

Vision Diversity Conference

Creating a Vision for Opportunity, Progress & Renewal

*Presented by the Early Childhood Education Program &
The Teachers of Tomorrow Club*

One Day Conference

May 20, 2017

8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

5 STARS Hours



"The human mind always makes progress, but it is a progress made in spirals."

~Madame de Stael

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Opening Presentation

Debra Ren-Etta Sullivan

This conference is supported in part by the following organizations

The Teachers of Tomorrow Club (TOT)

The Center of Excellence for Careers in Education

A special thank you to our vendors, 4-year colleges, and community agencies for their presence at our conference!



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8:30-9:15 Check-in at the Student Union Building
Morning Refreshments
Vendors, Displays

9:15-10:15 Keynote

10:30-12:00 AM Session

12-1:00 Lunch/Vendors

1:00-2:30 PM Session

2:30-3:30 Certificates and Closing Address in the Student Union Building

Cultivating the Genius of Black Children: Strategies to Close the Achievement Gap

There has been much attention given to the opportunity gap between white and minority students, especially African American children. Using research and years of experience *Cultivating the Genius of Black Children* is able to break down the cultural influences on learning style and provides a practical approach to helping Black children thrive in the classroom.

For Black children, defined as those of African descent, there is a disconnect between learning preferences and learning environments that must be bridged before the achievement gap can be closed.

Increasing our cultural intelligence will allow us to work across many cultural differences in our classrooms. As our schools become more diverse, cultural competency will be an increasingly important skill for teacher efficacy and children's success. By cultivating the individual genius of each child and meeting them where they are today we can invigorate the education system and provide children high quality early education experiences.

10:30-12AM Session 1 : DEBRA REN-ETTA SULLIVAN

Changing the Teaching and Learning Environment

What does it mean to change the teaching and learning environment? It definitely does not mean throwing everything you learned in your teacher preparation program out the window! Rather, it's about bringing in more of what you learned. When teachers are deeply familiar with their learning goals and outcomes, they know there are a lot of ways for children to demonstrate success. And, it all begins with sharing. *(Cultural Competency & Responsiveness)*

10:30-12AM Session 2: ALLAN HIRSCH - A.K.A ALLEYOOP

Xylophoni Macaroni

In this workshop, teachers will add to their repertoire of activities for circle time. Included are simple singing exercises for children using the xylophone, musical games and movement, storytelling, and puppets!
(Curriculum & Learning Environment)

10:30-12AM Session 3: DENISE BILL

Muckleshoot History: Past & Present

This presentation will focus on the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe culture, and, history, and, what makes us who we are today. History, past and present will be examined through the following topics: culture, elders, food sovereignty, education, the environment, and healing modalities for the contemporary Native community. *(Cultural Competency & Responsiveness)*

10:30-12AM Session 4: ROBERTA KIM

10 Essential Tools to Prevent and Minimize Challenging Behaviors in Young Children

Learn how to prevent and minimize challenging behavior by developing effective activities and routines that create a calmer and yet engaging learning environment. Fill your tool box with cognitive, sensory, behavior and emotional tools that help young children cope with stress, uncertainty, social and academic demands so they can focus on and enjoy learning! *(Child Growth & Development)*

10:30-12AM Session 5: ANDEE NYDEGGER

The Visionary Director: A Workshop for Dreaming, Organizing, and Improvising in Your Center

Based on the work by Margie Carter and Deb Curtis, this workshop will provide a vision of early childhood programs in the 21st century. We will give a synopsis of "systems thinking" and how it pertains to developing the culture of your program. The session will include a list of recommended resources to support your journey along with detailed examples of how to translate your values into innovative practices for your child care center. *(Professionalism)*

10:30-12AM Session 6: MIRIAM WOITO

Sketching, Drawing, Crayons, and Sharpies for Young Students

Each participant will receive a sketch book to play in for 1.5 hours. We will sketch and draw (yes there is a difference). AND we will learn and play together with different crayon techniques and sharpies. A sharpie is one of the most powerful drawing and life skill learning tools a child can have. Come find out why. Don't be afraid, we are going to embrace the enthusiasm of a child with a new box of crayons and forbidden sharpie! *(Curriculum & Learning Environment)*

10:30-12AM Session 7: LESLIE KESSLER

How Relationships Shape the Developing Brain

Research in neuroscience has expanded our understanding of how children develop and learn, and emphasizes that brain development relies on relationships and experiences in the early years. Knowledge of how the brain changes as a result of relationships can influence and transform our work with young children. Attend this workshop and learn about the sequence of brain development, the structures and parts of the brain, brain plasticity, the social brain (mirror neurons), and the significance of memory development in babies. *(Child Growth & Development)*

10:30-12AM Session 8: CLAUDIA QUINN

Using Sign Language to Teach Emotional Regulation

Emotion regulation involves paying attention to emotions, understanding and labeling emotions, and managing or modifying emotions in order to reach one's goals and respond in appropriate ways. One critical developmental achievement associated with the emergence of emotion regulation is the acquisition of language. Through language, children are able to label and control emotions, thoughts, and intentions. In this workshop, we will explore how teaching infant signs supports emotion regulation in infants and toddlers by helping them take an active role in their own emotion regulation before they have words to express how they feel and what they need. *(Child Growth & Development)*

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1:00-2:30PM Session 3: LORRAINE BAYES

Celebrate the Toddlers!

Music is one of the first intelligences to emerge in young children. Participants will actively share many musical pathways to engage, interact and stimulate learning through playful songs and soothing lullaby. Together, we will explore, create and enrich our joy, confidence and repertoire with creative movement, sign language, story methods and teaching props. *(Curriculum & Learning Environment)*

1:00-2:30PM Session 4: MARIOLA KULAWIEC PhD

Engineering in PreK-4: Imagine the Possibilities

Come to learn about factors to consider in implementing engineering experiences in early childhood classroom. How do you make solving problems a part of children's play? How do you resist the urge to solve problems for them? The presentation includes hands on STEM challenges tailored to the child's age and ability. Leave equipped with ideas of how to feed their curiosity and wonder for exploration. *(Curriculum & Learning Environment)*

1:00-2:30PM Session 5: LESLIE KESSLER

The Heart of Early Childhood Education: Promoting Social-Emotional Learning in your Classroom

Early Childhood teachers are realizing that there is an increased need to address social and emotional issues in their classrooms. Challenging behaviors such as bullying and violence are becoming more common, even in classrooms with younger children. Studies show that children are better able to learn basic academic skills when their social and emotional skills are positive and strong. Helping children to develop the skills they need to understand and manage emotions, become self-aware and self-regulated, develop an understanding of others, create positive relationships, and problem solve is called social-emotional learning. In this workshop we will look at the definition of social-emotional learning, discuss the milestones of SEL, and explore some activities you can use in your classroom to enhance social-emotional learning.

(Child Growth & Development)

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1:00-2:30PM Session 7: DIANA MAMERTO HOLZ

Montessori in Traditional Environments

How can you integrate Montessori materials and practices into your traditional classroom to make it beautiful, developmentally-appropriate and culturally-relevant? Montessori can add so much to your classroom—no matter what philosophy you follow. And it doesn't need to be expensive! Appropriate for parents, family child care, Head Start, and child care centers. *(Curriculum & Learning Environment)*

1:00-2:30PM Session 8: SANDY JOHNSON & LORI FIETZ

Camp Hav-a-klu

This workshop is geared for those working with elementary-age children. Step into Camp Hav-a-klu, a summer program inspired by the reality television show, "Survivors." The workshop is filled with hands-on activities in geography, ecology, history, literature, geometry, science, creative writing, and art! Take a glimpse into this fascinating day camp program that is an immersion into continent studies. Participants will be able to learn about the activities and possibly replicate some of them into their own summer program. *(Curriculum & Learning Environment)*

Pasta Bar Lunch - Student Union Building **12:00-1:00 p.m.**

Join us in the main dining room for lunch! This is a working lunch where you will be able to view our ECE Resource Room, talk to 4-year colleges, and shop at the vendors' booths!



Enjoy a wonderful lunch while you shop for those special things to make your classroom shine!

CLOSING SESSION 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Closing Address & Door Prizes Student Union Building

Turn in your name badge to enter a drawing for great prizes!

You will also collect your certificate!

Bring your STARS ID number and earn up to 5.0 hours for MERIT!



Washington State Department of
Early Learning

About Our Presenters, ECE Faculty and Conference Planners

KEYNOTE SPEAKER - Dr. Debra Ren-Etta Sullivan serves as the President of the Seattle Affiliate of the NBCDI. The focus of her work is implementing appropriate learning environments for Black children and increasing advocacy for their educational rights. She has worked in higher education for thirty years as a teacher, researcher, curriculum developer, administrator, and education coach. As a college administrator, she has participated in the education and preparation of many of Seattle's teaching workforce. Dr. Sullivan has a doctorate in Educational Leadership, a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction, and a bachelor's degree in Cultural Anthropology and is the author of two books. *Learning to Lead: Effective Leadership Skills for Teachers of Young Children*, a self-directed guide to leadership development and her second book (co-authored with Holly Elissa Bruno, Janet Gonzalez-Mena, and Luis Hernandez) is titled, *Learning From the Bumps in the Road: Insights from Early Childhood Leaders*. Her third book, *Cultivating the Genius of Black Children*, guides teachers in creating classrooms that support the learning needs of Black children.

Lorraine Bayes is a founding director, songwriter and performer of the highly acclaimed children's group, Tickle Tune Typhoon and has been creating and performing music for children and families since 1980. She has recorded 13 albums focusing on positive social values, children, education and community building and has received numerous Parent's Choice and notable children's recording awards. Lorraine also serves as a ceremonial leader and song carrier for diverse inter-faith gatherings honoring peace, healing, gratitude and unity.

Candy Benteu has a Master's Degree from Lesley University and is a nationally recognized educator that has traveled throughout the United States helping to promote the understanding of how to effectively work with diverse communities. In addition, Candy works as a CDA P.D. Specialist for the National Council for Professional Recognition.

Denise Bill is the Program Manager for the Muckleshoot Occupational Skills Training (MOST) program. She completed her doctorate at the University of Washington; her dissertation was "Native Educational Leadership in the Pacific Northwest." She remains committed to carrying on the work that her father and so many others began – to bring educational opportunities to Native people, to pass their lessons on to her children, and to everybody's children. According to Denise "Education is a process that never ends. It continues throughout your entire life."

Lori Fietz is a Certificated Montessori teacher and adjunct faculty member at Green River College. Lori has taught and nurtured many educators in our field. In addition to teaching courses in Early Childhood Education, Lori is a preschool teacher and the program supervisor of a local Montessori School.

Joanne Garrott currently teaches the Practicum 1 class at GRC. She earned a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Puget Sound and has taught in both early elementary and preschool classrooms for more than 20 years. Joanne is committed to both using Developmentally Appropriate Practice in her preschool classroom and teaching adults about its importance.

Allan Hirsch has over 40 years' experience working with children, as a performer and an educator. He continues to present to children as a "Circle Time Specialist" as well as providing workshops for teachers. His recordings are used by preschool and Montessori teachers all over the world.

Sandy Johnson has three bachelor's degrees—in literature, secondary education, and law. She recently graduated from Heritage University based in Toppenish, WA with a Master of Arts degree in Multicultural English Literature and Language. She holds a Washington State Professional Teaching Certificate and a MACTE Montessori Elementary Teaching Certificate from the Montessori Institute for Teacher Education based at Spring Valley Montessori. She is an Elementary/Middle School teacher/program supervisor who has designed curriculum for Green River Montessori which encompasses at least fifteen core and cosmic subjects. She has conceptualized, researched, and constructed Montessori materials for all those subjects for grades 1-9.

Leslie Kessler is a full-time faculty member in the Early Childhood Education department and Instructional Council Chair at Green River College, where she has worked since 1985. She is a frequent guest speaker at local conferences and schools, sharing her interest and expertise in the areas of brain development and early learning. Leslie holds a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction and a Master's Degree in Mental Health Counseling. In her free time she enjoys traveling, reading, and spending time with her children and two granddaughters.

Roberta Kim has experience as a pediatric occupational therapist in school, clinic, community & home base settings. In addition, she has a Master's Degree in Early Education and has direct teaching experience in assessment, curriculum planning & intervention. Roberta uses a variety of educational and therapeutic approaches including multisensory teaching methods, sensory-motor & functional activities, self-regulation and other targeted activity programs.

Mariola Kulawiec, PhD. is the founder of Witty Scientists. Before discovering her passion for STEM education and teaching, she published scientific papers and performed experiments at top-notch scientific institutions including Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle. Currently, she makes use of her pedagogy degree and education skills by operation Witty Scientists. Through Witty Scientists, she shares the joys of experimenting with children by opening their minds to concepts such as; laws of nature, chemical reactions, DNA, biotechnology, motion, biodiversity, and green technology.

Theresa Lee is an ECE and I-BEST instructor at Green River Community College. She is an experienced classroom teacher (including cooperative preschools and Head Start) committed to diversity and social justice. Theresa earned a Masters Degree in Human Development from Pacific Oaks.

Diana Mamerto Holz (Conference Planner) is the Program Coordinator/Director for Early Childhood Education at Green River College and club advisor for the Teachers of Tomorrow Club. She is one of the original members of the Culturally Relevant/Anti-Bias Leadership Group, Seattle and has presented diversity training both locally and internationally. Diana was recently honored for 25 years of activism for Race and Social Justice and for helping to launch Seattle's first institutionalized approach to addressing racism in Early Learning.

Andee Nydegger is a state certified K-8 teacher with a secondary major in Early Childhood Education. In addition she holds a Master's Degree in Montessori Education and has worked with children for over 16 years. She currently is a classroom coach Childcare Resources Early Achievers Program and an adjunct instructor for Green River College..

Claudia Quinn has a Master's Degree in Education and was a Head Start Mentor Teacher for Puget Sound Educational Service District. She began her career in education more than 30 years ago, starting out as an elementary school teacher and later entering the field of early childhood education. She has worked with children who have been abused and neglected, served as a guardian ad litem, trained guide dogs for the blind and since 1993 has taught a variety of classes for Green River.

Judith Serquinia teaches in the CDA I-BEST program as a practicum instructor/site visitor and as a CDA P.D. Specialist for the National Council for Professional Recognition. Judy has an extensive background in Early Childhood Education spending an entire career in Head Start and other child/family agencies. Judy was one of the original members of the Culturally Relevant/Anti-Bias Leadership Group, Seattle.

Meg Tapucol-Provo is an adjunct instructor for Green River College. She has worked as a freelance diversity trainer since 1993, including work as a facilitator for the Anti-Defamation League A World Of Difference Institute, a renowned program that works with faculty and staff of schools throughout the country on prejudice reduction and infusion of anti-bias curriculum. Meg holds a Masters in Teaching from City University of Seattle with an endorsement in Elementary Education and also works as a guest teacher for Federal Way Public Schools.

Natassah Williams is an adjunct instructor at Green River College. Natassah has served on the board of The Montessori Institute of America. She has also volunteered in the Tukwila School District and currently volunteers in the Federal Way School District.

Miriam Woito has been an advocate for art education in elementary school for over 25 years. She began in her children's classrooms teaching art weekly, received her Master's Degree in Integrating the Arts into Curriculum and taught art at the elementary level to Kindergarten through 6th grade. She has designed curriculum for both volunteers and professional teachers at the elementary and high school level. Miriam is now semi-retired from teaching, but remains active in the arts.

