

October 2022

Dear National College of Education community,

Welcome to the fall term! By now, you are likely in the throes of your academic year and I hope at this point in time you are experiencing a sense of routine within your schools and districts. I'm very excited for what this academic term will bring.

Teaching is one of the most important professions in our society today as it sets up a framework for success in the lives of students. It's my firm belief that teachers are working hard to have a direct, positive impact on their communities. Here at the National College of Education, it's our primary objective to make sure every student has a well-prepared teacher and as Dean I'm well-aware of the importance of preparing teachers who understand and embrace diversity, equity, and inclusion.

While I'm excited about the academic year, I'm equally concerned with teacher retention across the country. I'd like to express the ways the National College of Education has been working towards alleviating the teacher shortages, an issue that has been on the forefront of my mind ever since the beginning of the pandemic and especially since I assumed the position as NCE Dean. The list below discusses ways we are preparing to roll out a teacher induction program plan to support our candidates and strengthen the hand-off between NLU and our candidates' first job:

- I'm pleased to announce our Alternative Programs in Early Childhood Education, Special Education, and Elementary Education provide a pathway for teacher licensure that assists districts with hiring teachers, substitutes, and paraprofessionals. Candidates in the Alternative Pathway take jumpstart education courses that qualify them as an Alternative Provisional Educator, which allows them to be the teacher of record from the first day of the academic school year. These candidates receive support from the hiring district and from NCE faculty. This program lasts two years and qualifies candidates for a Professional Educator License (PEL). Here at NLU, we are seeking partner districts who are interested in filling vacancies with Alternative Program candidates. If you are interested, please contact [Kavita Venkatesh](#).
- Online Programming: NLU offers Early Childhood, Elementary, and Special Education Teacher Preparation programs fully online! We are currently seeking state approval to offer Secondary Education and coursework leading to the principal and superintendents' endorsements online as well.
- Districts with vacancies may wish to hire candidates that qualify for a Short-Term Teaching Approval (STA). Candidates with a B.A., 32 semester hours of content, and a passing score on the state content test may be eligible to be the teacher of record on the STA. The STA is valid for three years. Candidates who complete an NLU Teacher Preparation program will be eligible for a full Professional Educator License (PEL).
- NLU's [Teacher Residency Programs](#) combine research with school-based clinical practice to prepare effective, equity-focused educators. Residents learn alongside experienced mentor teachers for an entire school year while completing coursework to earn a graduate degree and an Illinois teacher's license. NLU's M.A.T. Teacher Preparation residency programs are co-designed with district partners to address their areas of highest need, and NLU has had experience with hosting residency

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programs outside of IL state districts, such as East St. Louis D189. Residents are paraprofessionals, district and school employees, community members, or career changers, many of whom reflect the student populations they serve. In 2020, 79% of residents identified as Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC). Since launching one of the first Teacher Preparation residency programs in the U.S. more than fifteen years ago, NLU has prepared over 700 residents to teach Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle Grades, EESL/Bilingual, and Special Education classrooms. NLU typically engages 150 residents a year using multiple models.

- The [Year-Long Paid Internship Program](#) was mutually developed by NLU faculty, staff, and district partners. The program was founded as a solution to the joint problems of resource-strapped students struggling to finance student teaching and districts struggling with teacher shortages. The Year-Long Internship allows teacher candidates to be hired by a participating district while enrolled in the Teacher Preparation program. Candidates complete their student teaching at the partner site and are often hired as teachers of record in the district. Last year, NLU partnered with [25 Internship Site partners](#), up 79% from the previous year.
- The College will begin offering a new Teacher Induction Program for its Teacher Preparation graduates who are in their first years of practice. The Program will launch in September 2023 and meet on a monthly basis. With the guidance of college faculty, early career teachers will explore topics and issues most important in supporting their professional well-being. Professional Development credit will be awarded to the participants. More information to come!

If you have suggestions or questions about our teacher shortage initiatives or in general, please email me and let me know how NCE can help you or a colleague in your educational journey. You may also view our NCE Resource Guide, a comprehensive overview of the college and its offerings. Take a look [here](#).

Best wishes for the fall term and I look forward to hearing about your work and progress,

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

WHAT'S NEW

NCE Lessons Learned in Leading for Equity Resource Guide

The working definition of equity was shared and discussed during National Louis University's Leadership Summit: Re-Visioning Education for Equity on May 14, 2021. More than 60 education leaders from across the nation joined the virtual event to discuss the opportunities, challenges, and lessons learned in leading for equity through the COVID-19 pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement. The event included keynote speakers, seven breakout sessions with designated topics to explore, and a re-gathering to share the ideas discussed in those breakout sessions. The resources have been compiled in a booklet. Click [here](#) to view.

Summer Reading Program

The Center for Literacy's Summer Reading Program included 48 Reading Teacher and Reading Specialist candidates at three campus locations: Chicago, Wheeling, and Virtual. During the program, candidates work with 96 K-12 students on literacy interventions. This year, NCE was pleased to host a cohort of Palatine School District 15 bilingual educators who are training to be Bilingual Reading Specialists.

Rob Muller Addresses Graduates

Former NCE Dean, **Robert Muller**, addressed this year's doctoral degree recipients at NLU's Doctoral Hooding Ceremony on June 22 in the Chicago Campus Atrium. As the new graduates joined the larger network of NLU alumni making real differences in education every

day, Dr. Muller offered six suggestions. Read Dr. Muller's remarks in Reflections on the Role of NLU's Educational Leaders in the Future of Education [here](#).

NLU Rankings

National Louis University was just ranked one of the best online colleges in Illinois according to [ZDNet](#), a business technology website! It has also been named "America's Best Bang for the Buck Colleges" by [Washington Monthly](#). NLU was also rated one of the best universities in Illinois by [Patch.com](#).

New Partnership!

NLU is pleased to be one of the universities supporting School District U-46 as it launches its [Horizons4U](#) Tuition Reimbursement Program in Fall 2022. This program is available to current U-46 employees who are interested in pursuing a teaching degree or other educational enrichment, offering 100% tuition reimbursement. NLU will serve as a partner university for undergraduate and graduate teaching licensure, and has already begun to welcome new students who have accessed Horizons4U. In the teacher preparation programs, U-46 asks the candidate to remain in their classroom for Practicum and Student Teaching. The candidate will continue to be paid in their position while completing these hours under their licensed, cooperating teacher. Upon conclusion, there is a commitment to remain with U-46 in their position for 5 years. If you know of a district interested in a partnership opportunity with NLU, please contact Wendy Gaeding, Director of Outreach, at wgaeding@nl.edu.

In Case You Missed It

- Read about NCE's Innovations in Teacher Preparation [here](#).
- Read about NLU's partnership with CODE.org [here](#).
- Read about some Educational Leadership faculty highlights [here](#).

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

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

Publications:

Emily Hoffman, assistant professor, published "In Our Voices: Creating Community Responsive Listening Centers" with Kristin Cipollone in the magazine *Teaching Young Children*.

Carla Sparks, assistant professor, and her former NLU student **Sarah Lukas**, adjunct, have co-authored [Be the Manatee: Affirming Advice for Your Leadership Journey](#), with a foreword by **Daniel Buckman**, adjunct.

Xiaoli Wen, professor, collaborated with **Teri Talan** and **Melissa Casteel** of the McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership and with others to co-author: "The Impact of Race, Culture, and Language on the Leadership Journeys of ECEC Leaders of Color." This brief, advancing the profession of early childhood education and care (ECEC) leadership, is available in the McCormick Center online Library.

Gloria McDaniel-Hall, assistant professor, and Ava Belisle-Chatterjee published "Beginning with Ourselves: Pivoting for Deep Understanding and Implementation of the Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading Standards" in *Voices for Educational Equity* Volume 18, Number 2.

Dana Hagerman, assistant professor Reading Recovery Center for Literacy, has co-authored *Children in Immigrant Families Becoming Literate*, published by Routledge. The book is described as a meaningful window into the lived experiences of children from immigrant families, providing a holistic, profound portrait of their literacy practices as situated within social, cultural, and political frames.

Presentations:

Several NCE faculty presented at the ISTE Live22 conference:

- **Jack Denny, Angela Elkordy, Ayn Keneman, and Donna Wakefield:** "Resiliency, Change, and Instructional Technologies: Preparing Preservice Teachers During COVID"
- **Angela Elkordy:** "Thinking by Design: Framing Thought with Cognitive Tools and Strategies"
- **Nicole Zumpano:** "Coaching for Impact: Designing a Program to Grow Both Coach and District"

Vito Dipinto, associate professor, and **Christina Derusha**, M.A.T. SEC student, presented a hands-on workshop entitled "Lone Wolf: A Darwinian Speculative Thought Experiment" at the National Science Teaching Association conference. Additionally, he presented with Zachery Franks, M.A.T. SEC student, "'With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility': Using Pop Culture to Teach Science." This same conference also displayed Dipinto's short film *Science Learning: Vito's Approach*.

Angela Elkordy, assistant professor, delivered a featured presentation titled "STEAM in a Global K-12 Educational System" at the BalanceED-FAU International Education Conference in collaboration with the International Council of Professors of Educational Leadership (ICPEL).

NCE faculty presented at the [54th Annual Conference of the International Visual Literacy Association \(IVLA\)](#). The presentations included:

- **Karen Tardrew** and Art Exhibit Team: "Opening of the Virtual Art Exhibition with Welcome Video"
- **Mark Newman:** "Art and Race: Exploring the Portrayals for African American in the Paintings of William Sydney Mount and Archibald Motley, Jr."
- **Xiaoning Chen, Vishodana Thamotharan, Xue Han, and Eun Ko:** "Integrating STEM, Language, and Visual Literacy to Engage and Support Multilingual Learners"
- **Xiaoning Chen:** "Critically Examining Visual Representations of Chinese in Contemporary Picturebooks."
- **Geri Chesner:** "Reading-Viewing a Picturebook by Its Cover"
- **Karen Tardrew:** "Using Visual Metaphor for Educators: Creating Safe Spaces"

Mark Newman, professor, and **Xiaoning Chen**, associate professor, won the International Visual Literacy Association (IVLA) Education Award for their outstanding contributions to the field of visual literacy! This award is given to members of the Association in recognition of their significant professional contribution to visual literacy through exemplary teaching, educational outreach, and/or the development of model curricula and other educational materials.

Service to the Field:

Angela Elkordy, assistant professor, and **Ayn Keneman**, professor, created a book club supported by the Illinois Digital Educators Alliance (IDEA) for their book *Design Ed: Connecting Learning Science Research to Practice* (ISTE). Participants (teachers and technology specialists across the Chicagoland area) in the book study met weekly during July responding to prompts from the book, designing their ideas on "What is learning?". They also used Twitter to stay connected.

Keisha Rembert, assistant professor, was a presenter for "Tough Talks From Toddlers to Teens," an event put on by the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center to discuss violence in communities as a response to the Highland Park shooting and the war in Ukraine.

CELEBRATIONS

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

Keith Traska, '05 M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction, is the new principal at Trinity Lutheran School in St. Joseph.

Alumnus **Scott Thies** has been promoted to Fenwick High School varsity basketball coach.

Holly Harper-Kelly, '11 Ed.S. in Administration and Supervision, is Morton Grove's Golf [District 67](#) new principal.

Superintendent Maureen White, '07 Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, officially began her new job as district superintendent of Dolton School District 149.	Carie Cohen, '11 Disability Studies, is the new Assistant Superintendent for Student Services at Trails School Dist. 26.	Cameron Parker, '05 M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction, is the new principal at Emma E. Booker Elementary School in Sarasota, FL.
Former adjunct faculty, Julious Lawson, is the new superintendent of Ames Community School District.	Margena Christian, '93 M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction and '13 Ed.D. in Adult Education, was awarded a 2022-2023 Faculty Innovations in Pedagogy and Teaching Fellowship from The HistoryMakers.	North West College (NWC) has appointed Priscilla Lothian, '21 Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, as their new academic vice president.

NCE IN THE NEWS

NCE programs and community members featured in media outlets

Instructors in our Educational Leadership department, **Gloria McDaniel-Hall**, assistant professor, **Beth Minor**, Director of Educational Leadership Studies, and **Christine Nelson**, assistant professor, have just published "Real Talk." The NLU Real Talk series highlights some of our alumni who are game-changing thinkers, those who are ready for the real work required to create systemic changes. They interviewed alumni **Clinton Alexander**, '22 Ed.D. Educational Leadership, **Tre Childress**, and **Shalanda Driver**, '22 Ed.D. in Educational Leadership. View the series [here](#).

University of Illinois' alumni magazine wrote a profile about **Kristin Lems**, professor. View the article [here](#).

Carlos Azcoitia, professor emeritus, was interviewed on [Univision](#) about the importance of establishing a routine at the start of school so that children can adjust to the new academic year schedule.

Carolyn Theard-Griggs, Dean, was [interviewed](#) by ABC 7 Eyewitness News about how the pandemic has affected student learning.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY MEMBERS AND STAFF

Blanca Gamez-Djokic joins NCE after completing a year as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Education at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, where she taught classes to undergraduate and Master's of Teaching students around educational equity. Dr. Gamez-Djokic completed her Ph.D. in the Critical Studies of Race, Class and Gender at the Graduate School of Education at the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to pursuing doctoral studies, Dr. Gamez-Djokic completed her Master's degree in Arts in Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education after which she taught Upper School English for two years at a private international school in Taipei, Taiwan. The research of Dr. Gamez-Djokic examines the intersections of race, gender, and affect in teaching and learning interactions and in collaborative education reforms, such as research-practice partnerships. Specifically, her research converges around three areas of inquiry: 1.) ethnographic explorations of school-community-university partnerships, 2.) teacher practice and identity, and 3.) the role of race, gender and affect in teaching-learning interactions.



Lydia Brinkmeier was recently hired as an NLU Enrollment Specialist supporting the National College of Education. She grew up in the northwest suburbs of Chicago and attended Illinois State University, where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Music Therapy. After undergrad, she was working in schools and fell in love with education. Not too far down the road, she worked as a paraprofessional for students with autism and she started the M.A.T. in Elementary Education program at National Louis. During her teaching career, she taught fourth and first grade. After a few years teaching in the classroom, she was ready for something different, but still wanted to positively impact education, which brings her to this new role!

UPCOMING EVENTS

M.A.T. Information Sessions

The M.A.T. Information Sessions are good for paraprofessionals and Substitute Special Education Classroom Assistants to attend if they want to receive their Professional Educator License.

October 11 – 5:00 pm CST M.A.T. Middle Level/Secondary Education
October 12 – 5:00 pm CST M.A.T. Early Childhood Education/Elementary Education
October 13 – 5:00 pm CST M.A.T. Special Education

If you are interested in any of the info sessions, please email [Wendy Gaeding](mailto:Wendy.Gaeding@nl.edu) or visit the NCE events [website](#).

Student Listening Sessions

NCE wants to hear from students like you! We are hosting two student listening sessions to gather feedback on your student experience. Details below.

M.A.T. Students: Tuesday 10/25 at 4:45 pm CST

APP/EDL Students: Wednesday 10/26 at 4:15 pm CST

Click [here](#) to register for the MAT session and click [here](#) to register for the APP/EDL session.

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