

# Julia Smith, Ph.D.

## Curriculum Vitae

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School of Education, Purdue University Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne, IN 46805 • 517-214-6177 •  
smitj@pfw.edu

### EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Family and Child Ecology Summer 2013  
*Michigan State University, College of Social Science, East Lansing, MI*

Master of Arts, Literacy Instruction Spring 2004  
*Michigan State University, College of Education, East Lansing, MI*

Bachelor of Arts, Spanish and English Spring 2002  
*Eastern Michigan University, College of Education, Ypsilanti, MI*

### WORK EXPERIENCE

#### Academic

Associate Professor, Early Childhood Education Present  
Purdue University Fort Wayne, School of Education, Fort Wayne, IN

Clinical & Assistant Professor Tenure-Track, Early Childhood Education 2015–2026  
*Purdue University Fort Wayne, Department of Teacher Education,  
School of Education, Fort Wayne, IN*

Academic Specialist 2013–2015  
*Michigan State University, Center for Regional Food Systems,  
Department of Community Sustainability,  
College of Agriculture and Natural Resources,  
East Lansing, MI*

Adjunct Faculty 2011-2012  
*West Shore Community College, Department of Early Childhood Education,  
Scottville, MI*

#### Education/Teaching Positions

Teacher, Middle and High School 2011–2013  
*Casman Alternative Academy, Manistee, MI*

Project Manager 2002–2010  
*Head Start Hispanic-Serving Institutions Higher Education Partnership,*

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*Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI*

Director, Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Center 2000–2002  
*Telamon Corporation Michigan Migrant Head Start, Adrian, MI*

Education Specialist, Migrant and Seasonal Head Start 1999  
*Telamon Corporation Michigan Migrant Head Start, Adrian, MI*

Teacher, Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Preschool 1997  
*Telamon Corporation Michigan Migrant Head Start, Adrian, MI*

Teacher, English as a Second Language 1994–1997  
*Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Centro de Investigación  
Sobre Fijación de Nitrógeno, Cuernavaca, Morelos, México*

Teacher, English as a Second Language 1992–1997  
*Experiencia, Centro Cultural A.C., Cuernavaca, Morelos, México*

### Consultant

Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant 2019–Present  
*East Coast Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Project,  
Indiana–Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Programs, IN*

Consultant/Presenter 2023-2024  
FHI 360 Head Start Project, Washington D C

Consultant/Trainer 2006–2009  
*Head Start English Language Learners Project (HELLP),  
Office of Head Start, Community Development Institute, Denver, CO*

### AWARDS

#### Purdue University

Featured Faculty Award for Engagement Excellence, Office of Academic Affairs, Purdue University, Fort Wayne, 2023.

Scholarship of Engagement Fellow, Purdue University, West Lafayette, 2018–2019.

#### Michigan State University

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Knorr/Mentzer/Byers Scholarship for Academic Achievement, Michigan State University, East Lansing, 2012–2013.

Dean's Fellowship, Michigan State University, College of Social Science, East Lansing, 2011–2012.

Knorr/Mentzer/Byers Scholarship for Academic Achievement, Michigan State University, East Lansing, 2011–2012.

Alice Cutler Thorpe Graduate Scholarship for Outstanding Graduate Students, Michigan State University, East Lansing, 2011–2012.

Evelyn Mansfield Endowment, Michigan State University, East Lansing, 2007–2008.

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Academic Publications

Smith, J. (2026). 'Critical ways of thinking': preservice teachers' reflections on migrant farmworker families in an early childhood education undergraduate course. *Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education*, 1-14.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10901027.2026.2615747>

Christian, E. & Smith, J. (2026). Building prior knowledge before a field trip: Photography before a bridge in kindergarten learning. *Proceedings of The Society for the Information Technology & Teacher Education*. USA.  
<https://www.academicexperts.org/conf/site/2026/papers/66117/?c=189330>

Smith, J. & Ohlinger, J. (2025). Farm to college: Community engagement, learning and addressing food security while growing local foods on a Midwest college campus. *International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1108/IJSHE-05-2024-0333>

Smith, J., & Johnson, D. J. (2022). Parental perspectives on education: Mexican and Mexican-American farmworker families with young children enrolled in Migrant and Seasonal Head Start. *Journal of Latinos and Education*, 1–16.  
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15348431.2019.1666010>

Smith, J., & Clegg, J. (2021). Providing consistency in care: A case study of bilingual and bicultural early childhood education for farmworker children in the rural Midwestern United States. *Early Child Development and Care*.  
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03004430.2019.1670652>

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Smith, J. (2020). Teaching staff perspectives on communication and parent engagement in early childhood education programs for migrant farmworker children. *Journal of Early Childhood Research*, 8-2, 115–129.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177%2F1476718X19898712>

Smith, J., & Cuesta, G. (2020). Hunger in the fields: Food insecurity and food access among farmworker families in Migrant and Seasonal Head Start. *Journal of Latinos and Education*, 1–12.  
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15348431.2018.1500291>

Smith, J. (2019). Voices from the harvest: The role of language, identity and life experience in the education of young children from migrant farmworker families. *Journal of Latinos and Education*, 18(3), 277–292.  
<http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/xrxH643ydKRZtyv2i32R/full>

Murphy, J., Smith, J., & Matts, C. (2015). Farm to early childhood programs: A step-by-step guide. *Center for Regional Food Systems*, Michigan State University.

Rosenbaum, R. P., Smith, J., & Zhang, G. (2006). Labor market and teaching staff considerations for making early childhood education work for Migrant Head Start teachers: The case of Migrant Head Start. *Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education*, 27(1).  
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10901020500528861>

### Academic Publications in Progress

Christian, E. & Smith, J. (accepted, December 8, 2025). Building prior knowledge before a field trip: Photography before a bridge in kindergarten learning. *Proceedings of The Society for the Information Technology & Teacher Education*. USA.

### Newsletters and Op-Eds

Smith, J. "Teaching of Injustices Ensures our Growth," *Journal Gazette*, (February 3, 2022), <https://www.journalgazette.net/opinion/letters/20220203/letters>.

Smith, J. (December 2020). Highlights from the School of Education Urban Garden: A campus partnership to build awareness of local foods, school gardens and cultivate community engagement. *Indiana Grown for Schools*, USDA,

Smith, J. "Garden can be a Learning Center," *The Journal Gazette*, (April 22, 2020), <https://www.journalgazette.net/opinion/columns/20200422/garden-can-be-learning-center>.

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Smith, J. "Hoosier Hostility Towards Seasonal Workers Children Heartbreaking."  
(August 13, 2019),  
<https://www.journalgazette.net/opinion/columns/20190812/hoosier-hostility-toward-seasonal-workers-children-heartbreaking>.

### GRANTS FUNDED

Smith, J. & Parnin, S., (2024). *Growing Gardens Project: SOE Urban Garden*, Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne, IN: \$4,4000.

Smith, J. (2023). *Uplifting Brightspace Course Development Grant*. Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching, Purdue University Fort Wayne: \$2,500.

Smith, J. (2020–2021). *School of Education Urban Garden Project: A campus partnership to build awareness of local foods, school gardens, and cultivate community engagement*. Office of Academic Affairs, University Research and Innovation, Collective Impact Grant, Purdue University Fort Wayne: \$8,000.00.

Smith, J. (2020). *School of Education Urban Garden Project*. Sponsored Programs, Grant-In-Aid of Research or Creative Endeavors, Purdue University Fort Wayne: \$830.00.

Smith, J., Nowak, J., Parnin, S., & Ohlinger, J. (2019). *School of Education Urban Garden Project*. Office of Scholarship and Creative Endeavors, Collective Impact Grant, Purdue University Fort Wayne: \$3,000.00.

Smith, J. (2019). *Creating community partnerships to promote access to fresh healthy local foods for farmworker families with young children*. Institute for Research and Creative Endeavors. Faculty Travel Grant, Purdue University Fort Wayne: \$1,000.00

Cleggs, J., & Smith, J. (2018). *Heritage language pedagogy in the Hispanic migrant labor communities in Northeastern Indiana*. START Grant, Office of Scholarship and Creative Endeavors, Purdue University Fort Wayne: \$5,000.00.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND RESEARCH PROJECTS

#### **Growing Gardens Project**

2024-

Co-Organizer and Grant Writer

Smith, J., Parnin, S., Cho, Y. J., Purdue University Fort Wayne

Kline, F., Abbett Elementary School

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- Growing Gardens is a partnership with Abbett Elementary School, FWCS, principals and 4<sup>th</sup> grade and kindergarten teachers to implement experiential learning around growing plants, life-cycle, science and literacy.
- IRB approval

### **School of Education Urban Garden Project**

2019-2025

Co-Organizer and Grant Writer

Smith, J., Parnin, S., Ohlinger, J., & Nowak, J., Purdue University Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne

Theisen, T., Purdue Extension of Allen County and Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation.

- The School of Education Urban Garden was founded as a partnership between the School of Education and Purdue Extension of Allen County. A project to explore hands-on learning and teaching related to gardening and expanded into a hub of outreach and community partnership around sustainability and local food.
- IRB approval
- Two manuscripts under review

### **Farm to School Summit**

Co-Organizer

2023

Smith, J. & Parnin, S., Purdue University Fort Wayne

Bennet, K., Parkview Health

Katz, J., Northeast Indiana Local Food Network.

Landes, B., Manchester Public Schools.

- The Farm to School Summit was hosted on the campus of Purdue Fort Wayne to build awareness of education practices linked to gardening and bringing local foods into schools and early childcare programs. Attended by 134 individuals from PFW and greater Fort Wayne Community.

### **Video Collaboration with Local Food Network**

2021

Collaborator

Bennett, K., Parkview Health

Smith, J., Purdue University Fort Wayne

- Collaborated on video at the School of Education Urban Garden, *Farm to School. Bridging the gap between local food and local kids. Parkview Health and Northeast Indiana Farm to School Network*, <https://www.neifood.org/news/new-video-celebrates-farm-to-school>

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Oral Presentation**

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- Christian, E., & Smith, J., (2026) "Building prior knowledge before a field trip: Photography as a bridge in kindergarten learning, SITE 2026 online at <https://www.academicexperts.org/conf/site/2026/>
- Smith, J. Parnin, S. & Cho, H. (2025) "A faculty collaboration with Abbett Elementary School," 2025 Alliance Showcase, Purdue University Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne IN.
- Choi, S., Suntornpithug, N., Smith, J., Kanathanavanich, T., & Essig, R., (2025). Enhancing learning outcomes through rubric design: Investigating cognitive, emotional, and collaborative impacts in higher education, (MOBTS) *Management and Organizational Behavior Teaching Society Conference*, Purdue University Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne, IN.
- Smith, J. (2024). Using Art and Project-Based Approaches to 'Draw' Theoretical Ideas in the Classroom. *Fort Wayne Teaching and Learning Conference*, Purdue University Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne, IN.
- Smith, J. (2024). Experiential learning for young children: A kindergarten excursion to a campus urban garden. *Indiana Farm to School & ECE Symposium*, Indiana Department of Education, Indianapolis, IN.
- Adilov N., Egger, J., Hogg, T., Sauerland, W., Smith, J., "Award Winning Teachers," Alliance Teaching Showcase, Purdue Fort Wayne. (November 2, 2023).
- Smith, J. (2023). Creating a significant circle to discuss the links between identity and practice in the college classroom. *EC Moore's Symposium*, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN.
- Smith, J. (2022). Bringing local foods to the infant and early childhood classroom. *Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (IAEYC) Regional Conference*, Fort Wayne, IN.
- Bennett, K., Bradley, L., Landes, B., Smith, J. (2021). Bridging the gap between local foods and local kids. *Northeast Indiana Local Food Forum*, Fort Wayne, IN.
- Smith, J., & Nuñez, I. (2018). Building relationships with families of multilingual learners in preschool. *Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (IAEYC) Regional Conference*, Fort Wayne, IN.

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Smith J., & Cousik, R. (2017). Using art as a way to develop literacy: A case study of an artistically gifted girl on the autism spectrum. *Pacific Rim Sustain/ability Conference*, Honolulu, HI.

Smith J. (2017). Evenings at the parent meetings and the power of words. *Qualitative Report Conference*, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Smith, J. (2015). Farm to school for programs that serve migrant children. *National Migrant Education Conference*, Seattle, WA.

Smith J., (2014). Food access and food security for migrant farm worker families with young children in the U.S. *On New Shores Conference*, Toronto, ON, Canada.

Matts, C., & Smith, J. (2014). Farm to preschool and beyond. *W. K. Kellogg Foundation Food and Community Gathering*, Detroit, MI.

Smith, J., & Matts, C. (2014). Hands-on curriculum strategies for early care and education settings. *Farm to Cafeteria Conference*, Austin, TX.

Smith, J. (2006). Latino and non-Latino teaching staff considerations in making early childhood education programs work for Migrant Head Start teachers (poster). *19th Biennial Meeting, International Society of the Study of Behavioral Development*, Melbourne, Australia.

Smith, J. (2006). The usefulness of the ecological theory in understanding parent involvement in Head Start. *33rd Annual Training Conference, National Head Start Association*, Detroit, MI.

Smith, J., & Rosenbaum, R. (2006). Proyecto Escalón: Migrant Head Start teachers making the grade. *Second Annual National Hispanic Head Start Conference*, Denver, CO.

Rosenbaum, R., & Smith, J. (2005). Challenges of credentialization: The case of Migrant Head Start. *National Hispanic Head Start Conference*, Albuquerque, NM.

### Poster Presentation

Smith, J. (2024). Using art and hands-on approaches to ‘draw’ theoretical constructs in the college classroom. *Alliance Teaching Showcase*, Purdue University Fort Wayne, IN.

Smith, J. (2023). Finding purpose and engagement growing local food on a college campus. *Engagement Scholarship Consortium’s 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference*, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.

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Smith, J. (2023). Teaching migrant farmworker justice in early childhood education. *Lilly Conference*, Asheville, NC.

Smith, J. (2018). Teaching about migrant farmworkers, immigrant families and social justice to college students in an early childhood education undergraduate online course. *Lilly Conference*, Traverse City, MI.

Smith, J. (2013). Parent involvement in Migrant Head Start: Parents' beliefs and teacher practices. *High Scope Practice to Research Conference*, Ann Arbor, MI.

### Keynote/Plenary

Smith, J. (2023) "Closing Remarks," *Farm to School Summit*, Purdue University Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne, IN. (November 2024).

Smith, J. (2017). Multilingual learners in the preschool classroom (keynote presenter). *IAEYC Regional Meeting*, Fort Wayne, IN.

### Speaking Invitations

Clegg, J., & Smith, J. (2019). Educating children in Migrant and Seasonal Head Start: A case study of bilingual and bicultural consistency in care in early childhood education in the United States. *International Year of Indigenous Languages: Perspectives Conference*, Purdue University Fort Wayne, IN.

Cuesta, G. & Smith, J. (2019). Creating community partnerships to promote access to fresh, healthy, local foods for farmworker families with young children. *Advisory Council Meeting for the National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Collaboration Office*, Washington, D C.

Smith, J., & Cuesta, G. (2019). Creating community partnerships to promote access to fresh, healthy, local foods for farmworker families with young children. *National Association of Community Health Centers Conference for Agriculture Worker Health*, Albuquerque, NM.

Smith, J. (2019). Farm to early childcare and gardening with children. *13<sup>th</sup> Annual Early Childhood Conference: What the World Needs Now*, Purdue University Northwest, IN.

### MEDIA MENTIONS

#### Newspaper

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"PFW to Host Farm to School Summit," *Crescent News*, (November 2023)  
[https://www.crescent-news.com/news/local\\_news/pfw-to-host-farm-to-school-summit-nov-14/article\\_0bd599f8-79b9-11ee-abd3-67880d7d9712.html](https://www.crescent-news.com/news/local_news/pfw-to-host-farm-to-school-summit-nov-14/article_0bd599f8-79b9-11ee-abd3-67880d7d9712.html).

"Northeast Indiana Hungry for Farm to School Activities," *Journal Gazette*, (November 2023).  
[https://www.journalgazette.net/local/schools/northeast-indiana-hungry-for-farm-to-school-activities/article\\_e261a0ae-6210-11ee-b6be-abf0b48c100b.html](https://www.journalgazette.net/local/schools/northeast-indiana-hungry-for-farm-to-school-activities/article_e261a0ae-6210-11ee-b6be-abf0b48c100b.html).

"Education Notebook," *Journal Gazette*, (June 2023).  
[https://www.journalgazette.net/local/schools/teacher-honor-roll-parent-praises-northwest-allen-county-schools-educator-for-helping-son-thrive/article\\_15242e40-f8cf-11ed-8324-73158027b5cd.html](https://www.journalgazette.net/local/schools/teacher-honor-roll-parent-praises-northwest-allen-county-schools-educator-for-helping-son-thrive/article_15242e40-f8cf-11ed-8324-73158027b5cd.html).

Sloboda, A., (2020, March 29). Virtual learning now a real necessity. *The Journal Gazette*. Retrieved from  
<https://www.journalgazette.net/news/local/schools/20200329/virtual-learning-now-a-real-necessity>

"Brief," *The Journal Gazette*, (March 2019),  
<https://www.journalgazette.net/news/local/20190327/briefs>

"Urban garden to be created at Purdue Fort Wayne. *Inside Indiana Business*," Inside Indiana business, (March 2019).  
<https://www.insideindianabusiness.com/story/40203957/urban-garden-to-be-created-at-purdue-university-fort-wayne>

### Internet

"Elementary school children dig into new SoE garden project," *Purdue University Fort Wayne*, (October 2024).  
<https://www.pfw.edu/news-center/elementary-school-children-dig-new-soe-garden-project>

"PFW to Host Farm to School Summit Nov. 14," *96.3 XKE Fort Wayne's Classic Rock*, (November 2023), <https://963xke.com/2023/11/13/73293/>

"First Ever Farm to School Summit to be held at Purdue Fort Wayne," *Alliance Healthcare US School News and Data*, (November 2023),  
<https://alliedhealthcareschools.com/news/article/?aid=861.%20smitj/medcont/First-ever%20Farm%20to%20School%20summit%20to%20be%20held%20at%20Purdue%20University%20Fort%20Wayne-1.pdfv>

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"PFW to Host Farm to School Summit Nov. 14," *Purdue Fort Wayne*, (November 2023),  
<https://www.pfw.edu/news-center/pfw-host-farm-school-summit-nov-14>

"Gardening Allows Smith to Sprout New Ideas," *Purdue Fort Wayne*, (May 2023),  
<https://www.pfw.edu/news-center/gardening-allows-smith-sprout-new-ideas>.

"States with the best and worst early education systems," *WalletHub*, (August 2020),  
<https://wallethub.com/edu/e/states-with-the-best-and-worst-early-education-systems/62668/#expert=julia-smith>

### LANGUAGE

**English:** Home language.

**Spanish:** Fluent speaking, fluent reading, fluent writing.

### SERVICE

#### *Professional*

Council Member 2018–2025  
National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Collaboration Office,  
FHI 360, U.S. Head Start Programs, Washington, D C

Accreditation Reviewer 2019–2021  
National Association for the Education of Young Children,  
Accreditation of Early Childhood Programs, Washington, D C

#### *Community*

Team Member 2019- 2024  
Northeast Indiana Farm to School Team, Parkview Health,  
Fort Wayne, IN

Youth Instructor 2014  
Ruth Mott Foundation, Flint, MI

Volunteer 2013–2015  
Loaves and Fishes Ministries, Lansing, MI

Garden Leader 2009–2012  
Community Garden Project, Lansing, MI