

Inclusion Institute Program Changes

Acknowledgements:

We would like to thank the SCRIPT-NC team for partnering with us to create a strand of sessions focused on embedding content on inclusion in higher education and ongoing professional development. You can learn more about SCRIPT-NC on their website: <https://scriptnc.fpg.unc.edu/>

Canceled Sessions:

Sensory, Learning, and the Brain

International Approaches to Inclusion Tabletop Discussion: Conversations about Changing Systems, Practices, and Attitudes

Multidisciplinary coordination by familiar leadership of a child with autism to promote inclusion in the educational environment in Spain

Meaningful Collaboration – A Conversation for Families and Professionals

Session Additions:

May 17, 2023, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Elevating the voices of early learning educators to ensure equitable access for children with disabilities

Amy Bender and Laura Kneedler

Mountain Laurel

Age Group: B-5 Target Audience: Local Administrators, Practitioners, PD Providers, State Administrators
Level: Appropriate for all levels

Children with disabilities are expelled at a significantly higher rate than children without, and there is an increase of children in early learning settings in need of individualized supports. As an increased focus on infant and early childhood mental health enters the early learning landscape, there is an opportunity to create consultation and training models that better meet the needs of early learning educators and children with disabilities. Northwest Center Kids, a non-profit based in Seattle, WA has supported children and adults with disabilities in early intervention, early learning and supported employment since 1965. Building on 50 plus years of experience with inclusive early learning, Northwest Center launched a consultation and training program in 2018, positioning the educator as the expert, and empowering early learning programs to provide high-quality inclusive settings that support the needs of all children.

After a short introduction on outcomes that demonstrate the value and success of elevating educator voices when developing IECMH services, this session will invite participants to examine current consultation and training supports offered to birth-to-five educators, and brainstorm solutions for elevating practitioner voices to ensure children with disabilities and challenging behaviors are successfully included in the classroom and community.

Participants will leave the session with knowledge of the challenges facing educators in meeting the diverse needs of their students, understand the importance of elevating provider voices in system and policy changes, and tangible ways to enhance current coaching models to meet the needs of children with disabilities.

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Room Changes:

May 18, 2023, 10:15 – 11:45 am

International Policy on Inclusion: What Do We Have in Common?

Elena Soukakou and Carmen Dionne

Redbud B

This Session is now Hybrid (virtual and in-person participants)

Presenter Additions:

Em Dandridge (Gender Diversity in Early Learners-Beyond and Outside of the Binary!)

Cyndi Fischer (Living the Dream: Implementing Model Sites for Inclusion in Wyoming)

Co-Facilitator: Jennifer Fung (Screening of FORGET ME NOT: INCLUSION IN THE CLASSROOM + Virtual Q&A with Olivier Bernier)