

Center of Early Learning: The Hub for Growing Great Teachers

centers.pnw.edu/early-learning

The Center for Early Learning, established in 2008, serves as the Northwest Indiana support network for the education and professional development of all working on behalf of the healthy development of young children (i.e., birth to age 8) and their families. To achieve our mission, the CEL leads and manages a variety of initiatives for multiple stakeholders that integrate the learning, discovery, and engagement traditions of Purdue University Northwest. The Center creates strategic partnerships with individuals and organizations to:

- facilitate opportunities for undergraduate students to gain practical experience as they work toward their BS degree in early childhood education;
- provide a central location for in-service training and professional development for all early childhood stakeholders;
- advocate for the rights, needs, and well-being of young children and high quality early childhood education;
- create comprehensive child development and family support services that reflect the diverse cultures, strengths, and needs of Northwest Indiana families;
- house early childhood curriculum materials in a resource library;
- create enriching programs for children, families, care providers and teachers.



School of Education & Counseling Graduate Programming

The Division of Counseling & Professional Education offers several graduate programs, which include Mental Health Counseling, School Counseling and Human Services. Graduate candidates of the CACREP accredited Clinical Mental Health and School Counseling and the ICAADA Addictions counseling programs provide counseling services through the Community Counseling Center. This gives our students the ability to use their skills under the supervision and training of licensed professionals and faculty. Our students also have the opportunity to become a member of Chi Sigma Iota.

- The Mental Health & School Counseling & Human Services programs' students and alumni are in demand due to our reputation in the field and our accreditations with CACREP, ICAADA & CAEP.
- For students desiring to become a licensed addiction's counselor, a certificate in addictions counseling is also available. This is an 18 credit hour, ICAADA accredited certificate program.
- The Community Counseling Center provides quality, affordable counseling services to individuals in Northwest Indiana and surrounding communities. Services adhere to the American Counseling Association professional Codes of Ethics and standards of practice.
- Chi Sigma Iota is an international honor society that promotes scholarship, research, professionalism, leadership, advocacy, and excellence in counseling, and recognizes high attainment in the pursuit of academic and clinical excellence in the profession of counseling.



Today's Schedule

7:00 am	Registration The James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex (DSAC) Enjoy coffee and pastries in the Great Hall.
7:45 am	Welcoming Remarks Chancellor Thomas L. Keon, Purdue University Northwest
8:00 am	Full STEAM Ahead in Early Childhood Keynote Workshop with Dr. Jean DSAC Great Hall
11:00 am	Meet & Greet with Dr. Jean
	Lunch
11:30 am- 3:30 pm	Join us on the Boilermaker Special for a ride around the Westville campus (Weather permitting) Meet in the circle drive of the DSAC
12:15-4:30 pm	Advocacy & Action Session: Supporting the Voices of Early Childhood Professionals "Raising of America" – DSAC 1113
12:15pm	Breakout Session 1 "All Aboard" Technology Building
1:45 pm	Breakout Session 2 "Junctions" Technology Building
3:15 pm	Breakout Session 3 "Switch" Technology Building
4:30 pm	Closing Ceremony - DSAC Great Hall Mid-afternoon Snack (thanks to the Graduate Programs in Counseling & Professional Education)



Features of the Conference

The afternoon breakout sessions will be held in the Technology Building.

Student Poster Presentations

DSAC Great Hall – Learn about the early childhood student projects.

Vendors & Information Exchange

DSAC Great Hall

Professional Development

The Certificate of Attendance in this booklet is verification of 7.0 Hours of Training (HOTs)/0.7 CEU's/3.0 CRU's/7.0 Professional Growth Plan Points. It is your responsibility to obtain a sticker for each session you attend.

Advocacy & Action Session:

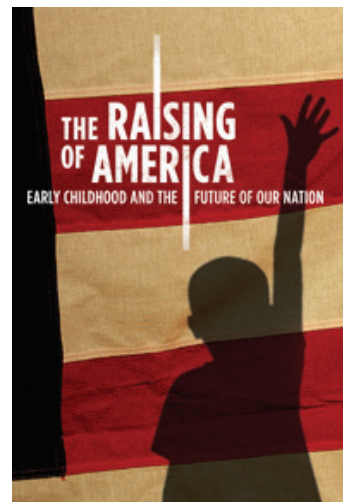
Supporting the Voices of Early Childhood Professionals

(Sponsored by Defending the Early Years)

Facilitated by Erika Watkins, Safe Haven Academy

Join us after lunch in the DSAC Great Hall to view segments of "Raising of America" and take action on behalf of children and families.

- Read a position paper from Defending the Early Years and become informed about critical issues.
- Create a button with a positive message.
- Write a postcard to a legislator to advocate for children's right to a developmentally appropriate education.



~ Thank You ~

Dr. Thomas L. Keon, PNW Chancellor

Dr. Ralph O. Mueller, PNW Provost and Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs

Mr. Stephen R. Turner, PNW Vice Chancellor of Administration

Dr. Ron Corthell, Interim Dean, College of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

Dr. Rex Morrow, Interim Director, School of Education and Counseling

Ms. Dee Combs, School of Education and Counseling

Ms. Lisa A. Kaszubski, DSAC Conference Center Manager

Ms. Karen Prescott, Marketing & Communications

Ms. Cori Warnock, Bursar Operations Assistant

Ms. Amanda Brown, Student Coordinator, PNW Center for Early Learning

Purdue University Northwest Office of Admissions

Purdue University Northwest Office of Institutional Advancement

Purdue University Northwest Office of Marketing & Communications

The Environmental Education Center ReUz Room, Hammond, Indiana

SESSION 3: SWITCH! (continued) 3:15-4:30 PM



Inclusion Toolbox

Sarah Skurow, Inclusion Specialist, Early Learning Connections/CCR&R

Room # TECH 166

CDA 02

This training will provide resources that teachers can use to support a variety of children, including those with challenging behaviors and special needs. Some of the tools discussed will be visual aids, sensory process awareness techniques, and social stories. Teachers will be provided with samples and models. Please join this session for ideas to better accommodate the children in your care!

Building Emotional Literacy: Continuing the Conversation

Theresa Argueta, Childcare Consortium

Room # TECH 134

CDA 03

Providing opportunities, tools, and spaces for children to build and exercise their emotional literacy skills is essential to positive social and emotional growth. Learn how to talk with kids about their emotions and how to help children build skills for self-regulation and expression. Hands-on activities, literature connections, and a 5-step process for helping children navigate social challenges will be presented.

Join us in the DSAC Great Hall for a mid-afternoon snack and closing ceremony.



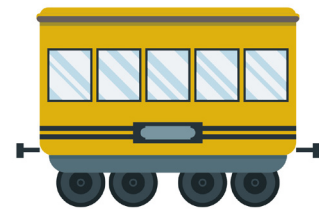
A very adventurous dog. A very fast jet ski.

While on a boat ride, hoping to see his dolphin friend, Red the Irish Setter is unexpectedly washed overboard in a storm. Will his dolphin friend come to his rescue? This book offers children from prekindergarten through third grade valuable lessons about friendship, diversity and helping others in times of need. Kids will enjoy this story about Red, his dolphin friend and Sophia the lifeguard. Red even learns how to ride a jet ski in this memorable adventure.

**Purchase this book from
Archway Publishing, Amazon,
or Barnes and Noble.com**

Dr. Dworkin enjoys doing book readings and has done over 150 book readings of my children's books. If you are interested in scheduling a book reading at your school, please contact him at dworkinjim@gmail.com.

SESSION 3: SWITCH! 3:15-4:30 PM



Best Practices for Assessing Young Children and Early Childhood Programs

David Pratt, Purdue University Northwest

This session is generously sponsored by ArcelorMittal.

Room # TECH 214

CDA 01, CDA 02, CDA 03, CDA 05, CDA 07, CDA 08

Assessing young children is a very important and complex activity. This session will help participants understand the value and best practices for assessing young children. We will review several examples of useful assessments as well as protocols for effectively using them.

Working within Multi-Sensory Environments: Using Mentoring Basics and Assessment Tools to Accelerate Social-Emotional Learning and Growth

Anthony McCrovitz,

Executive Director, Globe Star, LLC.

Room # TECH 110

CDA 03

Connecting one's sense of self with a perception of others relies on social-emotional awareness and development. Apply the mentoring basics of a Gentle Teaching framework to therapeutic, educational or recreational processes within multi-sensory environments; Create opportunities that best align with and challenge a child's social-emotional development; Learn how assessment tools can indicate the primed areas of potential and possibility for quality focus and planning, accelerate the social-emotional learning processes, and support the collaborative goals.

Superhero Training – How Yoga and Mindfulness Helps Students Learn

Barbara Stegenga & Robin Sizemore,

Superhero Training and Supply, Inc.,

Sheila Stephenson, Purdue University Northwest

Room # TECH 203

CDA 01, CDA 02, CDA 03, CDA 04, CDA 08

Yoga, mindfulness, and breath work for stress reduction and anger management in the classroom. Participants will come away with techniques that can be implemented immediately in a school setting.

Addressing Children's Needs Through Technology

Anastasia Trekles, Denise Frazier

& Rita Brusca-Vega, Purdue University Northwest

Room # TECH 219

CDA 02, CDA 03, CDA 07, CDA 08

Children learning to read and write, work with numbers, express themselves, and identify shapes, sounds, and colors often need special, personalized help to do their best. This session discusses how technologies like apps, websites and touch-screen devices can help expand a child's world and provide needed assistance, even when there may be a special need.

Robots as Teachers: Engineering Your Classroom for the Future

Christy Livergood, Purdue University Northwest

Room # TECH 112

CDA 02

We will explore the world of robotics as a tool for teaching technology and engineering. Hands-on demonstrations and sample lessons will be provided. Create fun STEAM "programming" for your school!

The Importance of Academic Language for English Learners

Julie Remschneider, NWIESC

Room # TECH 171

CDA 02

Academic language is important for all learners, but especially important for English Learners. ELLs need support to identify and use academic language in order to acquire skills and knowledge relative to the state standards. This session will examine some tools for supporting ELLs in acquiring academic language, including pieces of the WIDA English Language Development Standards adopted by the State of Indiana in 2014.



Keynote Workshop Dr. Jean



Dr. Jean Feldman's noteworthy educational career has spanned more than 40 years. She has served as a classroom teacher, instructor of adults, author, and consultant. She is a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the National Kindergarten Alliance. Dr. Feldman's list of degrees include a B.A. from the University of Georgia, a D.A.S.T. from Emory University, and both M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Georgia State University. She is currently Early Childhood Educator in Residence at the College of Charleston. Dr. Feldman inspires teachers across the country with her engaging songs and creative activities that help make teaching and learning FUN!

In this workshop you'll explore what the letters **STEAM** mean to you as an early childhood educator. You'll discover that you already know more than you think you know! When you set up the learning environment with interesting, hands-on materials and encourage your students to ask questions and experiment you are **STEAMing** ahead!

Highlights include:

- Firing up children's brains
- Questioning strategies
- Science through the senses
- Everyday technology in the classroom
- Engineering, designing and building
- Integrating reading and writing with blank books
- Math that is musical and meaningful
- "It's for the Birds" – integrating STEAM into a playful and challenging unit

Among Dr. Jean's many accomplishments is the authorship of several books, which are listed as follows:

- Survival Guide for Preschool Teachers
- The Complete Book of Indoor and Outdoor Games and Activities
- Transition Time
- Science Surprises
- Self-Esteem Activities
- Rainy Day Activities
- Wonderful Rooms Where Children Can Bloom
- Ready, Set, Read!
- Teaching Tunes
- Transition Tips and Tricks
- The Best of Dr. Jean Series
 - * Sing and Read Along Books
 - * Reading Recipes
 - * Cheer Along with Dr. Jean
 - * Math Recipes
 - * I Love Letters

Dr. Jean has also published a number of recordings that are used by school systems throughout the country. The songs are uplifting for both children and adults. The titles include:

- Dr. Jean Sings Silly Songs
- Dr. Jean and Friends
- Sing to Learn
- Is Everybody Happy?
- Nursery Rhymes and Good Ol' Times
- Kiss Your Brain!
- All Day Long
- Just for Fun
 - * Totally Math
 - * Going Green with Dr. Jean
 - * Totally Reading
 - * Better Bodies and Brains
 - * Happy Everything!
 - * Move It! Learn It!

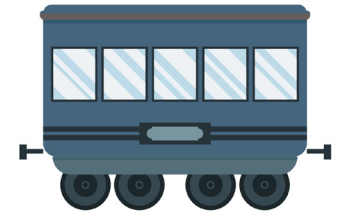


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Ctr. for Early Learning	Purdue University Northwest	earlylearning@pnw.edu	

Thank you to our vendor Toys in the Attic.

SESSION 2: JUNCTIONS 1:45-3:00 PM



Everyone Needs to Let Off Some STEAM!!!

Nicole Brown, Early Learning

Connections/ CCR&R

Room # TECH 110

CDA 08

Infants and toddlers are natural scientists, technologists, engineers, artists and mathematicians. Come and learn about everyday activities that you can incorporate in your classrooms tomorrow!

I'll huff, and I'll puff, and I'll blow your house down!

Amy Boren & Katie MacLeod, Westville Elementary School

Room # TECH 112

CDA 02

Do you ever feel winded at the end of the day, blown away by all of the standards that must be met? Well, all it takes is one book to bring them all together. Join us to find out how the Three Little Pigs can inspire activities in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. Hold your breath... and prepare to blow your students away!

Art is STEM with Inspiration and Emotion

Patricia Jackson, Freelance Storyteller/Teacher

Room # TECH 109

CDA 02, CDA 03, CDA 06, CDA 08

Creating art and music uses science, technology, engineering, and math. Experience hands-on examples and understand the creativity factor that brings STEAM together.

STEM Materials on a Budget

Kelly Ramer, Purdue University Northwest

Room # TECH 171

CDA 02, CDA 08

Providing young children with STEM activities should be a priority in all early childhood classrooms because these children should be at the center of their learning experience, making connections across all content areas. STEM materials can cost a lot of money. Learn how to gather inexpensive materials that will keep your students engaged and prepare them for their STEM future.

Transform Ordinary Moments into STEAM Concepts

Martha Garcia-Saenz,

Purdue University Northwest

Room # TECH 134

CDA 02, CDA 03, CDA 08

Parents and teachers have the power to introduce children into the field of STEAM. Knowledge and skills in these fields are essential to succeed in life. The earlier you expose a child to STEAM, he or she will learn the subject and enjoy it. We can introduce children to a different way of thinking and look at the world with different eyes and different minds with STEAM concepts.

Developmentally Appropriate Practices for the Pre-K/K/dg. Classroom

Donna Battista, Parkview Elementary School

This session is generously sponsored by ArcelorMittal.

Room # TECH 214

CDA 02, CDA 03, CDA 05, CDA 08

Learn about the importance of adjusting curriculum to address the developmental needs of young students for effective learning experiences. The Porter County United Way KINDERCAMP curriculum will serve as an example.

STEM is Easy!

Lourdes Chavez,

Early Learning Connections/ CCR&R

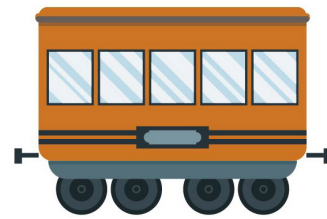
Room # TECH 166

CDA 02

Explore science, technology, engineering, and mathematics via hands-on activities. Come and play with us! Bilingual presentation with Spanish and English.

SESSION 1: ALL ABOARD!

12:15-1:30 PM



Becoming a 21st Century Skills Program
Linda Curley, Purdue University Extension-Lake Co.
 Room # TECH 110
 CDA 02

Explore the 21st Century Skills education reform model, its components and goals. Review the rationale of this educational movement as well as effective strategies and ways to integrate traditional content learning with 21st Century Skills learning, including critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration, creativity and innovation.

Experiencing the Joy of Music with Young Children
David Pratt, Purdue University Northwest
 Room # TECH 214
 CDA 02, CDA 03, CDA 05, CDA 08

Make music a bigger part of children's lives in this participatory, hands-on session. There is no need to be a musician. Learn how to incorporate easy and free resources to support a love of music with your children.

You are Special: Mister Rogers and the Efficacy of Empathy
Nasser Nabhan, The Child Care Consortium, Inc. Head Start of La Porte County
 Room # TECH 112
 CDA 03, CDA 08

Mister Rogers was a pioneer for quality early childhood education for all children. He believed that through empathy, kindness and love, we could transform our communities for the better. This transformation begins with recognizing how special you are. Join us to discuss how Fred Rogers ingrained empathy into the hearts of young children and how we can continue his legacy.

Families Start Your Engines for Involvement
Jennifer Wachowski, Hammond Head Start
 Room # TECH 166

This workshop will be filled with a variety of resources for to involve families in the classroom and at home with learning. Learn about STEAM-related home activity kits and ideas for family side-by-side events. Come and join me and let's get families involved with learning!

The Nature of "STEAM"
Kara Mackey & Emily Trisler, Bellaboo's
 Room # TECH 171
 CDA 01, CDA 02, CDA 03, CDA 04, CDA 05

The roots of the Lake County Parks are to "go outside & play!" Bellaboo's takes that same concept and moves it inside...then takes it back outside again and you can, too! Children need nature which provides some of the greatest tools for diverse learning. Find out how to use nature's spaces (you know, parks!), along with natural materials and concepts as a play-based science, technology, engineering, art and math teacher.

Step Inside a Story
Sherri Eberle, Early Learning Center for George Earle
 Room # TECH 113
 CDA 02, CDA 03, CDA 08

This session will be a demonstration of props, music, and movement to engage early childhood and kindergarten students with literacy. The Early Learning Center Library program reaches 400 students under the age of 7 each week with interactive story times, book-making and Story Walks, Outdoor Storytime in our pavilion, musical puppet shows that correlate to books and more. You will walk away with lots of ideas, examples and demonstrations of how to implement a more rewarding experience with your students in literacy.

Full Steam Ahead: Fostering Children's Reading Development
Dr. Jan McCarthy, Past NAEYC & IAEYC President, Professor Emerita of Early Childhood Education, Indiana State University and Sharon Post, Indiana AEYC
 Room # TECH 134
 CDA 02

Join in to learn about communication through the development of pre-reading and language skills. This "active learning" presentation will require participation! You will leave with new knowledge, strategies, and enthusiasm to take back to your centers, homes, schools and ministries in the teaching of communication.

PURDUE NORTHWEST BUILDING MAP

TECHNOLOGY BUILDING

First Floor

Second Floor



FULL STEAM AHEAD

Session Title	CDA 01: Planning a safe, healthy learning environment.	CDA 02: Advancing children's physical and intellectual development.	CDA 03: Supporting children's social and emotional development.	CDA 04: Building productive relationships with families.	CDA 05: Managing an effective program.	CDA 06: Maintaining a commitment to professionalism.	CDA 07: Observing and recording children's behavior.	CDA 08: Understanding principles of child development and learning.
Addressing Children's Needs Through Technology Anastasia Trekles, Denise Frazier, Rita Brusca-Vega								
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