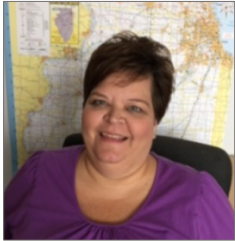


Illinois Birth Through Third Grade Continuity Conference June 13, 14 & 15, 2016 Presenter Information



Phyllis Bliven is a Principal Consultant at the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Early Childhood division. Phyllis worked in the field of education for over twenty years before coming to ISBE. Most of her time was spent in a Preschool for All (PFA) program or Early Childhood Special Education classrooms. Since being employed at ISBE she has worked on the KIDS project as well as revising the PFA implementation manual and working with Prevention Initiative program. Phyllis has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a Minor in Early Childhood, a Master's in Educational Leadership and several graduate courses in Early Childhood.



Lynn Burgett is a Principal Consultant at the Illinois State Board of Education in the Early Childhood Division, where one of her responsibilities is working as the Project Lead for the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS). Lynn has worked in the public education field for over 20 years prior to coming to ISBE in January, 2015. She has worked as a Kindergarten teacher, Early Childhood Special Education teacher, Preschool for All (PFA) teacher, a PFA inclusion teacher, and an adjunct professor at Lincoln Christian University. Most recently, she served as the Early Childhood Program Coordinator for her home district, where she also was the coach for the kindergarten teachers using the Kindergarten Individual Developmental Survey (KIDS). Lynn has a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education with a special education approval, a master's degree in Administration, and has completed several doctorate level courses in early childhood.



Sarai Coba's research contributes to the limited research on school readiness and parental involvement among low-income Latino families of Head Start preschoolers transitioning to kindergarten, by examining how families living in a Chicago suburb and elementary schools can better collaborate to enhance children's school readiness. Using a family resilience framework, Sarai uses in-depth, qualitative interviews and photo-elicitation to better understand family involvement and school readiness practices and beliefs among low-income, Latino parents and their teachers. Her dissertation aims to explore ways to enrich the partnership between homes and schools that foster parental/family strengths and cultural resources. Sarai received her Bachelor's degree in Sociology in 2010 and her Master's in 2012 in Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Amanda Dykstra is the PreK-5 Math and Science Coordinator for Valley View School District 365u in Bolingbrook and Romeoville. Amanda works to support approximately 450 teachers in 13 schools with all things related to math and science. As a former kindergarten teacher, Amanda is the go to person in Valley View for early math understanding. Outside of math and science, Amanda has led the KIDS implementation in Valley View School District. She oversaw the training of 75 kindergarten teachers as well as created resources to support implementation. Amanda created a website, www.vvvsd.org/KIDS, for teachers and parents to access KIDS information and support. Additionally, Amanda developed a kindergarten report card that utilizes the developmentally appropriate KIDS data to report to parents.



Linda Hamburg, M.S.C&I, has been an innovator in the field of early childhood education for over 35 years. She has served as an early childhood and early childhood special education teacher, early intervention developmental therapist and has held leadership positions in early intervention and child care as developer and director of multiple programs. She has produced professional development for programs ranging from small child care centers and preschools to Milwaukee and Chicago Public Schools and the National Head Start. Committed to quality improvement and community development, she has secured multiple grants for program expansion and has focused her work on under-served populations. She has taught graduate level courses in Early Childhood Administration at the University of Illinois-Chicago and is currently the Professional Development Coordinator for the Midwest Child Parent Center Expansion Project at Erikson Institute where she provides leadership and coordination for the team in development and facilitation.



Anna Jerabek, M.Ed. has dedicated her work to promoting the wellbeing, development and education of young children and their families for over 20 years. She has served this mission in the social services arena as a child care resource and referral counselor, in the private sector as an account associate for a corporate work-life benefits firm, in public schools as a preschool and kindergarten teacher, and in higher ed. as a mentor teacher and course instructor with the University of Illinois at Chicago Early Childhood Alternative Certification Program. Most recently, Anna's work has shifted to partnerships designed to advance the professional development and continuity of best practices for early childhood teachers. As a Professional Development Facilitator at Erikson Institute, she produces and supports the implementation of PD modules for the Midwest Child Parent Center Expansion Project.



Julie Kallenbach, Ed.D. currently works for ISBE as an Implementation Consultant for the Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) along with other independent consulting projects in early childhood. She retired as the Director of Early Learning Initiatives from Elgin School District U-46 in June of 2014. Her work roles have included principal, special education supervisor, diagnostician and teacher. Presentation topics and special interests are play-based learning, authentic assessment, oral language, developmentally appropriate practice and project management to support the development of children and teachers.



Andrew Krugly is the Vice President of Education and Program Operations at Chicago Commons. He oversees operations, curriculum and staff training for Commons' early education and adult education programs. His past roles include serving as the Director of Education at the Ounce of Prevention Fund for the Educare Learning Network, and serving as a successful elementary school principal for over seventeen years. In his role as principal Andrew was a vanguard in behavioral and academic reform. He led sustained implementation of systemic change including: the integration of a Spanish immersion program, the shift in the Special Education service delivery model to one of inclusion, and the implementation of Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) and Response to Intervention (RtI). As a nationally recognized presenter and consultant he has spoken around the country on the use of data for continuous quality improvement in early education, high impact early childhood education instructional strategies, and PBIS. Andrew has a Masters in Educational Administration and Supervision and a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education both from the University of Illinois, and is a past recipient of Kohl International Teaching Award.



Melissa Mitchell is the Executive Director of the Federation for Community Schools, a statewide network that amplifies the voice and abilities of community schools across Illinois. In her role, Melissa builds a network of community school practitioners to support each other's work and advocate for public funding and policy support for community schools. She also provides technical assistance and support to communities starting to develop this work. Melissa sits on several state-level councils, including the P-20 Council and the Illinois Attendance Commission. Prior to joining the Federation, Melissa was a community school resource coordinator. She holds a Masters in Education from DePaul University, and a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College.



Tracy Ocoomy Crowder is a Senior Organizer for Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI). She has been with COFI for eleven years organizing at the local, city and statewide policy levels. She has been working specifically on early learning policy issues for the past five years and is currently organizing parents with children 0-5 in the Elgin and Evanston communities. Prior to her work with COFI, Tracy worked for 14 years for the Statewide Housing Action Coalition on local and statewide housing policies for low-income families. She is the mother of a second grader.



Peggy Ondera is the Director of Early Learner Initiatives in SD U-46, has spent her career in Early Childhood Education. She has taught first grade and preschool, worked as a parent educator for families of children birth-3 years old, and been an Early Reading First and instructional coach. In addition, she served as a principal for six years at an Early Learning Center and an elementary building which housed preschool and full-day kindergarten programs. Her most recent projects include the PFA expansion grant and universal play-based full day kindergarten for all students in U-46.



Nohemi Perez came to the United States from Mexico eleven years ago and has lived in the Elgin community since then. The mother of 3 girls, she is a passionate leader - working with other mothers for the past year in the COFI parent team Padres con Poder (Parents with Power) and partnering with early childhood providers and advocates to ensure that all children in Elgin have access to quality, affordable early childhood programs. At a recent meeting, Nohemi shared, "After participating in the COFI group - being supported by others and making changes in the community, I see things differently. If I can change, anyone can change to make positive things happen in the community."



Trish Rooney is currently the Director of SPARK (Strong Prepared And Ready for Kindergarten) Aurora Early Childhood Collaboration an early childhood initiative of Fox Valley United Way. In her role she is charged with bringing together Aurora community school districts, community based early childhood programs, local Head Start programs to work in collaboration to achieve the shared community vision of ensuring that all of Aurora's children are Strong, Prepared And Ready for Kindergarten. Previous to joining SPARK, Trish served 16 years as a manager for the YWCA Child Care Resource & Referral. In that role she oversaw the early childhood trainings and grants for child care programs and professionals in DuPage and Kane County.



Diana Rosenbrock was hired by the Collaboration for Early Childhood in 2009 as their Professional Development Coordinator. Diana has 45 years of professional experience in Early Childhood ranging from the young child's classroom to the college classroom and beyond. She retired as Chair of the Education Department at Triton Community College in June 2009. Over time, Diana has been a member of many state-wide and local early childhood committees, initiatives and boards. Most currently she is a steering committee member for PDAC (Illinois Professional Advisory Council); co-chairs both the Family Child Care Credential Committee and the Qualifications and Credentials committee of PDAC. Diana has a Master's Degree in Education from Loyola University/Erikson Institute and maintains an Illinois Teacher License with an Early Childhood endorsement.



Elizabeth Rothkopf joined the Center for the Study of Education Policy (CSEP) at Illinois State University as the Birth through Third Grade (B3) Director. The Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development and the Illinois State Board of Education will partner with CSEP to manage the Birth through Third Grade Continuity Project. Ms. Rothkopf has worked over four years for Educare Chicago, an early childhood program on Chicago's south side. She supported their early math initiative and the launch and implementation of the Birth-to-College Collaborative. The results of this work are documented in an online toolkit and led to the development of an annual district leadership summit for educators working on B3 continuity as a means of improving outcomes for their students. Ms. Rothkopf received her Master's of International Affairs in Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University of New York.



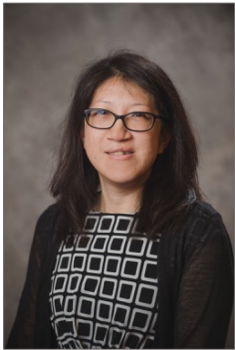
Kristy Siebert joined the Child-Parent Center at Sugar Creek Elementary School in Unit 5 as the program coordinator in 2014. She has an undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Education and a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction, both from Illinois State University. Prior to joining the CPC program, she taught self-contained early learning, kindergarten, and first grade, all in Unit 5 Schools. As an early childhood educator, Kristy knows the value of considering the development of the whole child and supporting the family systems in which children grow.



Dr. Jeffrey Sparagana has served the Pottstown School District (PSD) in a variety of capacities during his 23 year tenure in the district - teacher, high school head football coach, middle school assistant principal and principal, elementary school principal, Director of Elementary Education, Supervisor of Federal Programs and Reading, Director of Education and Human Resources, Assistant Superintendent and now as Superintendent. He has been the senior administrator for PSD's community based school readiness initiative - PEAK (Pottstown Early Action for Kindergarten Readiness) since its inception in 2005. He was appointed a member of Governor Rendell's "Pennsylvania Early Learning Council" in November 2008. Also, under Dr. Sparagana's leadership PSD initiated a healthy living program focusing on an active learning environment, and a STEAM initiative beginning a robotics team at the high school.



Amanda Stein is a Senior Research Associate at the Ounce of Prevention Fund. Dr. Stein directs the Educare Chicago Implementation and Follow-Up Studies and provides research leadership on various Ounce initiatives. She also co-leads the Research-Program Partnership at Educare Chicago focused on using a variety of data for continuous quality improvement. She has authored publications and developed content about both data utilization and birth through college alignment. Her research interests include studying the short- and long-term trajectories of children and families participating in early education settings and advancing the definition, measurement, and testing of “high-quality” practices and organizational conditions in the early childhood field. She was a post-doctoral fellow in Early Childhood Special Education Policy & Leadership at the University of CO, and holds a PhD in human development and family studies from Iowa State University and a BS in developmental psychology from the Creighton University.



Joanna Su is the Community Systems Policy Director in the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development (OECD). In this capacity, she works with state agencies and stakeholders to establish a system of supports to advance communities’ capacity to improve outcomes for young children and their families. Prior to this position, she served as OECD’s Community Systems and Capacity Building Manager for the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting program. Joanna holds a Master’s degree in Social Welfare from the University of California at Berkeley. She brings experience in program management, health education, capacity-building, and advocacy, including supervising a CDC-funded regional HIV prevention capacity-building project. Joanna previously worked for the Chicago Commission on Human Relations, an agency that addresses discrimination and hate crimes. In past positions with the Asian Health Coalition, Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Chicago, and the Vietnamese Association of Illinois, Joanna worked in coalition with health care providers and advocates, communities of color, and other constituency groups to identify priority issues, service barriers, and policy positions which became tools for advocating for systemic change.



Graciela Suarez is a Senior Organizer and Trainer for Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI) in Chicago. She has worked for the past eleven years with COFI organizing parents in Humboldt Park, Lawndale and West Town, and, over the past few years, in Elgin and Aurora. Prior to her work at COFI, Ms. Suarez was a Parent Organizer and Community School Coordinator with West Town Leadership United. Ms. Suarez is the mother of one who graduated college last year.



Ericka Williams is the Manager of Family and Child Support Services for Catholic Charities Diocese of Joliet, Early Childhood Services Division (Early Head Start and Head Start). She is responsible for overseeing the entire social services component areas on a daily basis which includes managing the center’s transportation, program eligibility, monitoring and maintaining reports and all data usage. Ericka has a Master Degree in Early Childhood Education with a specialization in Family & Community Services and Special Education. Ericka strongly believes that young children and families are the future of our nation's society. She feels that it is the responsibility of all Early Childhood Educators to nurture, motivate and educate parents in understanding the impact of their positive parenting in their children's lives. Ericka loves helping and encouraging children, families and staff to be knowledgeable of their roles when working with children and families.