

**Dr. James Henningsen**  
CF President

**Dr. Mark Paugh**  
Vice President of Academic Affairs

**Dr. Jennifer Fryns**  
Associate Vice President  
Career and Professional Programs

#### CONTINUING EDUCATION APPROVALS

- Child care personnel can receive eight hours of in-service credit.

#### FEEES

- Registration: \$45
- Registration and payment must be received no later than March 20, 2023
- Certificate will be presented after the closing session

#### Teacher Education Courses

Whether you are interested in honing your skills in a certificate program or working your way to a bachelor's degree in teaching, we can help you achieve your dream. CF offers the Florida Child Care Professional Credential (FCCPC) and the Director's Credential to individuals who serve or would like to serve the child care industry. We offer college credit certificate programs in Child Care Management and Early Intervention. Our Associate of Science in Early Childhood Education and our Associate of Arts in Early Childhood Education directly articulate into our Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education.



**Conference Information  
and Registration Form  
can be accessed at  
[www.CF.edu/ecc](http://www.CF.edu/ecc)**

For group registration, download the form.  
Each student must complete this form and return  
to Bebe Rahaman at [rahamanb@cf.edu](mailto:rahamanb@cf.edu).

**Contest Theme 2023  
Create A Portrait:  
What Family Means To Me**

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— an equal opportunity college —

3001 S.W. College Road  
Ocala, FL 34474-4415



College of Central Florida / CF Teacher Education  
In partnership with the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County

# 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Early Childhood Conference

**Saturday, March 25, 2023**  
7:15 a.m. – 4 p.m.



*Family Reunion*

**THE KEYNOTE SESSION WILL BE OFFERED TWICE**

Tickets to the sessions will be in your registration packet.

**Featured Speaker: Dr. Nekeshia Hammond**

**Closing Speaker: Dr. Walter Drew**

College of Central Florida | Ewers Century Center  
3001 S.W. College Road. Ocala, FL 34474

#### Conference Co-Sponsors:

CF Teacher Education, CAMPUS USA,  
Kinderoo Children's Academy,  
Eat and Learn, Kaplan Early Learning

#### Conference Committee:

CF Teacher Education, CF Learning Lab School, ELC of Marion  
County, Kinderoo Children's Academy,  
Marion County Public Library System

**See website for details:  
[CF.edu/ecc](http://CF.edu/ecc)**



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

### Dr. Nekeshia Hammond

Dr. Nekeshia Hammond is the host of Mental Health Moment with Dr. Hammond, psychologist, author, and international speaker. She is the founder of Hammond Psychology & Associates, a mental health private practice in the Tampa Bay area. Dr. Hammond serves as the chair of the board for the Ryan Nece Foundation and the former President of the Florida Psychological Association. Dr. Hammond has enjoyed traveling to speak to various groups about mental health and wellness.



## CLOSING SPEAKER

### Dr. Walter F. Drew



Dr. Walter Drew has researched and provided play leadership training as co-founder of the Institute for Self Active Education, President of The Association for the Study of Play,

and lead facilitator for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Play, Policy and Practice Interest Forum, and is now with the Florida Association for the Education of Young Children (FLAEYC) PLAY Chapter.

For more than 40 years, Dr. Drew has presented hands-on play experiences as a process for awakening creativity, strengthening early childhood professional practice, and generating hope and optimism to improve mental health across the human life span. He has pioneered the development of Reusable Resource Centers as a community-building business/education/environmental initiative that provides an on going supply of free, open-ended materials for teachers and parents to strengthen early learning and development through play. Dr. Drew is co-author of "From Play to Practice: Connecting Teachers Play with Children's Learning", a book published by NAEYC, and creator of Dr. Drew's Discovery Blocks, awarded *Best Toy of the Year* by the Parents Choice Foundation in 1982. Read his article on Building Play Leadership and Advocacy.

## From Play to Practice

Walter Drew & Paola Lopez

Learn to create quality, self-active play experiences for children and adults using open-ended resources.

**Target Audience:** P, F, R, A

## Simple Not Easy: A Leaders' Guide to Improving the Teacher-Student Relationships on Their Campus

Sarah James

Discuss the impact of a positive teacher-student relationship on student performance and behavior in the classroom setting. Participants will review and analyze the 10-step change-action plan developed by the researcher to implement a unique approach to improving the teacher-student relationship on their campuses. Upon implementation, this plan will enhance the student performance and behavior in their classrooms.

**Target Audience:** A

## Making Sense of Early Childhood Assessments

Shucree Victor-Cameron

Assessment is a systematic process of collecting and interpreting information about children's learning and development. Effective assessments are integrated into the everyday life of the classroom to support children's learning. This session will educate professionals on the assessment cycle: 1) asking questions, 2) collecting data, 3) interpreting data and 4) acting. This reflective process will help teachers gain a clear conceptualization of intended student outcomes, ways to measure these outcomes and what the results mean for program improvement.

**Target Audience:** I, P, R

## Powerful Interactions: Helping Children Reach Their Potential

Shucree Victor-Cameron

The phrase "serve and return" in the context of child development refers to responsive interactions between young children and their teachers. Teachers can help build stronger brains by engaging in serve and return with children. Connections are made in a child's brain through serve and return interactions. These connections lay the foundation for overall success. In this session, participants will be provided with evidence-based practices to help children grow and reach their full potential. Through high-quality and reliable relationships, teachers can develop children's motivation, confidence and competence.

**Target Audience:** I, P, R

## The Healing Power of Play

Stephen Zedler

Many children have experienced trauma (whether prenatal substance exposure, divorce, foster care or early abuse/neglect there's even the

collective trauma of COVID). We know that trauma impacts the brain, body and behaviors. PLAY is a powerful tool to promote healing. Come play with us!  
**Target Audience:** P

## Conociendo Al Niño A Través De Los Esquemas De Juego

Gabriela Urdaneta

Los esquemas de juego son patrones repetitivos de acciones que hacen los niños para conocer y explorar el mundo a través del juego libre. Los esquemas de juego pueden ser utilizados como una herramienta para los maestros para conocer las necesidades, intereses y motivaciones de los niños.

**Target Audience:** I

## STEAM In Preschool Learning Environments - incorporating light

Jenny Gallego

Through hands-on experimentation, participants will investigate light on STEAM environments, in a combination of science, technology, building, engineering, art and math creations. This experience will invite you to generate ideas and innovate open ended practices in your room.

**Target Audience:** P

## Parenting from a Reformed Perspective

Natasha Nelson

There is no such thing as perfect parenting. Many parenting styles such as peaceful, conscious, permissive, authoritarian, and authoritative often place parents in a box. Each of these styles takes a different approach to raising children. However, parents don't fit into just one category, which often causes parents to engage in guilt or shame. The purpose of this session is to help parents maintain a positive relationship with their children through "reformed" parenting. Reformed Parenting is the idea that parents self-reflect on the way they have been parenting and choose to make an intentional change for the improvement of the parent-child relationship. This session will also educate parents on the three Rs of parenting: 1) Regulate, 2) Relate, and 3) Reason. These processes set the foundation for healthy parent-child relationships.

**Target Audience:** P

## The Art of Storytelling with Puppets

Edna Bland

Puppets are the best teaching assistants. Attendees will understand how they can use puppetry arts to help tell stories in a variety of ways. Based on the Kennedy Center's CETA (Arts Integration) and VSA (Arts and Special Needs) programs, attendees will learn how to make a toy theatre in a box as well as use a variety of puppets to reinforce a lesson.

**Target Audience:** I, P, R, F

## Pre-Writing Activities

Victoria Merrill-Washington

Have fun with this interactive presentation of writing activities. Create new ways for children to learn to write and enjoy the process. Interactive participation by attendees will be provided with techniques to practice that align with various state standards. Learning will incorporate visual, kinesthetic and auditory senses in an active format.

**Target Audience:** P

## Calm, Energized and Productive

Victoria Merrill-Washington

Small children seemingly have boundless energy and can easily become temperamental, stressed and distraught. In addition, young children may have experienced trauma and act upon these unsettling emotions. As the child becomes stressed, so may the caregiver and educator. It is important to assist the child in learning how to self-soothe, destress, calm, relax and deescalate in a productive safe environment. Participants will be provided with information regarding the physical and emotional effects on the body. Participants will receive research regarding incorporation of energizing and calming techniques in their lessons and their daily home and work environment via a fun and interactive session.

**Target Audience:** I, P, R, A

## PEARLS Preschool Emerging Alert Response Learning System

Marie O'Connell

PEARLS training is focused on raising awareness and providing options for mitigating risk and saving lives in accelerated emergencies such as active shooting. Being prepared can change the outcome of these events. This challenging but relevant topic is one we must prepare for, with the hope we never need it

**Target Audience:** P

## Setting the Stage for Learning: Intentional Environments

Laura Delgado

This session goes beyond room arrangement. We will discuss how to set the stage for learning, ways that the environment becomes another teacher in the classroom and intentionality. Participants will explore how the environment, materials and intentional centers can elevate high-quality teacher-child interactions, meet various QRIS standards and help support the children currently served. Participants will also learn the importance of intentionally providing literacy and math learning opportunities in every classroom center both inside and outside.

**Target Audience:** P

## Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders from a Trauma Lens

Barb Clark

We are seeing high rates of children who have been prenatally exposed to alcohol, drugs and high levels of in-utero stress, which can have a significant impact on the child's brain development. These children and adolescents appear typical but have invisible brain injuries and typical teaching strategies are often ineffective. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders are twice as common as autism, yet this disorder often goes undiagnosed (or is misdiagnosed). It is vital for anyone involved with the early childhood and the child welfare system to understand the reasons behind the learning and behavioral challenges.

**Target Audience:** P, R, A

## Sing, Ring, Do the Classroom Thing

Taffen Anderson

Understanding and promoting the importance of singing in the classroom.

**Target Audience:** I, P

## Better Together-Empowering People Through Better Families and Better Jobs

Kayla Palacios

An introduction to what the nonprofit Better Together does in the community to support families and prevent children from entering foster care.

**Target Audience:** F

## Reading with Horses - Bringing Books to Life

Debbie Garcia-Bengochea

Learn about the opportunities for teachers in preschools and K-3 to have highly trained therapy horses with reading programs in their schools.

**Target Audience:** I, P, R, A

## Leaders Are Made - Followers are Born

Adrienne Donaldson

Effective leadership starts from the moment we are born. The saying "Leaders are born" is most certainly untrue. Leaders are molded, formed, and shaped by life experiences, life teachers, and life lessons that we face throughout our lives. How we use this information and data is what helps create the leader we grow into. In this training, we will explore how leaders are made and how the environment plays a significant part in the type of leader we develop into. We will discuss how leaders are made versus being born and how to use these skills and knowledge to grow our abilities as leaders. This will be explained using the analogy of a car engine, which represents you as a leader. We will explore the seven essential liquids to make an engine operate efficiently, represented as the qualities we must develop to be effective leaders.

**Target Audience:** I, P, R, A

## Teaching to Parents is the Foundation

Adrienne Donaldson

Teaching is an art form that can take on many shapes and molds. When creating or choosing a curriculum a common missed element is the educational component delivered directly to the parents. This workshop will deeply explore the principle of teaching to parents as a foundational tool for all curriculums. We often teach to the students, but what if we inform and educate parents to be teachers at home? This will bridge the gap between home and school life for our young learners while showing the importance to parents. We will explore this principle and how it can effectively improve the outcomes for children birth to five years old.

**Target Audience:** I, P, R, A.

## CLASS TIPS Geared at Teachers Provide Providing Tips, Tools, and Strategies.

Janet Honer & Natisha Pimargote

This presentation will provide tips, tools and strategies related to CLASS Assessments for preschool infant and toddler teachers.

**Target Audience:** I, P

## The FUN-damentals of Reading Aloud

Jenny Ransone

Join in on the reading fun! When you share books with children you plant seeds that grow into a lifelong love of books. This session will explore tips that ensure reading aloud with a group is an enjoyable experience for all.

**Target Audience:** I, P

## Discipline with the Brain in Mind

Natasha Nelson

Behavior management speaks to one's ability to "discipline" children through extrinsic motivation. However, effective discipline is built on brain-smart techniques. Brain-smart techniques focus on children's internal state of mind, which dictates behavior. Participants will learn how to tap into the internal state of mind to transform challenging behaviors into teachable moments. This session will also inform caretakers and educators alike on the SWOT analysis: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. These elements will serve as a self-inventory to assess brain-smart techniques.

**Target Audience:** P

### Target Audience Key

**I = Infant/Toddler**

**P = Preschool/Primary**

**R = Parent/Family**

**F = Faith Based**

**A = Administration**