

Elizabeth N. Christian, Ph.D.

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Early childhood professional and teacher educator grounded in a constructivist philosophy.

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

My teaching and research are grounded in curiosity about how objects, discourse, and actions spark learning when preservice teachers are materially engaged with ideas that matter to children. I work alongside future educators embracing reflection and inquiry, viewing education as a dynamic, living practice open to transformation.

EDUCATION

- 2015 **Ph.D., Early Childhood Education**, Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, IL
Dissertation: *An exploration of scaffolding tools and teacher education in an agriculture literacy community*
- 2002 **M.A., Early Childhood Education**, Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, IL
Thesis: The effects of observational drawings on young children's concept formation
- 1992 **B.S., Education for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**, MacMurray College,
Jacksonville, IL

LICENSURES AND CERTIFICATIONS

- 2020 **Online Course Teaching**, Black Hills State University, Spearfish, SD
- 2013 **Online Course Teaching**, Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, IL
- 1995 **Professional Educator License**, Illinois State Board of Education, Springfield, IL
Endorsements:
- 2012 General Administrative Kindergarten through Grade 12
- 2007 Early Childhood Education Birth through Grade 3
- 2007 Early Childhood Education (Self-Contained General Education) Birth through
Grade 3
- 1995 Teacher of Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Kindergarten through
Grade 12

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Purdue University Fort Wayne, School of Education, Fort Wayne, IN

August 2021 – Present Assistant Professor, Teacher Education

August 2020 – August 2021 Visiting Assistant Professor, Teacher Education

Black Hills State University, School of Education, Spearfish, SD

August 2018 – June 2020 Assistant Professor Early Childhood Special Education

Badlands Head Start, Spearfish, SD

January 2019 – January 2020 Curriculum and Assessment Consultant

Illinois School District 6, Zion Elementary, Zion, IL

August 2017 – August 2018 Special Education Resource Teacher

Illinois School District 97, Gwendolyn Brooks School, Oak Park, IL

January 2016 – May 2017	Special Education Long-Term Substitute
Concordia University Chicago, School of Education, River Forest, IL	
August 2008 – December 2016	Assistant Director, Early Childhood Education
August 2005, May 2015	Adjunct Professor, Early Childhood Education
August 1996 – August 2008	Early Childhood Teacher
Triton College, Department of Education, River Grove, IL	
August 2000 – May 2005	Adjunct Professor, Early Childhood Education
Chicago Archdiocese, Holy Trinity School, Chicago, IL	
August 1992 – June 1994	Special Education Early Childhood Teacher

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING

2025 – 2026	Systematic Peer Review Teaching Cohort , Purdue Fort Wayne Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, Fort Wayne, IN (two-year faculty learning community)
2025	Evaluating Faculty Impact Through Feedback Literacy , Purdue Fort Wayne Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, Fort Wayne, IN (certificate program)
2024 – 2026	Scholarship of Teaching Cohort , Purdue Fort Wayne Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, Fort Wayne, IN (two-year faculty learning community)
2025	<i>Navigating choppy waters: Key legal issues college faculty need to know</i> , Purdue Fort Wayne Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, Fort Wayne, IN (semester-long book study)
2020 – 2025	Fall Teaching Conference , Purdue Fort Wayne Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, Fort Wayne, IN
2020 – 2025	Alliance Teaching Showcase Conference , Purdue Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne, IN
2024	<i>How humans learn</i> , Purdue Fort Wayne Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, Fort Wayne, IN (semester-long book study)
2024	<i>Classroom assessment: What teachers need to know</i> , Purdue Fort Wayne School of Education, Fort Wayne, IN (semester-long book study)
2023, 2024	Scholarship of teaching and learning writing , Purdue Fort Wayne Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, Fort Wayne, IN (two-day institute)
2024	Peer Reviewer , Purdue Fort Wayne Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, Fort Wayne, IN (certificate program)
2024	Teaching in the AI Powered Age , Purdue Fort Wayne Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, Fort Wayne, IN (certificate program)
2023	Engaging Instructor , Purdue Fort Wayne Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, Fort Wayne, IN (certificate program)
2024	Receiving Peer Review , Purdue Fort Wayne Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, Fort Wayne, IN (certificate program)
2023	Uplifting Brightspace , Purdue Fort Wayne Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, Fort Wayne, IN (certificate program)
2020 – 2024	New Faculty Institute , Purdue Fort Wayne Office of Academic Affairs, Fort Wayne, IN (workshop series)

- 2016 **Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow Leadership Development Program (ALOT)**, Illinois Farm Bureau, Springfield, IL (travel-based faculty learning community)
- 2008 **Reggio Children Professors and Students Study**, Reggio Emilia, Italy (travel-based faculty learning community)
- 2008 **Didactic Farms and Elementary School Partnerships**, Consorzio Agrituristico, Mantua, Italy (independent travel study)
- 2000 **Midwestern & Canadian Lab School Designs**, Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, IL (travel-based faculty learning community)

PEER EVALUATIONS OF TEACHING

- 2025 Kristin Barker, Clinical Assistant Professor of Human Services, Purdue Fort Wayne, *EDU 35200/40100: Emergent Curriculum and field*, summative
- 2024 Rachel Ramsey, Fellow, Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, Purdue Fort Wayne, *EDU 33600: Play as Development*, formative
- 2023 Jane Leatherman, Associate Professor of Professional Studies, Purdue Fort Wayne, *EDU 34600: Guidance for Young Children*, summative
- 2023 Jane Leatherman, Associate Professor of Professional Studies, Purdue Fort Wayne, *EDU 34600: Guidance for Young Children*, formative
- 2022 Rebecca Essig, Associate Professor of Engineering, Purdue Fort Wayne, *EDU 33600: Play as Development*, formative

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

2026

1. *Christian, E. N. (2026). Faces of identity: Materials-based social studies learning in early childhood teacher education. *The Great Lakes Social Studies Journal*, 6(1), 41–46.
<https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/glssj/vol6/iss1/5>
2. *Christian, E. N. & Smith, J. (2026). Building prior knowledge before a field trip: Photography as a bridge in kindergarten learning. In *Proceedings of the Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education International Conference* (pp. 2226–2231). Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE).
<https://www.learntechlib.org/p/2129274/>
3. *Christian, E. N. & Nowak, J. A. (2026). Indiana bridges: Inclusive STEM learning for students with Down syndrome. *Indiana STEM Education Conference Proceedings*.
<https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/instemed/2026/briefs/3>
4. *Christian, E. N. (2026). Indiana leaves: Using graphic organizers to support meaning making. *ViewPoints: Indiana Council for the Social Studies*.
<https://indianasocialstudies.com/indiana-leaves-using-graphic-organizers-to-support-meaning-making/>
5. *Christian, E. N., Jia, X., Van Dellen, S. A., Zubovic, Y., & Dehr, K. (2026). Learning from practice: How professionals use AI and what it means for higher education. *Industry and Higher Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09504222261438628>
6. *Christian, E. N. & Britton, C. (2026). Partners in practice: Education-library collaborations that expand teacher access to materials. In *Proceedings of the Society for Information*

Technology & Teacher Education International Conference (pp. 2232–2236). Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE).
<https://www.learntechlib.org/p/2129275/>

2025

7. *Christian, E. N. & Tock, E. (2025). Book bundles: Digital access to campus library brings life to children's books in early childhood education. In R. J. Cohen (Ed.), *Proceedings of the Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education International Conference* (pp. 2231–2236). Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education.

2023

8. *Christian, E. N. (2023). Lessons from rural regions: Urban teachers' scaffolded explorations of Midwestern farms. In *Expanding the vision of rurality in the U.S. educational system* (pp. 130–151). IGI Global.
9. *Christian, E. N. (2023). Concept webbing in teacher training: Developing a topic study with an emphasis on math and science learning. *Indiana Mathematics Teacher*, 1, 20–22.

2004

10. *Christian, E. N. & Bakker, J. (2004). Little heroes of early literacy: A laboratory preschool and library collaboration. *Knowledge Quest*, 33(2), 63.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

1. Christian, E. N. (under review). Preservice teachers' evolving definitions of play: The role of multimodal documentation in a play-based course. *Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education*.

PRESENTATIONS

Featured Presentation

1. Academy for Education Studies Conference. "*Humor and the Academy: Lessons from Straight Man on Personal Growth and Professional Practice*" (featured presentation). Savannah, GA, 2025.

Scholarly Presentations (International, National & Regional)

1. Indiana STEM Education Conference. "*Indiana Bridges: Inclusive STEM Learning for Students with Down Syndrome*." West Lafayette, IN, 2026
2. Academy for Education Studies Conference. "*Dear Committee Members: The Letters We Really Want to Write*" (book response/panel discussion). San Diego, CA, 2026.
3. Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education. "*Partners in Practice: Faculty–Library Collaborations That Expand Teacher Access to Materials*" (Best Practices, virtual presentation). Philadelphia, PA, 2026.

4. Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education. *"Building Prior Knowledge Before a Field Trip: Photography as a Bridge in Kindergarten Learning"* (Best Practices, virtual presentation). Philadelphia, PA, 2026.
5. Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education. *"Book Bundles: Digital Access to Campus Library Brings Life to Children's Books in Early Childhood Education"* (virtual presentation). Orlando, FL, 2025.
6. Fort Wayne Teaching and Learning Conference. *"Bringing Children's Books to Life"*. Fort Wayne, IN, 2025.
7. Midwest Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Conference. *"Book Bundles: Connecting Early Childhood Education Students with Hands-On Materials"* (poster presentation). South Bend, IN, 2024.
8. Midwest Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Conference. *"Engaging and Assessing Standout Students in the ECE Classroom"* (poster presentation). South Bend, IN, 2024.
9. Council for Exceptional Children. *"Equity for one: Preservice Teacher Questions about Individual Learners"* (poster presentation). San Antonio, TX (virtual), 2024.
10. Academy for Education Studies. *"Beyond the Classroom: Navigating the Journey from Teaching to Professorship."* New Orleans, LA (2024).
11. Fort Wayne Teaching and Learning Conference. *"Conversations Between Students and Faculty: Making Room at the Table"* (panel presentation). Fort Wayne, IN (2023).
12. National Association of Teacher Educators Conference. *"Key Skills of P-12th Grade Classroom Teachers in the College Classroom Journey."* Jacksonville, FL (2023).
13. Academy for Education Studies. *"Midwest Musings: Four Snapshots of the Teaching Profession."* Charleston, SC (2022).
14. Northeastern Region Indiana AEYC. *"The Beautiful Bean."* Fort Wayne, IN (2022).
15. Academy for Education Studies. *"Rural Reflections: Educating Pre-Service Teachers From, and For, Rural Communities."* Seattle, WA (2021).
16. Indiana Higher Education Induction Team. *"Go React Training: Indiana Inductions Project."* (Virtual) (2021).
17. Lutheran Education Association Tristate Connections Conference. *"Teaching with Loose Parts."* (2021).
18. Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow. *"Resources for the Future of the Organization."* Bloomington, IL (2016).
19. Tshwane University of Technology. *"Quality Teacher Training Through Technological Practices."* River Forest, IL (2013).
20. Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. *"Best Practices Curriculum Showcase."* River Forest, IL (2013).
21. National Lutheran Schools Association. *"Curriculum and Staff Development Best Practices."* River Forest, IL (2011).
22. Consorzio Agriturismo Center for Agritourism. *"Cross-Cultural Connections and Generational Knowledge Gaps: Where Our Food Comes From."* Mantua, Italy (2008).
23. National Association for the Education of Young Children. *"Inspirations from Italy: Study, Collaboration, and Emergent Curriculum."* Washington, DC (2009).
24. National Association for the Education of Young Children. *"Classroom and Teacher Preparation Settings."* Dallas, TX (2008).

25. Chicago Association for the Education of Young Children. *"Little Heroes of Early Literacy."* Chicago, IL (2005).
26. Chicago Association for the Education of Young Children. *"Curriculum Showcase."* Chicago, IL (2000).

Local/Institutional

1. Indian Springs Middle School Career Day. "Teacher Qualities, Identity and Goals." Columbia City, IN (2025).
2. Purdue Fort Wayne School of Education Career Day. "Teacher Qualities, Identity and Goals." Fort Wayne, IN (2025).
3. Indian Springs Middle School Career Day. "Teacher Qualities, Identity and Goals." Columbia City, IN (2024).
4. Purdue Fort Wayne Early Childhood. "PFW ECE Student Orientation." Fort Wayne, IN (2021–2024).
5. Alliance Showcase. "Understanding the Impact of AI." Purdue Fort Wayne, IN (2023).
6. School of Education Demonstration. "Student Questions Research Methods." Purdue Fort Wayne, IN (2023).
7. Fort Wayne Teaching and Learning Conference. "Student-Faculty Conversations." Purdue Fort Wayne, IN (2023).
8. Farm to School Summit. "School at the Garden." Purdue Fort Wayne, IN (2023).
9. Summit Scholars. "The Shape of Your Experience." Purdue Fort Wayne, IN (2023).
10. Kappa Delta Pi Meeting. "Loose Parts Workshop." Purdue Fort Wayne, IN (2022).
11. Alliance Showcase. "Making Discussion Matter More" (Ignite presentation). Purdue Fort Wayne, IN (2022).
12. Fort Wayne Community Schools. "Range of Discipline" (workshop). Lakeside Elementary, Fort Wayne, IN (2022).
13. PFW Teacher Education. "EDU 200 and EDU 336 Co-Inquiry." Fort Wayne, IN (2022).
14. FWCS Adams School Garden Field. "Kindergarten at the Garden." Allen County Extension Office, Fort Wayne, IN (2021).
15. Oak Park River Forest Collaboration for Early Childhood. "Scaffolding Infants and Toddlers." Oak Park, IL (2018).
16. Oak Park River Forest Collaboration for Early Childhood. "Chick Hatching Across the Curriculum." Oak Park, IL (2017).
17. Agriculture Day. "Ag in the Classroom: Farm Camp Embryology." Oak Lawn, IL (2014–2016).
18. Agriculture Day. "Soybeans and Our Food." Glenview and Oak Lawn, IL (2011–2013).
19. Concordia University Early Childhood Conference. "Curriculum Showcase." River Forest, IL (1998–2004).
20. Cook County Resource and Referral. "Language Development and the Young Child." River Forest, IL (2000).

MEDIA

1. **'Book Bundles' Program Opens New Pages.** *PFW News Center.* November 11, 2024. (Featured coverage of teaching program I co-developed and led by Christian.) <https://www.pfw.edu/news-center/book-bundles-program-opens-new-pages>

2. **Northeast Indiana Hungry for Farm to School Activities.** *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette.* October 7, 2023. (Interview on local farm-to-school initiatives.)
https://www.journalgazette.net/local/schools/northeast-indiana-hungry-for-farm-to-school-activities/article_e261a0ae-6210-11ee-b6be-abf0b48c100b.html
3. **Little Jackets Learning Center Transforms from Daycare to Learning Facility.** *Black Hills Pioneer.* April 27, 2019. (Featured in story on lab school development.)
https://www.bhpioneer.com/local_news/little-jackets-learning-center-transforms-from-daycare-to-learning-facility/article_8a42c14c-6872-11e9-8e8a-07bb7a5436dd.html
4. **Film in Class.** *Chicago Tribune.* January 21, 2010. (Interviewed regarding a course I took.)
<https://www.chicagotribune.com/2010/01/21/film-in-class/>

AWARDS

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| 2024 | Purdue University Innovative Online Use of Technology, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN |
| 2024 | CELT Recognizing Innovation, Purdue University Fort Wayne, IN |
| 2010 | Lutheran Education Association (LEA) Stand-Alone Preschool Award for Excellence, Walter and Maxime Christopher Early Childhood Center, River Forest, IL (awarded to center; served as a program developer) |
| 2010 | FCAE Advocacy Award, Leadership Council for Agricultural Education (ILCAE) Springfield, Illinois |
| 2001 | Kohl McCormick Early Childhood Teaching Award Nominee, National Louis University, Chicago, IL |
| 2001 | Best Practices in Early Childhood Research, National Louis University, Chicago, IL |

GRANTS

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| 2025 | Community Engagement Grant, "Play in and Out of the Library." Community Engaged Alliance, \$2,000. |
| 2025 | Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Project Cohort, "Inquiry-based Learning." Purdue Fort Wayne Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, \$3,400. |
| 2025 | Summer Research Grant, "Play Beliefs Across Experiential Learning Contexts." Purdue Fort Wayne Office of Academic Affairs, \$8,000. |
| 2024 | Little Bit of Luck Grant, "Early Childhood Microprojects." Dekko Foundation, \$2,926. |
| 2024 | Summer Instructional Grant, "Inquiry-Based Learning." Purdue Fort Wayne Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, \$660. |
| 2023 | Helmke Library Grant Add-On, "Book Bundles." Helmke Library, Purdue Fort Wayne, \$200. |
| 2023 | Summer Instructional Grant, "Brightspace Book Bundles." Purdue Fort Wayne Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, \$800. |
| 2024 | Uplifting Brightspace Revisions Grant, "EDU 35200 Revisions." Purdue Fort Wayne Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, \$2,500. |

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Purdue University Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne, IN

Role

2021 – Present	Assistant Professor Education
2020 – 2021	Visiting Professor of Education

Courses Taught

Child Development & Foundations

EDU 24900	Child Development
EDU 33600	Play as Development
EDU 35500	Early Childhood Mental Health

Methods & Content Integration

EDU 32700	Social Studies Methods
EDU 33300	Inquiry in Math and Science
EDU 35200	Emergent Curriculum Methods
EDU 34600	Guidance for Young Children

Practicum & Field-Based Experiences

EDU 31700	Early Childhood Practicum I
EDU 40100	Laboratory/Field Experience
EDU 47000	Practicum Birth to Three

University Service Contributions

Senate Service

2025 – Present	Member, Senate ADA Title II WCAG 2.1 AA Standard Subtask Force
2024 – Present	Member, Senate Digital Accessibility Compliance Task Force
2024 – Present	Member, Senate Information Subcommittee

Alliance for Teaching Enrichment

2025 – Present	Co-Chair, Alliance Outreach Team
2023 – 2025	Chair, Alliance Outreach Team
2023 – Present	Member, Board of Alliance for Teaching Enrichment

University Teaching and Student Committees

2023 – Present	Member, Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching Fall Conference Committee
2023 – 2024	Member, Student Success Lifecycle Fall Working Group
2021 – 2025	General Education Subcommittee – Curriculum Reports EDU 34600
2021 – 2023	Member, Scholarship Universe Initialization Committee

College Service Contributions – School of Education

2026	Member, Field Experience Working Group
2023	Member, CAEP Task Force Deliverable 2: Recruitment and Retention

2023 Member, Student Success Advisor Search
2023 – Present Liaison, Navigate Software Implementation
2022 – Present Member, Faculty Governance Committee
2022 – 2024 Contactor, New Student Biannual Calling
2021 – 2024 Member, School of Education Garden Group
2021 – Present Grader, Early Childhood Education Praxis

Department Service – Early Childhood Education

2024 – Present Member, Faculty Affairs Committee
2023 – 2024 Chair, Faculty Affairs Committee
2022 – Present Member, Assessment Committee
2021 – Present Member, Early Childhood Education Community Unit Advisory Committee
2022 – 2023 Chair, Student Affairs Committee
2021 – 2022 Co-Chair, Student Affairs Committee
2022 Supervisor, Student Teaching

Black Hills State University, Spearfish, SD

Role

2018 – 2020 Assistant Professor Early Childhood
2018 – 2020 Coordinator Early Childhood Education
2018 – 2020 Education Student Advisor

Courses Taught

Child Development & Foundations

EDU 371 Infants and Toddlers: Developmentally Appropriate Practice (asynchronous)

Methods & Content Integration

EDU 417/517 Methods of Early Childhood Education (asynchronous)
EDU 411/511 Social Development in Early Childhood (asynchronous)
EDU 408/508 Assessment in Early Childhood Special Education (asynchronous)

Practicum & Field-Based Experiences

EDU 495/795 Practicum in Preschool/Kindergarten/Early Intervention (face-to-face)

University Service Contributions

Community Engagement & Representation

2018 – 2020 Liaison, United Way
2018 – 2020 Trail Ride Leader, Andy's Trail Rides
2019 Representative, Independence Parade

Program & Committee Development

2018 – 2020 Founder, Little Jackets Lab School Advisory Committee

College Service Contributions

2018 – 2020 Member, CAEP Accreditation Committee

2018 – 2020 Member, Teacher Education Student Scholarships Committee

Illinois School District 6, Zion, IL

Role

2017 Special Education Resource Teacher, Shiloh Park Elementary School

Selected Responsibilities

- Managed special education caseload for students in grades 2 – 4, providing individualized instructional support for students with high needs
- Collaborated with general education teachers to align goals, objectives, and instructional methods according to district and IEP requirements
- Modified general education curricula to accommodate learning needs and ensure access to grade-level standards
- Conducted assessments of students' learning styles and applied findings to guide instructional planning
- Participated in the school's free and reduced lunch program by serving hot breakfast to students

Illinois School District 97

Role

2017 Resource and Instructional Special Education Long-term Substitute Teacher, Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School

Selected Responsibilities

- Designed and delivered instruction for cross-categorical special education students within a least restrictive academic environment
- Developed, implemented, and monitored Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) in alignment with Common Core Standards
- Collaborated with general education staff through Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to support data-driven instruction and student progress
- Provided individualized, research-based interventions tailored to each student's skill level and learning profile
- Engaged families in IEP reviews and reevaluations to support continuity of learning and student success
- Planned and delivered stimulating curriculum to address both academic goals and social-emotional needs of students with disabilities

Concordia University Chicago

Role

2005, 2006, 2008, 2015 Adjunct Professor Early Childhood Education
2008 – 2016 Assistant Director, Walter and Maxime Christopher Early
Childhood Center Lab School
1996 – 2008 Classroom Teacher, Full-Day Preschool

Courses Taught

Methods & Content Integration

EDEC 4700 Movement Methods
EDU 6125 Teaching Math and Science in Early Childhood

Curriculum & Program Design

EDU 4800 Curriculum and Organization

Selected Responsibilities

1996 – 2008 Full-Day Preschool Teacher, Concordia University Chicago

- Created and maintained a progressive, play-based early childhood learning environment
- Served children, families, and the school community through a full-day preschool model
- Collaborated with special education and family resource providers to meet diverse needs

2008 – 2016 Assistant Director, Walter and Maxime Christopher Early Childhood
Center Lab School

- Re-developed and aligned social-spiritual, communication arts, expressive, wellness, discovery (SCEWD) curriculum with National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) standards
- Trained and mentored 25 teaching staff in Project Approach, Reggio Emilia, and portfolio systems
- Coordinated and mentored Loyola University, West Suburban Medical Center, and Triton College field students
- Developed and implemented Project Studio as a model for child and teacher engagement
- Scheduled, trained, and mentored over 100 university student staff annually
- Led semiannual school-wide Curriculum Nights engaging teachers, children, and families
- Coordinated special education services and secured LEA funding for eligible students
- Achieved successful NAEYC accreditation during leadership tenure
- Selected and implemented scheduling software to improve operational efficiency

University Service Contributions

Committee Work

2005 – 2016 Contributor, Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation Working Group
2010 – 2016 Contributor, Teacher Education Student Scholarships
2005 – 2014 Member, Teacher Education Accreditation Council

College Service Contributions

1999 – 2000 Early Childhood Gala coordination and fundraising
1997 – 2016 Liaison College of Education and Lab School
1997 – 2016 Liaison between River Forest Public School District 90 and Lab School
2002 – 2004 Redeveloped Klinck Memorial Library Children’s literature section

Triton College

Role

2000, 2007 Adjunct Professor Education

Courses Taught

ECE 136 School Age Programming
ECE 146 Child Family and Community

Holy Trinity School

Role

1992 – 1994 Full-Day Preschool Teacher
1992 – 1994 After School Care Program Co-Director and Teacher

Selected Responsibilities

- Provided full-day preschool instruction and after-school care in a reverse-mainstream classroom setting
- Designed and maintained inclusive learning environments for children who are deaf and hard of hearing alongside typically developing peers
- Engaged families and school staff in collaborative support of young children’s developmental and learning needs
- Coordinated with special education professionals and family resource providers to ensure appropriate services and support

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Peer Review of Professional Portfolios

2025 Peer Reviewer, GERN 23100, *Introduction to Gerontology*, for Naomi Gurevich’s promotion portfolio
2024 Peer Reviewer, EDU 34001-02, *Education and American Culture*, for Erin Bauldauf Hayden’s promotion portfolio
2023 Peer Reviewer, EDU 50003, *Topical Workshop in Special Education*, for Jane Leatherman’s promotion portfolio

Scholarly and Editorial Reviews

- 2026 Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of School Leadership*, topic: artificial intelligence
- 2025 Manuscript Reviewer, *Video Journal of Education and Pedagogy*, topic: children's participatory photography
- 2025 Manuscript Reviewer, *Video Journal of Education and Pedagogy*, topic: children's literacy learning through digital picturebooks
- 2025 Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of School Leadership*, topic: artificial intelligence
- 2025 Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of School Leadership*, topic: school leadership use of artificial intelligence
- 2024 Textbook Reviewer, Goodheart-Willcox Publishing, topic: standards-aligned emergent curriculum
- 2023 Chapter Reviewer, IGI Global (two separate chapters) topic: teacher education in rural settings
- 2023 Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of School Leadership*, topic: assessment of school leadership
- 2022 Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of School Leadership*, topic: assessment of school leadership

Program Initiatives

K–12 STEM Instruction and Youth Outreach

- 2025 STEM Instructional Program, "Fort Wayne Bridges Building," Gigi's Playhouse, Fort Wayne, IN
- 2025 STEM Instruction, "Worms with Abbott Elementary School," Purdue Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne, IN
- 2024 – 2025 Indian Springs Career Day Construction Project, "Qualities, Identity, and Goals," Indian Springs School, Columbia City, IN
- 2022 Kindergarten Field Visit, "Adams School and School of Education Garden," Purdue Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne, IN
- 2010 – 2018 Agricultural Literacy Educator, "Soybeans and Our Food" Chicago, IL
- 2012 – 2015 Experiential Learning in Embryology, "Hatching Chicks" Chicago, IL

Teacher Education and Program Development

- 2025 Lapaz School (international school), Exploratory professional exchange with Director Eliana León, Cabo Velas, Guanacaste, Costa Rica
- 2025 UCLA Head Start Fellows Program, Los Angeles, CA
- 2023 – 2024 Children's Village Professional Development, "Beliefs and Belonging" Fort Wayne, IN
- 2022 – 2023 Indiana Higher Ed Induction Mentoring, "Co-Teaching 2nd Grade" Fort Wayne, IN
- 2019 – 2020 Conference Planned with Pam Scranton, "Project Approach Institute," Black Hills State, Spearfish, SD

- 2018 – 2020 Lab School Redevelopment Initiative, “Curriculum, Environments, Children”
Little Jackets Lab School, Spearfish, SD
- 1998 – 2016 Lab School Redevelopment Initiative
Walter and Maxime Christopher Early Childhood Center, River Forest, IL
- 1999 – 2015 Project Approach Training Facilitation and Initiative, “Teachers Learning
Projects,” River Forest, IL
- 2015 International Collaborative Study, “Quality Teacher Training through
Technological Practices” with Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria, South
Africa

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

National

- 2024 – 2026 Member, Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education
- 2022 – 2026 Member, Association of Teacher Educators
- 2015 – 2026 Member, National Association for the Education of Young Children
- 2015 – 2026 Member, Farm-Based Education Network

Regional and Local

- 2019 – 2026 Board Member, Badlands Head Start Board of Directors
- 2019 – 2025 Member, Cook County Farm Bureau
- 2021 – 2026 Member, Careers in Early Childhood Advisory Board
- 2021 – 2023 Contributor, Allen County Coalition Focus on Five
- 2016 – 2018 Board Member, Cook County Board of Directors
- 2010 – 2018 Team Member, Cook County Agriculture Literacy Team