



**NATIONAL LOUIS
UNIVERSITY**
National College of Education™



2024-2025 YEAR-END REVIEW

INTRODUCTION

The National College of Education (NCE) at National Louis University (NLU) recognizes that a career in education is more than a profession: it's a calling and a lifelong commitment to making a difference. Our distinctive approach to partnering with students, from new teacher preparation to advanced professional pathways and doctoral studies, shapes every aspect of our work as we prepare today's educators and tomorrow's leaders.

Our programs are built with our students in mind, offering experienced and accessible faculty, convenient locations, flexible course formats, and affordability. Above all, our focus on progressive, real world education stands out, fueled by a passion for creating lasting impact.

NCE graduates serve in classrooms, schools, and communities throughout Chicago, across Illinois, and far beyond. Each year they reach thousands of learners. In Florida, NCE students based at our Tampa campus and across the state are making a meaningful impact in schools and communities. As an institution, we embrace a culture of continual learning and regularly enhance our programs to meet the evolving challenges and opportunities in education today.



**In the pages ahead,
you will find highlights
from NCE's 2024–2025
fiscal year, reflecting our
dedication to improving
education on local, state,
and national levels.**



**NATIONAL LOUIS
UNIVERSITY**
National College of Education™

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4	DEAN'S LETTER
5	BY THE NUMBERS
7	PARTNERSHIPS & INITIATIVES
10	AI INNOVATION BADGE SERIES
11	ENROLLMENT & OUTREACH
12	THOUGHT LEADERSHIP
13	GRANTS
15	CENTER FOR LITERACY EXCELLENCE
16	NEW FACULTY & STAFF
17	STUDENTS & ALUMNI
19	CONNECT WITH US

DEAN'S LETTER



As we reflect on the past academic year, I am incredibly proud of the progress we've made as a college. Our commitment to shaping the future of education continues to drive our work, and the impact we are making is evident in the success of our programs, students, and faculty.

This has been a year of innovation and momentum for the National College of Education. We've embraced new opportunities to strengthen the ways we prepare and support educators, equipping them with practical tools to navigate today's classrooms and adapt to what comes next.

One of our standout initiatives was the launch of our *AI Innovations in Teaching and Learning Badge*. This first-of-its-kind program equips our students and alumni with the knowledge and confidence to use artificial intelligence as a tool for teaching and learning. Alongside the badge, our faculty have modeled leadership by offering peer professional development, experimenting with AI in PK-12 settings, and sharing their insights widely at conferences and in publications. These efforts confirm NCE's role as a national leader in shaping the future of education through technology.

At the same time, we have expanded initiatives that directly impact teacher retention and success. Our Teacher Induction Program continues to provide critical support for new teachers through mentorship and professional learning, while our alternative certification pathways allow educators to earn credentials while serving as Teachers of Record. Together, these programs ensure schools are staffed with qualified, confident professionals who are prepared to thrive.

As we look ahead, the strength of NCE lies in our people: our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and partners. Their passion and collaboration drive the progress reflected in this report. This year, we continued to serve more than 4,000 students, maintaining strong enrollment across our programs. To meet this growing demand and further enhance our offerings, we are welcoming additional full-time faculty in the 2025-26 academic year. With this collective dedication, we are not only supporting educators at every stage of their careers but also shaping a future of education defined by innovation, equity, and excellence.

With gratitude,

Carolyn Theard-Griggs

Dean, National College of Education

2024-2025 BY THE NUMBERS

2024 graduates from Illinois

922

Adjunct professors

191

2024 graduates from Tampa

 66

Full-time faculty

65

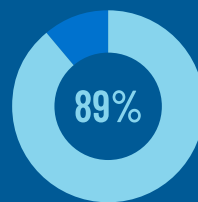
Dissertation defenses

59 

In 2024-25,
our three
programs with
the highest
number of
graduates were:

- 1 **MED** Curriculum & Instruction
with Advanced Specializations
- 2 **MAT** Early Childhood
Education
- 3 **MAT** Special Education

NCE continues to prepare educators in high-need areas that help close teacher shortages and strengthen schools across our communities.

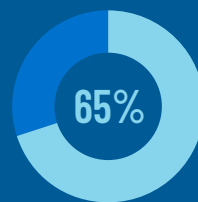


of graduates rated NCE faculty as "Valuable" and "Very Valuable" for their career as educators

4 out of 5



of graduates find full-time employment within their field of study within their first year after graduating



of our completers in teacher preparation programs took roles in high-needs schools

Over 70% of graduates
since 2019

who found public school jobs in Illinois were still in the field in Illinois three years later. Our graduates are thriving in a field with a very high attrition rate.

Field Experiences

Over

90%

of graduates agree that their NLU student teaching experience prepared them for every single competency rated by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)



1,712 unique students

across all Undergraduate and Graduate field experiences for all three terms in 24-25.



1,803 schools

placements made for observations, practicum and student teaching



276

of cities in which placements were made

6

of states placements were made in:
CO, FL, IL, MI, PA, TX

Awards & National Rankings

#12 (out of 78) of the best colleges in Illinois, and #17 of the best online colleges in America by Niche.com

[LEARN MORE](#)

Top 25 Best Bang for your Buck Midwest by *Washington Monthly*

[LEARN MORE](#)

NCE's Middle Grades Education program has been recognized as an inaugural Distinguished Teacher Preparation Program by the Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE)

[LEARN MORE](#)

2024-25 Top 10 Employers of NCE Graduates

- 01 Chicago Public Schools
- 02 Schaumburg School District 54
- 03 Orange County Public School (Florida)
- 04 District U-46 Elgin
- 05 Marion County School District (Florida)
- 06 National Louis University
- 07 Community Consolidated School District 15
- 08 Lake County School
- 09 Hillsborough County Public Schools (Florida)
- 10 East Aurora School

PARTNERSHIPS & INITIATIVES

Partnership is deeply rooted in National Louis University's history, and the National College of Education continues this legacy by collaborating with schools, districts, and educational organizations. These collaborations address current challenges in education, including the teacher and principal shortages, as well as issues around teacher retention and support. Highlighted below are some of the new or enhanced partnerships and initiatives NCE engaged in during fiscal year 2024-25.

Pathways to Teaching

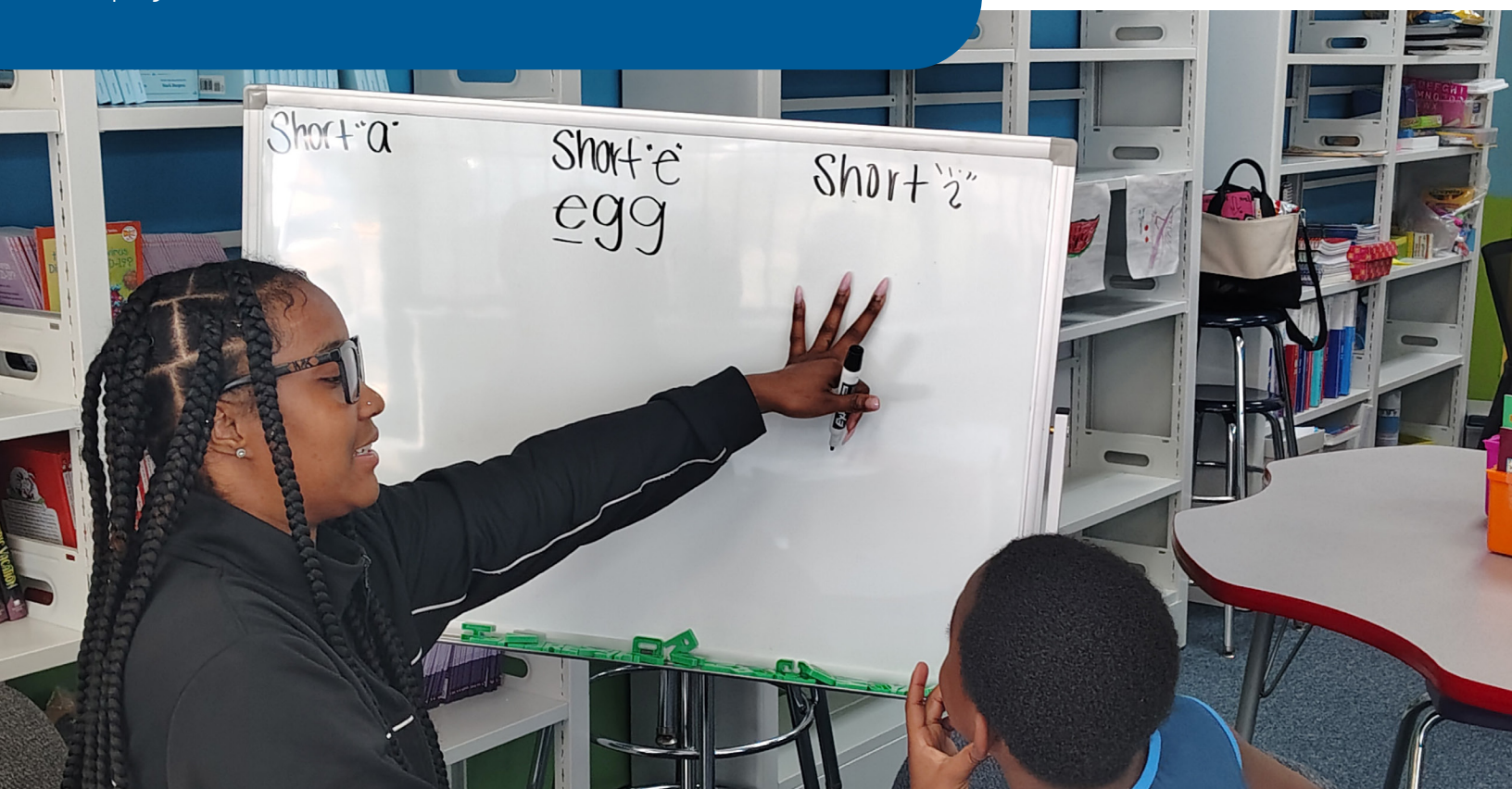
NLU offers multiple pathways to becoming a teacher, designed to build a diverse and effective pipeline of education leaders. These include traditional licensure programs, alternative certification, residencies, and accelerated programs. Our flexible options provide hands-on experience, mentorship, and support, catering to aspiring educators at various career stages and addressing critical education needs.

In 2024-25, NLU was selected as the sole university partner to offer the teacher residency program for Chicago Public Schools. The partnership began summer 2025 with Masters programs, and will expand to Bachelors programs in summer 2026.

Tutoring Partnerships

NCE has established tutoring partnerships virtually and in-person throughout Chicagoland, offering volunteer and paid opportunities for NLU candidates to tutor students in K-12 to higher education, across all subjects throughout the year. These partnerships not only support young students in building foundational skills and confidence but also provide NLU candidates with hands-on experience, enhancing their teaching abilities and deepening their commitment to educational equity.

Please review the 2024-25 Tutoring Impact Report for more information.



Chase Literacy intern Shania Jones (current NLU BA Elementary Education candidate) and student.



Deans For Impact

NCE has a long-standing partnership with Deans for Impact (DFI). We have hosted DFI meetings and events on our campuses, and Dean Theard-Griggs has served as a mentor in their year-long Impact Academy. NCE also participates in the Educator-Preparation Program Collaborative (EPP Collaborative), a national network of teacher preparation programs working together to expand high-quality apprenticeship pathways into teaching, while sharing ideas, resources, and real stories from educators across the country.

In 2024–25, Dean Theard-Griggs was featured on Deans for Impact’s new podcast, *Hand in Hand, Place to Place: Transforming Teacher Preparation*. Episode 2, *Leading in a Changing Landscape*, explores how the role of leaders has evolved over the last decade and highlights the mindsets and actions EPP leaders need to champion accessible, high-quality pathways into teaching.

LISTEN ON  Spotify®

 Listen on
Apple Podcasts

Grow Your Own Illinois

Grow Your Own Illinois (GYO-IL) seeks to increase diversity in Illinois’ teaching workforce, especially in hard-to-staff schools. In 2024–25, NCE received an additional \$5,000 (for a total of \$15,000) funding from GYO-IL for our Ambassadors project, which aims to reach underrepresented groups often missed by traditional marketing. NCE t-shirts, stickers and lanyards are being distributed along with the hoodies. The items are meant to spark conversation, encouraging individuals to share their NCE experiences and inspire future educators to pursue graduate or doctoral degrees at NLU.

In 2024–25, NLU was one of 22 partner universities and community colleges participating in Grow Your Own Illinois’ *We See the Teacher in You* marketing campaign.

The campaign seeks to attract racially and culturally diverse community members to pursue teacher licensure programs in Illinois, emphasizing that their unique life experiences are a valuable asset to the teaching profession.



New Teacher Induction Program

Launched in fall 2023, NCE's New Teacher Induction (NTI) Program is thriving. Designed for NLU alumni in their first or second year of teaching, the no-cost program, generously funded by Kathleen '96 MAT and Geoffrey Nixon and the Louis Family, helps address the unique challenges new teachers face as they enter the profession. NTI offers monthly Zoom sessions on topics such as classroom management and parent engagement, along with small-group discussions, Harmony Academy curriculum modules, role-playing, and other practical activities. This combination fosters peer collaboration and supports both professional and personal growth during the critical early years of teaching.



In 2024-25, 24 participants completed the program. New features included optional mentoring of 18 NTI participants and affinity groups on behavior management and special education. Participants described NTI as a supportive space to ask questions without judgment, connect with peers facing similar challenges, and benefit from the guidance of mentors outside their districts.

By continuously refining the program, NCE remains committed to supporting new teachers, helping them build confidence and fostering positive impacts in their classrooms. In 2025-26, the program plans to diversify content delivery to accommodate different learning styles and provide additional engaging experiences.

The New Teacher Induction Program was featured in a 2025 Deans for Impact article, ["How ed-prep programs can strengthen new teacher retention through mentorship and induction,"](#) highlighting NTI as an impactful model for supporting early-career educators.



Jennifer Jackson

**Kindergarten Teacher
Chicago Public Schools**

Kerri Nolan

**Mentor, New Teacher Induction Program
National Louis University**

AI INNOVATION BADGE SERIES

In June 2025, National Louis University launched the first badge in its university-wide [AI Innovation Badge Series](#), a collaborative effort involving NCE, the Undergraduate College, and other university partners. The inaugural badge, *AI Innovations in Teaching and Learning*, offers an eight-session professional development experience that helps PK-12 educators explore how AI can support authentic, individualized, and innovative learning. Grounded in UNESCO's AI Competency Framework for responsible AI in education, the program emphasizes practical, ethical, and human-centered AI pedagogy.

Badge participants engage in a practice-based learning experience that shows how AI can support lesson planning and assessment, create inclusive, Universal Design for Learning (UDL)-aligned instruction, enhance multilingual communication, and act as a creative collaborator across content areas. Thoughtfully designed by NLU faculty, the course enables educators to apply AI in designing standards-aligned lessons, differentiating instruction, and enhancing family communication. Each participant completes the badge with a personalized GPT or AI resource tailored to their classroom context.

The demand for the AI Innovations in Teaching and Learning badge created a waitlist which led to additional offerings and expansion of the badge series. In 2025-2026, the university will expand the series with the *AI Innovations in Student Agency* badge and the *AI Innovations in Educational Leadership* badge, which support inquiry-driven learning, creative problem-solving, and responsible, data-informed leadership practices.



**NATIONAL LOUIS
UNIVERSITY**
National College of Education™

Unlock The
POWER OF AI
in PK-12 Education



ENROLLMENT & OUTREACH

The Enrollment and Outreach Departments at National Louis University are dedicated to expanding educational access and guiding prospective students through the admissions process. By partnering with community colleges, community organizations, and school districts, the team connects students—especially those from underrepresented backgrounds—to NLU’s academic programs, financial aid, and scholarship opportunities. Through workshops, college fairs, and targeted presentations, the departments serve as a vital bridge, offering pathways to higher education and professional growth.

Within NLU’s National College of Education, Enrollment and Outreach enhance teacher training pipelines by engaging continuously with school communities and partner districts. The team attends conferences, back-to-school events, and teacher appreciation celebrations, helping to promote programs like “Grow Your Own Teacher” and scholarships for aspiring educators. Through these partnerships and engagements, Enrollment and Outreach ensures that future teachers have the support and resources needed to pursue their goals, enriching local communities and preparing dedicated professionals for high-need classrooms.

Through these partnerships and engagements, Enrollment and Outreach ensures that future teachers have the support and resources needed to pursue their goals, enriching local communities and preparing dedicated professionals for high-need classrooms.



NLU Outreach team members at a conference

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Faculty Scholarship

In the fiscal year 2024-25, NCE faculty, staff, and adjuncts presented over 170 times at local, national, and international conferences and/or educator groups, and have written over 65 publications in major journals or books. You can view much of this on the [Faculty Scholarship](#) page of the NCE website.

NCE also publishes a peer-reviewed online journal, [i.e.: inquiry in education](#), which serves as a platform to promote and disseminate a broad range of research and scholarship. The journal focuses on school-based contexts with teacher inquiry at its core, addressing areas such as classroom practice, educational leadership, foundations, curriculum, practitioner training, and action research in education.

Highlighted Events

NLU Principal/Administrator Panel

NCE invited all current teacher preparation candidates to attend the 3rd annual NLU Principal Panel and hear firsthand from Chicagoland school and district leaders about their tips and best practices for new graduates looking to be hired. Topics included the application process, interviewing, marketability, and new teacher success.

Adjunct Connections

In winter 2025, NCE brought back the Adjunct Connections event, restoring an important tradition. The day focused on professional development, collaborative program discussions, and strengthening connections across departments. Adjunct faculty were recognized for the expertise, real-world perspective, and mentorship they bring to our candidates.

Program Revisions

The National College of Education strongly supports its faculty in developing and implementing curricular change and innovation to meet students' educational goals and career objectives. Based on market demand and feedback from our school community, below are new or updated program offerings NCE developed in fiscal year 2024-25.

- New endorsement in Safety and Driver's Education. This 18 SH program is for certified Illinois teachers seeking the ISBE subsequent endorsement to instruct driver education at the high school level.
- Learning Sciences Education (LSE) is now a concentration in the Curriculum and Instruction with Advanced Professional Specializations (CIAPS) program. By integrating LSE into CIAPS, NCE can enhance academic efficiency, reduce internal competition, and better serve its target audience.



GRANTS

The National College of Education faculty collaborate with community agencies, organizations, and schools to co-design and implement grant-funded initiatives. Below are the grants in which NCE faculty were actively engaged during the 2024-25 academic year.



STARTALK End of Grant celebration

2023-25 STARTALK Teaching Chinese in Multilingual Classrooms

 Xiaoning Chen, Jason Stegemoller, Colleen Hamilton, Kristin Lems

Supported by the National Security Agency, this year-long teacher training program, with the theme of *Teaching Chinese in Multilingual Classrooms Program*, provides a pathway toward the Illinois Bilingual Endorsement to 20 prospective and current educators who plan to teach Chinese in K-12 classrooms.

USDOE PPOHA Comunidades Latinas Académicas con Visión de Éxito (CLAVE) Grant

 Jason Stegemoller, Ruth Quiroa, Sandra Gonzalez-Adamski

Supported by the Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans (PPOHA) program, this grant is from the Hispanic Serving Institutions Division of the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE). It is built to increase the retention and graduation rate of Latinx students in Master's and Doctoral programs by developing and supporting a network of promising diverse doctoral scholars and increasing graduate students' professional networks, writing capacity, and financial and professional knowledge base.

USDOE Mental Health Professionals

 **Jennifer Engelland-Schultz, Kelli Henson**

The purpose of the school-based mental health grant is to increase the number of mental health providers in the schools to address student needs. This grant has provided support and services to our graduate students and field supervisors to enhance field partnerships and training in mental and behavioral health.

Refining and Expanding HEROES: A Literacy Intervention for Young Students with IEPs

 **Dana Hagerman**

This grant seeks to strengthen the HEROES literacy intervention for K–4 students with reading-focused Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) by expanding its reach to more than 1,820 additional students, preparing nearly 200 new teachers and coaches, and testing new training and instructional delivery models. Supported by the U.S. Department of Education, the project aims to identify the most effective approaches to refine teaching delivery methods, ultimately improving literacy outcomes and reducing achievement gaps.

Math for All: Expanding Professional Learning to Improve Mathematics Outcomes for Students in High-Need Schools

 **Xiuwen Wu, Xue Han, Bobby Dillard**

Supported by the U.S. Department of Education, the grant helps to implement Math for All resources in pre-service teacher preparation courses and contributes to facilitating grade 3–5 and grade 6–8 Math for All professional learning with 25 Chicago area schools. The grant aims to help improve math outcomes for elementary and middle-level students across the greater Chicagoland area.

USDOE FIPSE R25Q

 **Stuart Carrier, Carla Sparks**

Supported by the U.S. Department of Education, the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) Research and Development Infrastructure (R25Q) program provides funds to make major investments in research capacity, faculty, graduate programs, and infrastructure. Its goal is to strengthen institutional research productivity, partnerships, and external funding.

Iwamoto North American Foundation for Go

 **Xiuwen Wu**

This grant funds a comprehensive review of research linking mind sports and cognitive science. A research study is being conducted to investigate how mind sports, specifically the game Go, can enhance the cognitive development of youth.

CENTER FOR LITERACY EXCELLENCE

The Reading Recovery Center for Literacy has a new name! This past year, we have undergone changes and additions and will now be called the NLU Center for Literacy Excellence. With this name comes expanded offerings including professional development opportunities for our partners.



National Louis University and the Center for Literacy Excellence also continues to be the only institution in the region offering partnerships and training for Reading Recovery, a highly effective short-term intervention of one-to-one tutoring for first graders, and *Descubriendo la Lectura*, a culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate intervention for students receiving emergent literacy instruction in Spanish. In addition, we offer Literacy Lessons, an intervention for students identified as multilingual learners or who have been identified for special education services. NLU faculty at the Center for Literacy Excellence partner with schools across Illinois, Wisconsin, and Florida to train, coach, and support Reading Recovery Teacher Leaders, the in-house early literacy experts who provide continued coaching and learning opportunities for literacy intervention specialists within their district.

Finally, the Center for Literacy Excellence has been expanding our coaching partnerships. We work with school districts to prepare literacy coaches to implement the Partnerships in Comprehensive Literacy (PCL) model. The PCL model uses literacy as a tool for implementing school improvement. Coursework is offered that focuses on the roles and responsibilities of a literacy coach in the Comprehensive Literacy Model (CLM) and Comprehensive Intervention Model (CIM).

2024 – 2025 Highlights

NLU's Center for Literacy Excellence has continued its impact across Illinois, Wisconsin, and Florida by:

- Expanding the network of school partnerships that includes: 15 sites and 51 school districts in 131 school buildings
- Training 11 Partnership in Comprehensive Literacy coaches
- Supporting 18 teacher leaders and 218 Reading Recovery teachers who improved the achievements of 1,448 first grade students
- Hosting an Annual Conference in Chicago with 340 registrants
- Creating an expansion of professional development opportunities
- Partnering with four other institutions on the HEROES grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education
- Speaking at multiple conferences and institutes across the United States



Tracee Farmer and Dana Hagerman, Co-Directors of the Center for Literacy Excellence, at the 2025 Teacher Leader Institute

NEW FACULTY & STAFF



Sarah-Anne Lanman

Sarah-Anne Lanman is the NCE Dean's Office Academic Project Coordinator.

Sarah-Anne brings 11 years of experience in public education from Munster High School, where she taught photography, yearbook, and newspaper. She advised the nationally award-winning Paragon yearbook and Crier newspaper, earning recognition as a 2023 National High School Journalism Teacher of the Year finalist by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association and as a 2022 Yearbook Adviser of the Year by the Journalism Education Association.



Tim Dohrer

Tim Dohrer is an Assistant Professor and Chair of the M.Ed. Educational Leadership program.

With 35 years of experience in K-12 and higher education, Dr. Timothy Dohrer served 23 years as a teacher, teacher leader, and Principal at New Trier High School in Winnetka, Illinois. He most recently held leadership roles at Northwestern University and Northern Illinois University, focusing on educator leadership and partnerships. Known for his expertise in social-emotional learning, school climate, and teacher development, he continues to consult with schools and support educators across the country.



Jimmy Caldwell Jr.

Jimmy Caldwell Jr. is an Assistant Professor of the Special Education program.

Dr. Caldwell, who earned his Ph.D. in Curriculum & Instruction with a specialization in Special Education from the University of South Florida, is a dedicated scholar and advocate. His research addresses systemic inequities in education, focusing on the overrepresentation of Black students in special education and the discipline disparities they encounter. Driven by a commitment to educational equity, his scholarship seeks to create meaningful change in the field.



Nancy Battaglia

Nancy Battaglia is an Undergraduate Field Experience Specialist.

She has an undergraduate degree from St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, IN and graduate degrees from Northwestern University and DeVry University. After a 30-year career in K-12 education, Nancy spent 10 years teaching before transitioning into administration as a high school assistant principal and technology director. Her experience in both small and large districts, including the Chicago Archdiocese, provides valuable insight into placement opportunities for NLU students.



Courtney Plotts

Courtney Plotts is an Assistant Professor of School Psychology in Tampa.

A licensed school psychologist and certified special education teacher, Dr. Courtney Plotts brings more than 15 years of experience in culturally responsive interventions and inclusive education. She has served as a faculty member, higher education leader, and national consultant, partnering with schools and organizations to support at-risk students and strengthen educational practices. She is passionate about helping educators bridge theory and practice to improve student outcomes.



Chaidan Leshinski

Chaidan Leshinski is a Field Supervisor Coordinator in the Master's program.

Chaidan has been part of the NLU community for years as an adjunct professor and student teacher supervisor. A former middle school Math and Language Arts teacher, she is passionate about mentoring future educators. She recently joined OFE as a Field Supervisor Coordinator in the MAT program, drawing on her experience guiding student teachers and teaching Math Methods courses. Chaidan holds a B.A. from DePauw University and a Master of Education from Loyola University Chicago.

STUDENTS & ALUMNI

The National College of Education is committed to fostering the success of our students and celebrating their achievements throughout their educational journey. In fiscal year 2024-2025, we awarded over \$2.5 million in University scholarship funds to support NCE graduate and doctoral students, assisting them with tuition, research, and financial needs. We take pride in the noteworthy accomplishments of our dedicated students and esteemed alumni.

Golden Apple

The Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching annually recognizes outstanding teachers and school leaders for having lasting, positive effects on students' lives and school communities. Award recipients demonstrate a significant, positive impact on their students' growth and learning through their teaching. Since the Golden Apple Foundation began recognizing outstanding Chicago-area educators annually in 1986, the National College of Education has had over 85 alumni receive this prestigious award.

OUR FY '24-25 RECIPIENTS ARE:

Mike LaScola, '08 MEd in Education Leadership, and principal of Everest Satellite High School in Belvidere, was the recipient of the 2025 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Leadership.

Lisa Robinson, '08 MEd in Curriculum and Instruction, and Kindergarten teacher at Rolling Green Elementary in Rockford, was the recipient of a 2025 Golden Apple Award.

To view the entire list of Golden Apple winners, visit: <https://nl.edu/national-college-of-education/golden-apple-winners/>



Mike LaScola



Lisa Robinson

Illinois Teacher of the Year

Victor Gomez '25 MEd in Curriculum and Instruction was named the 2025 Illinois Teacher of the Year by ISBE. Victor began a state-funded one-year sabbatical in July 2025, and will represent Illinois in the National Teacher of the Year program. Victor was also named ISBE's Cook County Co-Regional Teacher of the Year in April 2025.



Victor at East Leyden High School where he works as a bilingual chemistry teacher.

Graft Scholars

Alumna Patricia Cassin-Graft, '57, and Michael J. Graft, Sr. created the Patricia Cassin-Graft Student Teacher Assistance Fund at National Louis University to assist candidates who are dedicated to teaching in under-served schools and face financial burdens.

The Graft Scholarship has helped 170+ students since 2002 with financial assistance during their final term of student teaching.

The FY 24–25 recipients are:

Maliah Chancellor

MAT Early Childhood Education

Jadonna Kendricks

MAT Special Education

Montana Lavallee

MAT Middle Grades Education

Santara Minor

BA Early Childhood Education

Katina Townsend

BA Early Childhood Education

Riley Deahl

MAT Elementary Education

Delilah Gutierrez

MAT Elementary Education

Kiqiana Jackson

MAT Early Childhood Education

Tim Moriarty

MAT Secondary Education

Blanca Vidal

MAT Secondary Education

NCE Brain Trust

The National College of Education Brain Trust, established in the summer of 2023, is a distinguished alumni consortium of school district and business leaders. The group meets on a semi-annual basis and serves as a source of thought leadership, guiding teacher preparation, fostering dialogue on innovative educational concepts, and offering valuable counsel to Dean Theard-Griggs and NCE program leadership.

Members of the NCE Brain Trust in 2024–2025 Included:

Carlos Azcoitia '75 MEd, David Bain '08 CERT '14 EdD, Anquineice Brown '17 MAT, Merryl Brownlow '18 EdD, Denise Bunning '97 CERT, Sharon Burstein '74, Olga Contreras '03, Katrice Cotton '95 MEd '16 EdD, Kaitlen Faruggia '11, Carla Goldberg '95 MEd, Lisa Hassler '21 EdD '21 EdS, Judy Jankowski '02 CERT '07 EdD, Rose Johnson '79 MEd, Macquiline King '94 '00 MEd '07 MEd '18 EdD, Mike Lubelfeld '93 MAT '09 EdS, Kathleen Nixon '96 MAT '04 CERT '14 CERT '25 LHD, Sylvia Peters '59 '24 LHD, Barbara Schneider '67 '76 MS, Guy Schumacher '91 CERT '07 EdD

Dr. Kathleen Nixon also served as our June 2025 NCE Commencement speaker, delivering an inspiring speech that motivated our graduates as they stepped into their next chapter.



Brain Trust Spring 2025

From left to right: Olga Contreras, NCE faculty Karen Tardrew, Katrice Cotton, Dean Carolyn Theard-Griggs, Mike Lubelfeld, Merryl Brownlow, Kay Nixon, Carla Goldberg, NLU's Shaunti Knauth, Macquiline King, Rose Johnson, David Bain, Anquineice Brown

CONNECT WITH US

Social Media



NCE's social media platforms, @NCENLU on Instagram and Facebook continue to grow and engage our community.

Follow us to stay updated on news and announcements from NCE, including student and alumni success stories, upcoming events, and insights from our faculty and alumni thought leaders. These accounts also enhance networking opportunities and highlight the exciting developments within our college and the broader educational community.

Advisory Councils:

NCE engages with external stakeholders through two advisory committees: the Teacher Preparation Advisory Board and the Educational Leadership Advisory Council. These committees discuss a range of relevant topics to support our students and members contribute their expertise to support curricular revisions and program enhancements. Their insights help NCE align its programs with the evolving needs of educators and the communities they serve.

For questions about the Teacher Prep Advisory Board, contact **Lisa Mozer** at lisa.mozer@nl.edu.

For questions about the Educational Leadership Council, contact **Elizabeth Minor** at eminor1@nl.edu.





NATIONAL LOUIS
UNIVERSITY
National College of Education™