 am - 12:30 pm | Opening Luncheon

Room: Plated Lunch | Ravinia Ballroom

Welcome: **Donna Jacobson** | **McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership**

2019 Visionary Leadership Award Recipient: **Libby Doggett**

Keynote Address: *Our Bravest Selves* | **Myra Jones-Taylor** | **ZERO TO THREE**

1:00 pm - 4:15 pm | Session 2

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP

Inspiring Professional Growth: Practical Strategies for Creating a Growth Culture in Early Childhood

Susan MacDonald | **Inspiring New Perspectives** | **Room:** River A & B

This session presents strategies early childhood leaders need to create a program culture that is intentionally focused on continuous growth and development of teachers. A growing body of research that demonstrates the life-long benefits of high-quality early childhood programs, provides new clarity and emphasis on the tremendous impact these programs have on children's success throughout their lifespan. This evidence can reshape our daily practices in early childhood classrooms. The needed changes cannot happen without a major shift in how we are supporting the ongoing professional growth and development of teachers. Early education leaders will leave inspired by new strategies, tools, and resources designed to guide them in effectively creating a "growth culture" in their programs.

Your Program's Finances and Staffing - Let's Get You Thriving!

Kathy Ligon & Kathe Petchel | **HINGE Brokers** | **Room:** Willow

As an early childhood program owner or administrator, have you truly done a deep-dive into your program's financial health to see if it is thriving? When it comes to your staff, are you struggling to keep them motivated while walking a thin line controlling personnel expenses? Join HINGE Brokers CEO and industry financial expert, Kathy Ligon, and HINGE Staffing Expert and childcare owner, Kathe Petchel to learn about tools that will walk you through how to make your program financially healthy. You will also be inspired by ways to engage and retain your staff, control labor costs, and creatively hire new team members.

PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP

Creating and Supporting Early Learning Environments

Maria Boeke Mongillo | **Central Connecticut State University** | **Room:** Botanic B

In a report from the Foundation for Child Development, PreK-3rd: Principals as Crucial Instructional Leaders, Sara Mead suggests four ways principals can create and support early childhood learning environments: 1) create a pre-k through grade 3 culture, 2) drive effective teaching, 3) create structures and conditions that support quality instruction, and 4) build relationships with community partners. Each of these four broad categories are defined by leader actions. While the report focused on school principals, this session will explore each of these four categories with leaders in multiple roles as principals, center directors, instructional coaches, and other ECE leadership positions. The session will offer participants the opportunity to reflect and collaborate on these categories for continued program improvement.

Thursday

Early Childhood Leadership: Changing the Narrative

Emmy DaCosta Gomez-O'Dwyer | Louisiana Department of Education | Room: Birch

We are living in an exciting time in the field of early childhood education. Brain science has deepened our understanding of the developing child, shaping new perspectives on the potential of our work. Early learning programs are being held to higher standards, and there is a national dialogue centered around teacher credentials and quality. What is the child care director's place in this evolving story? How can we make this important profession more visible, and this work more valued? With a vision of child care directors as powerful pedagogical leaders, stakeholders in every part in the system can promote a new narrative and change our future. Come prepared to engage, collaborate, and plan in this interactive session.

Professional Learning Communities and Professional Learning Networks

Jóhannes Miðskarð | University of the Faroe Islands | Room: River C

In this session, you will learn how to start the process of transforming your early childhood setting into a professional learning community and how to start a process of establishing a Professional Learning Network with other early childhood leaders and teachers. The information shared is based on research conducted in the Faroe Islands and Chicago with center directors and preschool teachers and their respective philosophies on pedagogical leadership.

Stress and Challenging Behavior: What's the Connection? What's the Impact? *Sponsored by Kaplan*

Steven Erwin | Kaplan Early Learning Company | Room: Lake Michigan B

Recent research has pointed to "stress" as a significant issue in early childhood programs. While multiple studies on adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) demonstrate the impact of trauma in early childhood on adult's physical and mental well-being, is there a difference and what is the impact of stress on children in child care? The triggers that produce stress in adults also lead to stress in children. One reaction to stress, at any age, is either flight or fight. Is it possible that a teacher can misinterpret a child's behavior as challenging, when it is actually a response to stress? This interactive presentation will explore the impact of stress on children and adults. Participants will examine and discuss research, consider aspects of stress that impact the learning environment, and the child's ability to learn and positively participate in the classroom.

LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS

How to Create a Culture of Innovation and Risk Taking

Chanie Wilschanski | School of Excellence | Room: Botanic A

A culture of innovation is the effect of a positive organizational environment and leadership skills. As leaders, we want innovative, accountable, mindful, and risk-taking teachers. However, too often we look at this like a dream. Building a culture of innovation in your program is a product of focusing on the right things, in the right order, at the right time. In this session, you will explore strategies to gain teacher buy-in, establish accountability, and create a collaborative culture.

Transforming from a Manager to a Leader: Establishing a strengths-based team to support your Center

Nicole Chiello, Cadence Education | Bailey Kent, The Children's Workshop | Room: Lake Michigan A

Developing and motivating an effective team is a critical part of the success of any Early Education program. This workshop will provide an overview of the difference between managing and leading a team; introduce the theory of collaborative leadership; and, teach the progressive stages of team development. After completing this workshop, participants will have the knowledge and skills necessary to best utilize all members of their school's team to identify and achieve strategic goals and outcomes for their program.

Thursday

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm | Special Interest Sessions

Administrative Leadership: A Facilitated Discussion

Shaunti Knauth | National Louis University | Room: Lake Michigan A

Come learn from your peers in this facilitated discussion. We will be using a modified version of the “Jigsaw Method” to facilitate the discussion so participants can discuss various aspects of the topics from a broad range of perspectives. Join us for this engaging and interactive experience. The topic for this discussion was selected through an online survey of individuals that registered for the conference.

Aim4Excellence™ National Director Credential: Putting Whole Leadership Into Action

Jane Humphries & Lorena Rodriguez | McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership | Room: Birch

The online Aim4Excellence™ National Director Credential is your answer to enhance and refine your leadership and administrative skills while embracing Whole Leadership. Whole Leadership encompasses a broad view of program leadership--evidenced in many areas and organized into three domains: leadership essentials, administrative leadership, and pedagogical leadership. It is this balanced perspective that provides the framework necessary to support effective early childhood leadership. Come explore and learn more about 1) the Whole Leadership Framework and its domains; 2) the overview and application of the Aim4Excellence™ research-based curriculum within the Whole Leadership Framework; and, 3) how Aim4Excellence™ supports state QRIS professional development standards, NAEYC Accreditation, and options of earning college credit through National Louis University or other partnering colleges and universities.

Challenging Child Behaviors: A Facilitated Discussion

Leslie Katch | National Louis University | Room: River C

Come learn from your peers in this facilitated discussion. We will be using a modified version of the “Jigsaw Method” to facilitate the discussion so participants can discuss various aspects of the topics from a broad range of perspectives. Join us for this engaging and interactive experience. The topic for this discussion was selected through an online survey of individuals that registered for the conference.

Early Childhood Workforce Issues: A Facilitated Discussion

Mike Abel | McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership | Room: River A & B

Come learn from your peers in this facilitated discussion. We will be using a modified version of the “Jigsaw Method” to facilitate the discussion so participants can discuss various aspects of the topics from a broad range of perspectives. Join us for this engaging and interactive experience. The topic for this discussion was selected through an online survey of individuals that registered for the conference.

Tools for Developing Whole Leadership Skills

Linda Butkovich & Barb Volpe | 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.

Thursday

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm | Marketplace in Ravinia Ballroom

Networking Reception: Sponsored by Kaplan

Meet other conference participants, presenters, exhibitors, and McCormick Center staff while eating finger foods and shopping. Included in your conference registration.

Free Professional Headshots: Sponsored by Funshine Express

Get your photo professionally taken! Use the photo however you like--on your professional social media accounts, on your program's website, etc. You will receive the digital image via email after the conference.

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm | Leadership Colloquium

Ninth Annual Paula Jorde Bloom Leadership Colloquium

Room: Botanic Ballroom

Join us as Libby Doggett 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.



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Spanish: illinoisearlylearning.org/es/

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Friday

6:00 am - 6:30 am | Morning Walk

Room: Hotel Lobby

Invitation to all Morning Walkers! Join Steve Erwin from Kaplan Early Learning Company for a 30-minute outdoor morning walk. Gather in the hotel lobby at 6:00 am to start the day with some fresh air, exercise, and an opportunity to connect with other conference attendees.

7:00 am - 7:45 am | Continental Breakfast

Room: Ravinia Ballroom

Included in your full conference or single day Friday registration

7:00 am - 4:00 pm | Last Day of the Marketplace

Room: Ravinia Ballroom

Personal and professional products available to order and purchase. This is the LAST DAY of the Marketplace.

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

Racial Equity: From Issue to Action

Room: River Ballroom

Racial equity is being discussed in the early childhood field and beyond. It is informing policy decisions, being promoted by philanthropy and government, and, in some exemplary programs, put into practice by leaders and teachers. What is racial equity? How does it differ from multi-cultural and inclusive early childhood services? Why is it important to call out racial equity in policy? How can you take action at the state, local, and program level? The Public Policy Forum at Leadership Connections 2019 is the place to find the answers!

Our panelists include:



Dr. Teri Talan
*Michael W. Louis Chair
and Senior Policy Advisor,*
McCormick Center for Early
Childhood Leadership



Dr. Aisha Ray
Distinguished Fellow,
BUILD Initiative



Dr. Cynthia L. Tate
*Executive Director, Illinois
Governor's Office of Early
Childhood Development*



Ashley Nazarak
*Vice President of Learning
and Evaluation, The YMCA
of Metropolitan Chicago*

Friday

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

Room: Ravinia Ballroom

10:30 am - 12:30 pm | Session 3

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP

BORE-ientation to SOAR-ientation

Flora Gomez | McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership | Room: Botanic B

Do you want to move beyond the basic review of policies and procedures in employee handbooks? Come prepared to develop a system for training that leads to high-performance and productivity among newly-hired teaching staff.

Engaging in School, Family, and Community Partnerships: One Leader's Experience

Lisa Olinger, Illinois Community Unit School District 303 | Geri Chesner, National Louis University

Room: Lake Michigan B

This session provides a framework for developing school, family, and community partnerships within early childhood settings as a means for enhancing children's learning and development. Characteristics of successful partnership programs will be highlighted as well as suggested steps for ensuring all stakeholders' views are shared and needs are met. One teacher leader will share her experiences in developing and implementing a plan for school, family, and community partnerships through the formation of an Action Team for partnerships that includes administrators, teachers, parents, early childhood support personnel, and community members. As part of the session, participants will apply the ideas to their own early childhood contexts.

Exploring How Leaders Can Utilize Implementation Science

Kelley Perkins & Laura Johns | ICF | Room: River C

This session will explore implementation science and how to utilize its components when leading programs. Leading an early care and education program, a professional development program, or any other initiative can be challenging when change is necessary. With "change as the new constant" in our field, participants will learn tools from implementation science to make it easier! Explore strategies to help lead intentionally and inspire staff to embrace change.

PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP

Creating Empowered & Engaged Employees

Michelle Burkhard | Grow By 1 | Room: Willow

This fast-paced session includes a mix of information and inspiration, designed to make you think, self-assess, and learn from others. Topics include: 1) leadership laws focused on empowering staff, and 2) the difference between coaching and mentoring and when to use each. You will walk away with a better awareness of your own leadership as well as a plan for future growth.

Friday

Pedagogical Leadership – Doing the Right Things to Support Young Children’s Learning

Steven Erwin | Kaplan Early Learning Company | Room: Botanic A | *Sponsored by Kaplan*

Early childhood programs have an ethical responsibility to use current research to inform their practice. Making a decision to do things right versus doing the right thing with children can create a paradox for programs. This interactive session for directors and teachers will explore recent research as it not only relates to school readiness but also positively impacts executive functioning and building a child’s cognitive capacity. During the presentation, participants will be asked to examine their current practice as it relates to research and decide if what they are doing is the “Right Thing” for children.

Relationship-Based Leadership Skills: Collaboration on Multiple Levels and Systems

Marsha Hawley & Rebecca Klein | Ounce of Prevention Fund | Room: River A & B

In order to strengthen the relationships we build with children through teaching and learning, leaders need to have powerful relationships with teachers so they can be their best. Teaching is complex and requires supportive relationships with leaders. This presentation and active engagement session will share the importance of creating a parallel process of systems that support leaders to best support teachers. We will examine the multiple levels of a system through which leaders work to collaborate and install routines of effective practice into schools, centers, and homes.

LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS

Leadership: What Does It Take?

Barbara Bowman | Erikson Institute | Room: Lake Michigan A

The field of early care and education is changing rapidly and requires leaders to have a deep knowledge of the field and the ability to articulate to others the characteristics of responsive programs. Barbara Bowman, and a panel of early childhood leaders, Elizabeth Tertell, Sherry Kaufman, Kathy Radice, and Jeff Keiser will discuss the personal attributes, skills, and knowledge for leadership in administration and advocacy, and how to develop them.

Yes We Can! Developing Dynamic Directors

Kristen Klaassen & Janet Humphryes | Dynamic Coaching Systems | Room: Birch

Participants will explore strategies that improve their overall work climate: increasing job satisfaction, improving staff communication, improving staff confidence, and increasing staff retention. Presenters discuss ways to work from staff strengths, utilizing each member’s skills and expertise, rather than the traditional needs-based approach to professional development. They will use evidence- and research-based leadership team practices assisting participants to create a transformational work environment, elevate the overall professionalism of their centers and build more leadership skills in the process.

10:30 am - 11:30 am | Product Demonstration by FunShine Express

Overwhelmed by Assessment? FunShine Can Solve That! An Overview of FunShine Assessments

Beth Ehlis | Sponsored by Funshine Express | Room: Ravinia Ballroom

Participants will explore strategies that improve their overall work climate: increasing job satisfaction, improving staff communication, improving staff confidence, and increasing staff retention. Presenters discuss ways to work from staff strengths, utilizing each member’s skills and expertise, rather than the traditional needs-based approach to professional development. They will use evidence- and research-based leadership team practices assisting participants to create a transformational work environment, elevate the overall professionalism of their centers and build more leadership skills in the process.

Friday

11:30 am - 12:30 pm | *Product Demonstration by Branagh Group*

Introducing LearnERS: CQI Coaching Framework for the Environment Rating Scales

Ann Hentschel | Branagh Group | Room: Ravinia Ballroom

Branagh Group is delighted to present our new CQI Coaching Framework at Leadership Connections. LearnERS offers a systematic approach to CQI and job-embedded professional development. It begins with program directors and coaches taking an active leadership role in guiding individual and organizational change using the Environment Rating Scales.

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm | *Lunch*

Room: Ravinia Ballroom

Included in your full conference or single day Friday registration

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm | *Free Professional Headshots*

Free Professional Headshots: *Sponsored by Funshine Express*

Room: Ravinia Ballroom

Get your photo professionally taken! Use the photo however you like--on your professional social media accounts, on your program's website, etc. You will receive the digital image via email after the conference.

1:30 am - 2:30 pm | *Product Demonstration by Kaplan*

Connect 4 Learning

Steve Erwin | Kaplan | Room: Ravinia Ballroom

The Pre-k Curriculum: Children in classrooms implementing Connect 4 Learning significantly outperformed the control group on measures of math, literacy, and social-emotional learning –including numbers sense, early geometry skills, vocabulary knowledge, and name writing.

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm | *Session 4*

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP

Cultivating Risk-Taking While Managing Actual Risk

Maegan Lokteff | Grand Beginnings | Room: Botanic A

“What is the worst that can happen?” In early childhood it can be a lot but that does not mean programs and staff cannot be innovative risk-takers. Participants will explore practical strategies for cultivating a culture of risk-taking and how risk-taking can support quality improvement, change, and retention. Participants will also examine tools for mitigating actual risk while supporting their staff to be bold innovators.

Friday

Digital Marketing Techniques to Strengthen Your Early Childhood Brand

Kelley May & Patrick Small | McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership | Room: Botanic B

Digital marketing is a powerful way to build your early childhood business and strengthen connections with families. This session will walk you through effective techniques to build your business, including how to reach new families and engage those in your program through social media, your website, and search engines. Join us for a hands-on workshop with actionable steps for building the digital marketing skills you need to develop a lasting brand presence for your program.

Navigating Change as a Leader in Early Education

Heather Beaudin | County of Wellington | Room: Lake Michigan A

Early education and care is rapidly changing across North America. With each change that our field experiences, early childhood education (ECE) leaders are called to guide their team through change processes. Whether small or large, course-planning for change is a complex and challenging task. Each day ECE leaders are called to support and play many different roles as they simultaneously lead change. The formal leader does not have to carry this workload or responsibility alone. Through distributed leadership, the skill sets and expertise of early childhood educators can be used as a key resource for guiding the change process. If implemented well, distributed leadership can be a highly effective model for guiding change. Participants will be presented with ways in which they may begin or continue to build distributed leadership into their practice.

Taking Charge of Quality Improvement

Tom Layman | Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development | Room: River C

Program leaders have been inundated with standards, assessments and quality improvement initiatives. This session will explore how a program leader (director, principal, coordinator, etc.) can work with staff to decide which standards and strategies are most important and take small steps toward shared goals. Participants will learn how the ExceleRate Illinois sub-committee of the Early Learning Council Quality Committee is thinking about state supports for program leaders doing this work.

PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP

Partners in Education: Engaging Families in Early Learning

Beth Ehliis | FunShine Express | Room: River A & B

With the enormous responsibility of caring for children, parents sometimes forget they are their child's first teacher. As educators, we can emphasize that every experience in a child's life can be a learning opportunity. This session explores ways to engage families in their child's education. We will uncover the correlation between family engagement and child success and discuss different modes of communication, including technology such as parent apps and childcare management systems. Participants will explore ideas for extending education into the home by involving families in fun activities that connect to the curriculum content of the classroom. Participants will consider ways families and caregivers can benefit the classroom by volunteering their time and sharing their capacities.

Pedagogical Leaders and Community Partners Learning Together

Catherine Smeay Carston | Mount Royal University | Room: Willow

This workshop describes how a community-based research project supported the implementation of a provincial-wide early learning and child care curriculum framework, in Canada. Over 120 child care centers were engaged in multi-level learning communities and supported through the use of pedagogical leadership. This project was conducted in partnership with government, a professional development agency, and the broader community. Aspects of how the learning culture was developed will be presented, including examples of building relationships, mentoring and coaching, and how the use of technology supported learning and change in the ECE environments.

Friday

The Stress Test: Strategies to Support Adult Capability and Children's Behavioral Development

Jennifer C. Fiechtner & Kay Albrecht | *Innovations in Early Childhood Education, Inc.* | Room: Lake Michigan B

Stress is inevitable and its impact takes time and drains energy from administrators. Toxic stress is particularly impactful during early childhood. This session explores the signs of stress in children and families, teachers, and leaders. Discover practical, empowering, easy-to-implement strategies for coping with stress; including techniques that can be applied to a wide variety of settings, ranging from the director's office to the classroom and home. Explore the difference between stress and trauma, while learning supportive strategies and resources that can help you deal with these challenging situations.

LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS

The Five Guardians of Life

Mecca Johnson | *My Joy Speaks* | Room: Birch

The Five Guardians of Life and their effects on each individual's ability to be successful both personally and professionally is the important message of this session. This workshop is designed to support leaders in their ability to discipline themselves for success. Honoring certain commands can significantly improve your work and life harmony, strengthen the ability to live with integrity, and allow individuals to experience peace of mind, walk with wisdom, and remain teachable. This thought-provoking and often humorous, interactive session offers the potential for producing short- and long-term change for participants.

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm | Ice Cream Break

Ice Cream Break: Sponsored by Smartcare

Room: Ravinia Ballroom

Come to the Marketplace for a frozen treat.

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm | Session 5

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP

Fostering Leadership Strategies Over Time: A Case Study of System Leadership

Zeynep Isik-Ercan & Kelley Perkins | *Rowan University* | Room: Willow

Come learn about the experiences of a cohort of individuals from New Jersey who attended last year's Leadership Connections Conference and how they formed a community of practice to apply their learning. Participants in this session will share their own experiences at the conference and consider strategies for digging deeper and implementing lessons learned over time. Facilitators will share how peer learning was leveraged and how mentoring helped them influence the group.

Friday

Powerful Strategies to Move Beyond Superficial Collaboration

Grace Araya & Aminah Wyatt-Jones | *Illinois Action for Children* | Room: Birch

When communities work together, they can improve outcomes for children and families. Come and learn how to use a systems approach to collectively identify and solve problems. You will also learn how to implement powerful strategies that support the goal of children being healthy, safe, ready to succeed, and eager to learn.

Think Money First! Supporting Nonprofit Sustainability and Impact

David Greco | *Social Sector Partners* | Room: Lake Michigan A

In today's rapidly changing world, it is vital for leaders to understand what it really costs to create and sustain exemplary programs for young children. To achieve financial sustainability, leaders need to think differently and develop business models that covers their fully loaded costs. Participants will learn the key pieces of financial data that are critical to making more informed decisions that drive organizational sustainability. Featuring real world case studies, this workshop will enhance their understanding of the challenges of nonprofit finance as well as increase leaders' comfort level in interpreting nonprofit financial statements. They will explore how to engage funders in discussions about financial management challenges.



LearnERS
CQI Coaching Framework



Branagh Group, in partnership with Debby Cryer, is pleased to offer this new CQI coaching framework to support early childhood educators and program leaders

- Aligned with the Environment Rating Scales
 - Online modules linked to ERS items
 - Individualized CQI journals
 - Peer learning team activities
- Deepens understanding of the “whys” behind quality practice
- Empowers staff to lead their continuous quality improvement efforts with their coach as facilitator



LearnERS Demo in the Marketplace
Friday, May 10th, 11:30am-12:30pm

ERS® and Environment Rating Scale® are registered trademarks of Teachers College, Columbia University

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Friday

PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP

Evaluating Technology Use for Early Childhood

Jenna Herdzina | Erikson Institute's Technology in Early Childhood (TEC) Center | Room: River C

In this session, participants will evaluate technology and digital media use for PK-3 classrooms against current research and policies. Explore strategies developed at Erikson Institute's Technology in Early Childhood Center to investigate which technology tools and practices are developmentally appropriate and how to ensure that technology and digital media use is high quality. You will gain a deeper understanding of how to improve technology integration in your early childhood program, while evaluating apps and tangible technology tools commonly used in early childhood classrooms. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the Fred Rogers Center's joint position statement on technology use in early childhood (2012), as well as the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) policy statement and technical report on children's media use (2016) will both be examined as standards of technology and digital media use with young children.

Using Music, Song, and Movement and Why it Matters

Kristin Lems | National Louis University and Free Lance | Room: River A & B

Many individuals in early childhood education know the benefits of engaging children in musical and expressive activities. This session will emphasize these benefits by demonstrating ways to make participatory music and movement activities part of the everyday lives of children in your program. Supporting children who speak a language other than English in the home will receive special attention. The workshop will include opportunities to sing, draw, listen and move with open hearts and minds.

What Early Childhood Educators Wish their Leaders Understood About Child Development

Peg Oliveira | Gesell Institute of Child Development | Room: River C

Many program and school leaders find themselves paying more attention to improving their management and finance skills over building a strong foundation in child development and learning. This session will examine five simple facts to guide leaders in making educational decisions and setting priorities that will best benefit children and teachers. Find out what early educators want their leadership to know and how it can change the learning paradigm for those involved in the care and education of children.

LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS

The Art of Leadership: Understanding Yourself to Be an Effective Coach

Lisa Ranfors | University of NH | Room: Botanic B

Leaders who understand their individual characteristics and the impact they have on others are more thoughtful about the actions they take to create a successful coaching environment. This workshop will look at the elements of emotional intelligence, presence, and effective leadership practices from a coaching viewpoint.

The Five Dysfunctions of a Team

Cara McKeown | Smart Start of Forsyth County, Inc. | Room: Botanic A

As difficult as teamwork can be to achieve, it is not complicated. The true measure of a team's effort is whether it accomplishes the expected results. To do so consistently, a team must overcome the five dysfunctions of a team, as described by Patrick Lencioni: absence of trust, fear of conflict, lack of commitment, avoidance of accountability, and inattention to results. We will unpack each of these, help you examine your team's level of dysfunction, and learn new ways to support team growth.

Friday

4:30 pm - 11:30 pm | Networking Event

Evening in Chicago Guided Tour

Location: 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 city locations including: Navy Pier, Millennium Park, Chicago's skyline at Planetarium Pointe, and Buckingham Fountain. An early stop will be at the famous Portillo's restaurant where you may purchase food to eat for the 45-60 minute ride into the city. Water and snacks will be provided. The coach will leave the Westin hotel/conference center at 4:30 pm and will return approximately 11:30 pm. The cost is \$60 and registration is required!



Saturday

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

Room: Ravinia Ballroom

Included in your full conference or single day Saturday registration

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

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP

Business Boot Camp for Family Child Care Homes

Lauren Small | Early Education Business Consultants | Room: Botanic A

Exceptional business practices are essential for maintaining strong enrollment and financial stability in family child care businesses. Come to this workshop to give your family child care a business checkup, ensuring that the essential elements of your marketing and financial management systems are stable and operating effectively. Understand the importance of a business mindset to manage a quality successful family child care home.

PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP

Helping Teachers Feel Excited About Teaching Again

Missy Brown | John A. Logan College | Room: Botanic B

It seems as though many teachers have lost their excitement for teaching. They feel pressed for time from mandatory paperwork, reporting, and training, leaving them with a ‘just let me check this box’ feeling. How can those who supervise, coach, or provide technical assistance help teachers feel excited about teaching again? Pedagogical leadership can unlock that excitement as we help teachers learn to slow down and be part of the learning. In this workshop, we will explore pedagogical leadership, discuss what it looks like for directors and teachers, identify how it impacts the children, and discover how it is expressed in a community of practice.

Tools and Tips to Promote Teacher Growth in Peer Learning Communities

Mindi Schryer & Christopher Miller | Ounce of Prevention Fund | Room: River A & B

Routines for teacher collaboration are essential for continuous learning and improvement. Collaborative routines are most effective when led and supported by instructional leaders. Come to this session to explore ways you can work to build trust, ensure productivity, and advance learning by facilitating collaborative routines with your early childhood staff. Learn about effective protocols and other tools that help to bring structure and focus to conversations around effective teaching practice—and experience one yourself.

Saturday

LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS

Collective Leadership in Early Childhood Programs

Diane Allen | At Your Best Early Childhood Consultant | Room: Lake Michigan A

Collective leadership is a model of leadership in which all parties work together toward a shared goal or vision. The concept is not new but it takes work and determination on the leader's part to blend, mold, and create an inspiring culture that benefits everyone involved. Participants will consider concepts related to self-awareness, trust, allowing others to take the lead, and how to assess what is effective. This method represents an evolution of changes and concepts that offers quality assurance and motivation to all participants.

Leadership and the Engaging Power of Story

Pon Angara | Barkada Circle® | Room: Lake Michigan B

This session will provide participants a framework in which they can craft a narrative based on their personal and work experience. The goal is that they will be able to tell a compelling story to their audience—parents, staff, board of directors, investors, funders, and/or the media—about the value and impact of their work as leaders and advocates for early childhood education. We will look at how a good story can be used to affect organizational change.

8:00 am - 12:30 pm | Sessions 6 & 7

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP

Liberty and Justice for All: Using Anti-Bias Education to Create Equitable and Just ECE Communities

Ijumaa Jordan | Ijumaa Jordan Consulting/Harvest Educators Collaborative | Kelly Matthews | A Place for You/Harvest Educators Collaborative | Room: River C

This workshop aims to support directors, program administrators, and educators in their ethical responsibility of ensuring that early education programs are inclusive, culturally responsive, and equitable. Participants will examine the Anti-bias education goals for children and adults and learn to apply policy and practice standards using real-life scenarios. Cross-cultural communication and problem solving skills will be discussed and practiced, so program leaders can learn how to shift program culture. The workshop ends with a strategy session where participants will develop ways to integrate the goals of Anti-bias education in their program and practices to lead with integrity and equity.

10:15 am - 12:30 pm | Session 7

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP

Future Leaders in Early Education: College and University Students! U-RAH!

William Strader | New England Symposium On Play | Room: River A & B

In what ways, do our colleges and universities support the growth and development of future leaders in our field? Whether at the A.A., Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctoral level, whether they attend brick and mortar institutions or on-line, our college and university students will emerge as future leaders in early childhood education. This session focuses on institutional support, guidance, mentoring, and coaching of college students as they try their wings as emerging leaders. We will explore what effective future leaders in early childhood look like on college and university campuses and engage with some of them via technology as we "talk shop" about their leadership.

Saturday

PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP

“The Gangsters”: Supporting Young Children Who Have Experienced Trauma Through an Anti-Bias Literacy **Allen Rosales | YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago | Room:** Botanic A

A professional development system and educational practices, developed at the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago, are being instituted as a way to support directors, coaches, and teachers in their journey of understanding and implementing Anti-Bias Literacy Education. We will explore how literacy skill-building with an anti-bias lens can help young children develop academic, cognitive and social-emotional skills. The workshop will showcase powerful stories that children have developed which integrate elements of identity, cultural competence, and social justice. Participants will engage in interactive activities to understand pedagogical leadership with an organization-wide perspective of needed practices and processes to support program community members in their role of promoting children’s success.

Social Emotional Growth and Learning During the Early Years

Erin Akers | ECE Learn 360, LLC | Room: Lake Michigan B

Current research tells us that social emotional growth and learning is of utmost importance during early childhood. We know now that the developing brain has a window of growth for executive function skills, including social emotion learning (SEL), during the ages of 3-5. Let's explore what social emotional growth entails, what research tells us, and how it can impact our classroom practices to promote social emotional growth in our children when it matters most. You will learn practical ways to implement better SEL practices for the children we care for!

LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS

Building Our Capacity for Curiosity, Compassion, and Courage

Jamie Bonczyk | Hopkins Early Learning Center | Room: Lake Michigan A

The fundamental changes and conversations, which accompany the professionalizing of early childhood education, create an environment conducive to feelings of isolation and opposition. At this time in our field, we are required to engage in hard conversations, of which the stakes are too high not to share our opinions. In many ways during our collective journey, we have wandered away from the practice of three powerful character traits: curiosity, compassion, and courage. Rediscovering and exploring the power and impact of these traits and how to use them in our lives, serves as an essential tool to strengthening and unifying our voice.

Finding Joy and Rediscovering Curiosity in Our Work

Nancy Heathman | The Family Conservancy | Room: Botanic B

As leaders, are we remembering to find and create moments of joy? Do we stop and recognize joyful moments each day? Laughter and joy can build community with staff and families to provide an environment for learning. Evidence suggests that it is also a great way to reduce stress and burnout. Does your leadership practice lead staff to see purpose and recognize joy in their work? This session will explore how leaders can model and engage staff in ways that help them find joy in their work and keep curiosity alive.

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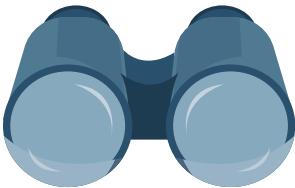
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FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Alex Kotlowitz

BESTSELLING AUTHOR • JOURNALIST • DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER

Bestselling author Alex Kotlowitz is recognized for his unflinching portrayals of race and poverty in America. For more than three decades, Kotlowitz has brought an acute and empathetic lens to on-the-ground reporting in many forms of media—print and radio journalism, documentary film, and books. His 1991 book, *There Are No Children Here: The Story of Two Boys Growing Up in the Other America*, garnered national recognition for its compassionate, unflinching portrait of Pharoah and Lafeyette Rivers and their lives growing up in a public housing project. In unforgettable storytelling, Kotlowitz deploys what Tracy Kidder terms “a powerful argument against the politics of inertia, hopelessness, and greed, and for a real war on poverty, violence, and racism in our country.”

A national bestseller, *There Are No Children Here* was selected by the New York Public Library as one of the 150 most important books of the 20th century. It has received many awards, including the Helen B. Bernstein Award for Excellence in Journalism, the Carl Sandburg Award, and a Christopher Award. In 1993, it was made into a television movie starring Oprah Winfrey. It continues to be taught at high schools, colleges, and universities across the nation.

In his latest, *An American Summer: Love and Death in Chicago*, which Wes Moore calls “revelatory and brilliant,” Kotlowitz returns a generation later to some of Chicago’s most turbulent neighborhoods to offer a spellbinding collection of intimate profiles of people and communities touched by gun violence. Kotlowitz previously examined the stubborn persistence of urban violence in his Emmy Award-winning documentary *The Interrupters*—a collaboration with Hoop Dreams director Steve James. It was praised by The New York Times’ A.O. Scott for its ability to “open up” the topic of urban violence and not limit the story to “the comforting clarity of easy conclusions.”

Kotlowitz’s work has regularly appeared in *The New Yorker* and *The New York Times Magazine* and on *This American Life* (notably, the Peabody Award-winning “Harper High School” double episode). His articles have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Washington Post*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *Rolling Stone*, *The Atlantic*, and *Granta*.

For more information on Alex Kotlowitz, please visit alexkotlowitz.com.

