

# First Annual **Special Populations Conference**

*Accelerating Student Achievement Through Collaboration*

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*September 26-27, 2011  
Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, East Lansing*



Sponsored by the Michigan Department of Education Office of Field Services Special Populations Unit

# **General Conference Information**

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### **SB-CEU's**

The Michigan State Board of Education has approved Continuing Education Units (SB-CEUs) for attendance and participation in the 2011 MDE Special Populations Conference. If you are interested in obtaining SB-CEUs, you MUST be stamped in and out of each session you attend to receive credit for that particular session.

If you turned in your form, following the conference you will receive an email evaluation from the State.

In order to receive SB-CEU credit, you must complete this evaluation. Any questions should be directed to Danielle at 517-327-2589. A Conference Evaluation will be sent separately from MIEM.

### **Conference USB**

This year you will receive a USB containing the PowerPoint presentations and handouts provided by presenters. Materials received after the deadline will be posted to the MIEM website after the conference at [www.gomiem.org](http://www.gomiem.org).

### **Conference Bookstore**

*Provided by Michigan ASCD*

The Michigan Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development  
Monday & Tuesday  
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
(Except during keynotes and Breakouts)

**7:30 am-4:00 pm**

**Conference Registration Open**  
*Central Lobby*

**7:30 am-8:30 am**

**Continental Breakfast**  
*South Lobby*

**8:00 am-4:00 pm**

**Bookstore Open (except during keynotes and breakouts)**  
*Central Lobby*

**8:30 am-9:30 am**

**Welcome & Opening Keynote Session**

*Welcome: Sally Vaughn, Deputy Superintendent, Michigan Department of Education (MDE)*

*Accelerating Students Achievement: Mike Radke and Shereen Tabrizi Office of Field Services (OFS) - MDE*

**Big Ten ABC**

**9:30 am-9:40 am**

**Break**  
*South Lobby*

**9:40 am-10:40 am Breakout Sessions**

**Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About McKinney-Vento Self Assessments and On Site Visits Reviews (but were afraid to ask)**

*Jon Behrens & Sam Sinicropi, Monitors, OFS-MDE*

This session will cover all that you need to do to have a successful site visit. You will learn how and when to complete the M-V Self Assessment Tool, what to include (and NOT) in your electronic documentation, and what happens during a site visit. The presenters will provide sample forms, organizational tools, and lots of practical ideas for you to take home and use right away.

**Auditorium**

**McKinney-Vento 101: The Basics for New Liaisons**

*Ray Leighton and Katrina VanSlyke, Monitors, OFS- MDE*

This session FOR NEW HOMELESS LIAISONS will provide a basic overview of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Title X of the NCLB, and the educational rights of homeless children and youth. Selected parts of the Title I statute will also be discussed. The presenters will offer concrete strategies for implementing the law in school districts, and learn how to solve problems with the law.

**Centennial ABC**

**College Financial Aid for Homeless Youth: PANEL PRESENTATION**

*Susan Whitener, MDE Monitor, Barbara Duffield, Policy Director, National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) & Mark Delorey, WMU*

This panel will provide three different perspectives on helping homeless youth finance colleges: a local liaison, a university financial aid director, and a national policy director. The session

is intended to assist liaisons in understanding the law and the mechanics of the FAFSA, to provide a real world perspective on the challenges faced by these youth and those who support them, and to help liaisons collaborate more effectively with colleges.

**Willy Room**

**Serving Runaway and Homeless Youth in Michigan**

*Kenneth Marks, Consultant, Department of Human Services, Runaway & Homeless Youth Programs*

**Riverside**

**Section 31a At-Risk 101**

*Leah Breen, OFS, Michigan Department of Education*

The session will focus on the basic 31a eligibility requirements, allowable uses of funds and the reporting process.

**Conference Room 62**

**A Model Accelerated Summer Academic Program**

*Maura Sedgeman, Dearborn Schools, Martha Alder, University of Michigan - Dearborn*

This will be an interactive session on what works for students, parents, and teachers in a model summer program focusing on accelerating student achievement in language proficiency and content. Presentation will provide details about advanced planning, professional development, logistics, staffing, appropriate materials, parent involvement and evaluation. How to connect professional development for teachers to an ESL Endorsement Program will be highlighted. Examples of each topic will be shared.

**Red Cedar AB**

**Special Summer Migrant Education Programs**

*Karla Eaves, Walkerville, Sandy Kluskowski, South Haven, Cheryl Boothby, Hartford, Pedro Martinez, Van Buren ISD*

Summer Migrant Program team members from Walkerville, South Haven, Hartford, and Van Buren ISD will report the results of their specially funded projects.

**Michigamme**

**9:40-11:40 am Double Sessions**

**MDE Program Evaluation Tool for All Programs**

*Shereen Tabrizi, OFS - MDE, Ben Boerkoel, Kent ISD, Sheila Larson, Fowlerville Public Schools*

New! MDE Program Evaluation Committee developed a framework and tool that will assist schools and districts in evaluating the implementation and impact of local initiatives, programs or strategies. Presenters will walk participants through the process and provide practical applications of the tool.

**Lincoln Room**

## **Schools That Beat the Odds: Research-Based Practices**

*Mary Lang, Principal, North Godwin Elementary Nada Fouani, Principal, Iman Khalil and Sue Aburus, resource teachers at Iris Becker Elementary School; Kari Anama, Principal, Glenwood Elementary School; and Debra McNally, Principal, Discover Elementary School. Badriyya Sabree, Facilitator, OFS-MDE*

Panel Presentations where districts and school building staff will present barriers they were able to overcome as they share best practices and stories of their achievement.

**Room 110**

## **9:40-10:40 am & Repeats 10:50-11:50 am**

### **Blueprint for Exceptional Writing**

*Jennifer Fontenot, Author and Nadra Shami, Dearborn Public Schools*

Blueprint for Exceptional Writing (BEW) is an innovative framework to assist ELLs in thinking, planning and writing selections in every genre. BEW provides easy-to-follow writing processes consisting of 5 phases to teach students to transform an unadorned idea into a polished writing selection. Research based, this Writing Framework will produce student selections that are proficient and aligned with the National Core Standards. Workshop participants will receive a detailed handout containing new writing strategies that teachers can easily implement.

**Galaxy Room**

### **Diversity is a Strength**

*Rose Hassoun, Michigan State University*

This session will cover the basics of cultural competency and will provide strategies for dealing with diversity in the classroom. The focus will be on developing strengths, creating positive attitudes toward diversity, and using diversity as a positive factor in the educational setting.

**Room 107**

## **10:50 am to 11:50 am Breakout Sessions**

### **Successful Transportation Strategies for Homeless Students**

*Mac Dashney, Director, Pupil Transportation Operation & Management Institute*

School transportation for homeless students is the most difficult and complex piece of the puzzle in serving these students – and the most costly for districts, as well. This session will present some successful strategies that may save you and your district some time AND money!

**Auditorium**

### **From Problems to Solutions: McKinney-Vento in Action**

*Diana Bowman, Director, National Center for Homeless Education, NCHE*

Each day a homeless liaison is faced with situations and challenges that require a thoughtful path to resolution. In this session, participants will process a series of scenarios addressing eligibility for services, best interest determination for school selection,

services for unaccompanied youth, and other issues. Through networking and discussion, participants will gain confidence in addressing day-to-day problems applying the McKinney-Vento Act.

**Centennial ABC**

### **Collaborating with Head Start Programs to Serve Homeless Children**

*Beth McCullough, Adrian Public Schools & David Bull, Head Start Lenawee County*

The Head Start Act of 2007 formally requires Head Start, as a public preschool, to coordinate with efforts to implement the McKinney-Vento Act. Why is Homeless Education concerned with preschool-age children? How do liaisons and Head Start work together? What are the benefits? How can liaisons track homeless preschoolers in Head Start? Challenges and successes will be addressed, with case examples.

**Willy Room**

### **Fostering Connections: Education Planners and Homeless Liaisons**

*Julie Davis, Wayne RESA/Wayne Metro Community Action Agency, LaVern Robinson, Foster Care Education & Ann Rossi, DHS Foster Care Division*

Youth in the foster care system face numerous educational challenges, which often lead to many not graduating from high school or moving on to post-secondary programs. The Michigan Department of Human Services has recently hired 14 Education Planners to assist older youth in the foster care system with their education needs. During the session, you will learn how these positions were developed, where they are located, what work they are doing, and how we can all collaborate to ensure the best education is received by youth in care.

**Riverside**

## **10:50-11:50 am**

### **New! MDE Program Evaluation Tools for All Programs (continues)**

*Shereen Tabrizi, OFS – MDE, Ben Boerkoel, Kent ISD, Sheila Larson, Fowlerville Public Schools*

MDE Program Evaluation Committee developed a framework and tool that will assist schools and districts in evaluating the implementation and impact of local initiatives, programs or strategies. Presenters will walk participants through the process and provide practical applications of the tool.

**Lincoln Room**

## **Blueprint for Exceptional Writing – Repeat**

*Jennifer Fontenot, Author and Nadra Shami, Dearborn Schools*

Blueprint for Exceptional Writing (BEW) is an innovative framework to assist ELLs in thinking, planning and writing selections in every genre. BEW provides easy-to-follow writing processes consisting of 5 phases to teach students to transform an unadorned idea into a polished writing selection. Research based, this Writing Framework will produce student selections that are proficient and aligned with the National Core Standards. Workshop participants will receive a detailed handout containing new writing strategies that teachers can easily implement

**Galaxy Room**

## **Diversity is a Strength (REPEAT)**

*Rose Hassoun, Michigan State University*

The session will provide tips and strategies for working with diverse students and families.

**Room 107**

## **How to Handle Section 31A Paperwork**

*Bethany Deschaine, Lansing Public Schools; Patti Brallier, Dowagiac Union Schools*

**Conference Room 62**

## **Title III Allowable Activities for English Language Learners**

*Oralia Cooper, and Mary Larson, OFS - MDE*

This session will include specific examples of how Title III funds can be used to fund allowable activities based on MEGS function codes.

**Red Cedar AB**

## **Stockbridge: Designing an Effective Summer Migrant Education Program**

*Solidad Ramirez-Heiler, Director of Stockbridge's Summer Migrant Program*

Staff members will discuss the design, implementation and results of their unique Summer Migrant Education Program.

**Michigamme**

## **Noon-1:30 pm**

### **Luncheon & Keynote: "Bridging the Achievement Gap of Diverse Learners"**

*President, Cathy Hamilton and Associates*

The Keynote addresses the need for educators to understand neurological reasons for why people, and, yes, that includes children, do what they do. That understanding can inform our work with students, colleagues, parents.

**Big Ten ABC**

## **1:45 pm. - 2:45 pm Breakout Sessions**

### **Federal Policy & Legislative Updates on Homeless Education**

*Barbara Duffield, NAEHCY*

Ms. Duffield will present updates on federal policy and pending legislation, as well as an overview of Homeless Education happenings in Washington, D.C.

**Auditorium**

### **Accurate Data Entry on MSDS**

*William Rowan, OFS; Sharon Singer, CEPI and Brian Ciloski, BAA*

Presenters will share effective ways for coding LEP students on MSDS to ensure accurate reporting and funding.

**Riverside**

### **Section 31a On Site Review Specifications**

*Michelle Patton, OFS- MDE*

**Room 110**

### **Title I, Part D Transition**

*Karen Schneider, Mecosta Osceola ISD; Chuck Saur, Michigan Transition Outcomes Projects*

**Room 62**

### **New! Common Statewide Entrance and Exit Criteria**

*Michelle Williams, OFS-MDE, Shereen Tabrizi, OFS-MDE & Sara Rainwater, Genesee ISD*

This session will provide a look at the common statewide Entrance and Exit criteria that are in development. The session will review the subcommittee's findings, share the criteria for all grade levels, and apply the new standards to common scenarios. Participants will have the opportunity to provide feedback in a follow-up survey after the conference.

**Red Cedar**

## **1:45-4:00 pm Double Sessions**

### **19 Things We Know about the Brain (and how to use it in the classroom!)**

*Julie Ross, Lenawee ISD*

Did you know there are four main triggers for the brain's attention? Do you know "the movement formula?" Why don't teenagers act like adults? The secrets have been uncovered... the answers are in the brain research!! Let's spend a few hours learning 19 things that can help us understand our students better and make a positive difference.

**Lincoln Room**

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**Bridging the Achievement Gap (Keynote Follow Up Session)**

*Cathy Hamilton, President, Cathy Hamilton & Associates*

The breakout speaks to the power of language, written and spoken, not only for academic success, but also for enhancing our adult lives.

**Galaxy Room**

**Toolkit for New Title III Directors**

*Sara Rainwater, Genesee ISD, Oralia Cooper, MDE, & Su McKeithen-Polish, Macomb ISD*

This session is intended to give new directors an overview of what is required under Title III part A in order to have a successful program for our English Language Learners

**Room 107**

**New Migrant Directors; The Nuts and Bolts of Title 1, Part C**

*Jason Synder, Kenowa Hills & Frank Garcia, MDE*

Presenters will review the nuts and bolts of managing an effective MEP and answer the following questions: How to prepare for an On Site Review, what are allowable and non-allowable expenditures, what students are eligible for, how important is parent involvement, and many more.

**Michigamme**

**3:00 pm. - 4:00 pm. Breakout Sessions****Special Presentation by NCHE**

*Diana Bowman and Christina Dukes, NCHE*

The National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) is the U.S. Department of Education's Information and Technical Assistance Center for homeless education. NCHE helps school districts and communities successfully address the needs of children and their families and unaccompanied youth who are experiencing homelessness. Today's Special Presentation will be a highly interactive session which will challenge even the most experienced McKinney-Vento liaisons, as well as their collaborative partners, and leave all participants well informed and energized, ready to return to work and put the new ideas and strategies from this conference into action.

**Auditorium**

**Accurate Data Entry on MSDS (Repeat)**

*William Rowan, OFS-MDE; Brian Ciloski, BAA-MDE, Sharon Singer, CEPI*

Presenters will share effective ways for coding LEP students on MSDS to ensure accurate reporting and funding.

**Riverside**

**Title I, Part D Paperwork**

*Lisa Simmer/Chris Isaacson, OFS- MDE*

**Room 110**

**Section 31a Internal Controls and Program Reports**

*Judy Thelen, Shelly Patton, OFS-MDE*

**Conference 62**

**NEW! Common Statewide Entrance and Exit Criteria for ELLs**

*Michelle Williams, OFS-MDE, Sara Rainwater, Genesee ISD, Oralia Cooper & Shereen Tabrizi, OFS - MDE*

The team will provide a look at the common statewide Entrance and Exit criteria that are in development. The session will review the subcommittee's findings, share the criteria for all grade levels, and apply the new standards to common scenarios. Participants will have the opportunity to provide feedback in a follow-up survey after the conference.

**Red Cedar AB**

# TUESDAY September 27 **Session Breakouts**

**7:30 am-4:00 pm**

**Registration**  
*Central Lobby*

**8:00 am-4:00 pm**

**Bookstore Open (except during keynotes and breakouts)**  
*Central Lobby*

**7:30 am-8:30 am**

**Continental Breakfast**  
*South Lobby*

**8:30 am-9:30 am**

**Keynote Session, NAEP Data**  
**Using National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Data To Learn More About Diverse Learners in Michigan**

*Delores Acevedo-Garcia, Associate Director, Institute on Urban Health Research, Northeastern University*

Principal Investigator of the Diversity Data-Kids Project (funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation), Dolores Acevedo-Garcia, and Senior Research Associate for the Project, Erin Hardy discuss how results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) can deepen our understanding of issues of equity for Michigan's most vulnerable learners. They will describe how students of different vulnerable groups—racial and ethnic minority students, immigrant children, English Language Learners, and low-income students—are faring compared to other students in Michigan and students nationally. They will also bring attention to important open questions that cannot be fully addressed with the current data, but that require answers as we work to improve achievement for all students while closing gaps.

**Big Ten ABC**

**9:40-10:40 am Breakout Sessions**

**Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About McKinney-Vento Self Assessments and On Site Visits Reviews (but were afraid to ask)**

*Jon Behrens & Sam Sinicropi, Monitors, OFS-MDE*

This session will cover all that you need to do to have a successful site visit. You will learn how and when to complete the M-V Self Assessment Tool, what to include (and NOT) in your electronic documentation, and what happens during a site visit. The presenters will provide sample forms, organizational tools, and lots of practical ideas for you to take home and use right away.

**Willy Room**

**McKinney-Vento 101: The Basics for New Liaisons**

*Ray Leighton and Katrina VanSlyke, Monitors, OFS- MDE*

This session FOR NEW HOMELESS LIAISONS will provide a basic overview of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Title X of the NCLB, and the educational rights of homeless children and youth. Selected parts of the Title I statute will also be discussed. The

presenters will offer concrete strategies for implementing the law in school districts, and learn how to solve problems with the law.

**Riverside**

**NEW! Parent Engagement Toolkit: Collaboration for Success – Repeat**

*Alania Dague, Ana Ramirez-Saenz, OFS-MDE; Lena Montgomery, WRESA*

The MDE Parent Engagement Committee developed an electronic Toolkit that includes strategies for overcoming barriers to parental engagement in schools. The Toolkit has practical tips and useful resources for parents as well as school personnel. Presenters will review the content of this rich resource and discuss roll-out plans.

**Lincoln Room**

**Identifying and Serving Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (Panel)**

*Christina Dukes, Program Specialist and Webmaster, National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE)*

*Co-Presenters: Susan Whitener, MDE & Peri Stone-Palmquist, Washtenaw ISD*

Participants in this session will learn general guiding principles for supporting the education of unaccompanied homeless youth and will hear from colleagues across Michigan about what's working in their area. Hear about what has worked in their area and what could work in your area, too!

**Auditorium**

**Characteristics of Successful M-V Homeless Liaisons**

*Patricia Briones & Jane Rudisill, Monitors, MDE*

How did your district select its homeless liaison? This session will help districts make wise choices in liaison assignments by focusing awareness on the roles and duties of the liaison, as well as discussing the specific characteristics which successful McKinney-Vento liaison have in common.

**Centennial ABC**

**NAEP DATA – Keynote Follow-Up Session**

*Delores Acevedo-Garcia, Associate Director, Institute on Urban Health Research, Northeastern University*

This session is a follow-up to her morning keynote.

**Galaxy Room**

**ELPA Update & Basics**

*Presenters: Jennifer Paul & Aric Kuester, BAA-MDE*

Whether you're an experienced ELPA Coordinator or a new administrator or teacher, you will find this session packed with ELPA Screener and Spring ELPA information. The first portion of the session will cover ELPA updates followed by more in-depth coverage of ELPA assessment structure, who should test, accommodations and Online ELPA information.

**Room 107**

# TUESDAY September 27 **Session Breakouts**

## **Collaborative Teaching Strategies**

*Marcelene Fayz, Diane Gutkowski, ESL & Literacy Consultants*

The team approach utilizes best practices and research to help create an exciting classroom environment where students learn, talk, read and write. In an interactive session participants will discover strategies that will accelerate ELL students' learning in the content areas as modeled by a teacher-paraprofessional team.

**Room 110**

## **New! Successful Title III Plans**

*Shereen Tabrizi, and Michelle Williams, MDE - OFS, Sara Rainwater, Genesee ISD*

In response to the LEAs requests for additional information on creating Title III compliant plans, presenters will share practical ways for integrating the Title III plan for English Language Learners into the ELL/LEP Handbook and the LEA Planning Cycle. Topics will include the Title III law and guidance, required plan components along with sample objectives, strategies and activities. Implications for consortia will also be discussed.

**Red Cedar AB**

## **9:40-11:50 am Double Sessions**

### **Title I, Part D Discussion**

*Michelle Patton, OFS – MDE*

**Room 62**

### **NEW! Designing a Summer Migrant Education Program**

*Michelle Williams & Frank Garcia MDE*

Presenters will facilitate a discussion on vital components of designing an effective Summer Migrant Education Program. The discussion will result in the formation of a committee to design a State wide SMEP.

**Michigamme**

## **10:50-11:50 am Breakout Sessions**

### **NEW! Parent Engagement Toolkit: Collaboration for Success – Double Session**

*Alania Dague, Ana Ramirez-Saenz, OFS-MDE; Lena Montgomery, WRESA*

The MDE Parent Engagement Committee developed an electronic Toolkit that includes strategies for overcoming barriers to parental engagement in schools. The Toolkit has practical tips and useful resources for parents as well as school personnel. Presenters will review the content of this rich resource and discuss roll-out plans.

**Repeated**

### **Supporting Foster Youth In Higher Education: The John Seita Scholars Program**

*Yvonne Unrau, Interim Director, Seita Scholars Program/Professor of Social Work, Western Michigan University & Seita Scholars*

Western Michigan University's John Seita Scholars program provides support to WMU students from foster care. Support services are

offered during the recruitment, enrollment and graduation phases of college. The session will present the Seita Scholars program and common challenges faced by foster youth in higher education.

**Willy Room**

### **Meeting Educational Needs of Homeless Students: Connecting with Other Programs**

*Diana Bowman, Director, NCHE*

The needs of homeless children and youth are many and varied. To provide services to enable them to succeed in school, educational programs must communicate and collaborate. This session will feature strategies to jumpstart and sustain collaborations between homeless education programs and other programs, such as special education, Title I, and migrant education. Laws and statutes relating to collaboration will be reviewed, and local liaisons will share their experiences with cross-program collaboration.

**Auditorium**

### **Online Homeless Data Collection**

*Tom Rojeski & Karen Schneider, Mecosta-Osceola ISD*

Data collection is a critical element of any educational program, and homeless education is no exception. This session will present an innovative and successful online data collection system that can simplify your district or grant consortium system for reporting on homeless students.

**Centennial ABC**

### **Statewide Professional Development Initiatives**

*Shereen Tabrizi, OFS-MDE, Dennis Terdy, Great Lakes East, Megan DeKraker, Heritage Academies, & Alice Smith, Novi*

Presenters will report on statewide professional development initiatives including SIOP, Blueprint for Exceptional Writing, and technical assistance. Future plans will be discussed including coaching, native language acquisition, parent engagement and program evaluation.

**Galaxy**

### **NEW! Common Statewide Entrance and Exit Criteria for ELLs**

*Shereen Tabrizi, Oralia Cooper, Michelle Williams, MDE - OFS, Sara Rainwater, Genesee ISD*

This session will provide a look at the common statewide Entrance and Exit criteria that are in development. The session will review the subcommittee's findings, share the criteria for all grade levels, and apply the new standards to common scenarios. Participants will have the opportunity to provide feedback in a follow-up survey after the conference.

**Room 107**

# TUESDAY September 27 **Session Breakouts**

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## **Comprehension Strategies**

*Marcelene Fayz, Diane Gutkowski, ESL & Literacy Consultants*

These dynamic presenters will share research-based comprehension strategies that are effective with all students, especially English language learners.

**Room 110**

## **Accurate Data Entry on MSDS**

*William Rowan, OFS-MDE; Sharon Singer, CEPI; Brian Ciloski, BAA*

Presenters will share effective ways for coding LEP students on MSDS to ensure accurate reporting and funding.

**Red Cedar AB**

**12:00-2:30 pm**

## **Luncheon & Special Populations Keynote – Collaboration Across Programs, Panel Discussion**

Panel Members:

Margaret Madigan, Joann Winkelman, Michelle Patton, Oralia Cooper, Patricia Hennessey, Blanche Deren, Pam Kies-Lowe & Michelle Williams-MDE

Facilitator: Shereen Tabrizi – OFS-MDE

A panel of professionals will share effective ways to accelerate student achievement by implementing well coordinated instruction, professional development, parent engagement, and interventions across programs.

**Big Ten ABC**

**2:30pm**

**Adjournment**

# Presenter Bios

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## **Dolores Acevedo-Garcia**

*PhD, MPA-URP, Associate Professor, Bouve College of Health Sciences, Associate Director, Institute on Urban Health Research, Northeastern University*

Dolores Acevedo-Garcia is an Associate Professor in the Bouve College of Health Sciences, and Associate Director of the Institute on Urban Health Research at Northeastern University. Prior to joining Northeastern (September 2009), she was an Associate Professor in the Department of Society, Human Development and Health at the Harvard School of Public Health, where she maintains an affiliation as Adjunct Associate Professor and primary faculty in the Maternal and Child Health Studies concentration. She received her MPA-URP and PhD in Public Policy/Demography from Princeton University. Her research focuses on the social determinants (e.g. residential segregation, immigrant adaptation) of racial/ethnic health disparities; the role of social policies (e.g. housing policies, immigrant policies) in reducing those disparities; and the health and well-being of children with special needs. She is Project Director for diversitydata.org, a multi-year indicator project on racial/ethnic equity in U.S. metropolitan areas, supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. In the next three years, diversitydata will be enhanced to make it a more comprehensive database of indicators on child wellbeing, and to incorporate systematic reviews, indicators and case studies on policies that may help improve the lives of vulnerable children and promote child equity. She is also a member of the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Housing and Families with Children. Her recent professional activities include an invited presentation at the White House conference on the Future of Rental Housing Policy. She serves on the Social Science Advisory Board of the Poverty and Race Research Action Council, and the National Coalition on School Diversity.

## **Dr. Martha Adler**

*Co-Director, ESL Endorsement Program. School of Education, University of Michigan Dearborn*

## **Jon Behrens**

*McKinney-Vento Region 2 Monitor, Michigan Department of Education*

Jon Behrens is currently a McKinney-Vento monitor for the State of Michigan for Region 2. She was previously the Homeless Education Grant Coordinator for Kalamazoo Public Schools for 8 years.

## **Diana Bowman**

*Director, National Center for Homeless Education*

Diana Bowman directs the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) at The SERVE Center at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro, North Carolina. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, NCHE provides information and resources to help educators, service providers, and other stakeholders improve educational opportunities for children and youth experiencing homelessness. Diana has presented workshops on meeting the educational needs of homeless children and youth at national and state conferences and has conducted trainings for local homeless education liaisons across the nation. She has facilitated national symposia on the transportation needs of homeless children and youth, collaboration between Title I and homeless education programs, and the role and responsibilities of state coordinators for homeless education in implementing the McKinney-Vento Act. She has authored a variety of practitioner-oriented publications and articles in the areas of homeless education, collaborative program planning, and meeting the needs of children at risk. Diana also oversees the North Carolina Homeless Education Program. Formerly, Diana was employed at Appalachia Educational Laboratory (AEL) in Charleston, West Virginia where her responsibilities included program coordination and strategic planning to help schools and school districts address the needs of at-risk children. Before her work at AEL, Diana worked in various classroom settings with at-risk children and youth and conducted workshops on adult literacy. She holds a Master's degree in public administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University (MA), Master's degrees from Marshall University (WV) and the University of Akron (OH), and a Bachelor's degree from the College of William and Mary (VA).

## **Patti Ann Brallier**

*Consultant for Special Populations, Dowagiac Union Schools.*

Patti's professional educational experience has spanned 36 years in Indiana and Michigan. She has been a teacher, ISD Consultant, high school assistant principal, a curriculum director, assistant superintendent, and now educational consultant in her own business.

## **Patricia E. Briones**

*Regional Monitor-Region 4, Michigan Department of Education*

Patricia is retired from Lansing School District, Office of State and Federal Programs. She has 32 years experience in program management, mentoring programs, student cultural exchange programs student leadership academy, and parent involvement and leadership.

# Presenter Bios

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## **David J. Bull**

*Head Start Early Childhood Programs Director, Adrian Public Schools*

David has worked in Head Start for over twenty years. He and is currently the Head Start Director for Adrian Public Schools and has held that position for 12 years. That program serves 357 children in Head Start, 72 pregnant women, infants and toddlers in Early Head Start, and 16 four year olds in our Great Start Readiness classroom. They have had Head Start since the beginning and this is their second year with Early Head Start funding. Extensive connections in the community support intergenerational programming, dual enrollment with our local LEA part C provider, teen mom programming and homeless assistance. The Adrian Public Schools Head Start program has been collaborating with the local McKinney-Vento program since 2002.

## **Oralia Cooper**

*Title III Consultant, Special Population Unit, Michigan Department of Education, Office of Field Services*

Manages Title III - LEP, Title III – Immigrant grant. Assess professional development needs of local school district personnel to provide them with tools to improve the impact of the general education and ELL staff on ELL students. Provides technical assistant to LEAs, PSAs, and ISDs and evaluates ELL program through onsite and alternative reviews in the entire State. An educator for twenty years working in Bilingual Two way immersion and ESL classrooms K-12, community advocate, non-profit committee member, and program developer for at-risk and neglected students.

## **Howard R. (Mac) Dashney**

*Principal Owner – Pupil Transportation Operation & Management Institute*

Mac's organization provides pupil transportation consulting services to school districts, private school bus fleet operators, governmental agencies, and private organizations. Consulting services include training fleet managers and school bus drivers; auditing fleet performance; advising managers in the areas of fleet supervision, route development, and vehicle maintenance; applying federal and state laws and regulations to the efficient and effective operation of school bus fleets; and lobbying on behalf of school bus fleets for appropriate laws and regulations; and providing expert witness services.

Ph.D. course work and comprehensive examinations completed in Secondary Education with a cognate in Organizational Communication and Development, Michigan; State University, East Lansing, Michigan.; M.A. Curriculum Development with a minor in Safety Education, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan; B.S. Secondary Education with majors in Social Science, Economics and Traffic Safety Education, State University of New York, Oswego, New York.; Regents Diploma with majors in Math and Science, Clyde Central School, Clyde, New York.

## **Mark Delorey**

*Director of Financial Aid, Western Michigan University*

Mark has a BA from the University of Notre Dame and an MBA from the University of Saint Francis. He is Co-Founder of the WMU Seita Scholars Program for Foster Youth. Twenty six years as a Director of Financial Aid. Past President, Michigan Student Financial Aid Association. 2002-2006 Financial Aid Chair, Midwest Region – College Board.

## **Bethany Deschaine**

*Project Development Specialist, Lansing School District*

Bethany has worked in education for over 22 years in the areas of Office of State and Federal Programs, Office of Research, Evaluation and Testing and Department of Technology.

## **Barbara Duffield**

*Policy Director, National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth*

Ms. Duffield's involvement in homeless issues began in 1990 as a tutor for homeless children in Washington, D.C. She subsequently joined the National Coalition for the Homeless ("NCH") and served as Director of Education for NCH from 1994-2003, working closely with educators, service providers, federal agencies and Congressional offices to strengthen policy and practice on children's issues. Ms. Duffield has conducted hundreds of trainings around the United States for school districts, community organizations, and local, state, and national groups to assist in the implementation of the Act. In addition, she has published several academic articles on policy and advocacy issues relating to the education of homeless children and youth.

# Presenter Bios

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## **Jane Christina Dukes**

*Program Specialist, National Center for Homeless Education*

Jane Christina Dukes has worked at the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) at the SERVE Center since 2003, using her knowledge of highly mobile lifestyles to help schools and homeless families learn about the educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness. She also oversees many of NCHE's technology activities, including maintaining the NCHE website and facilitating online trainings. Christina began working at the SERVE Center in October 2000 for the Anchor School Project, a migrant technology project funded through the Office of Migrant Education. She taught technology to migrant families to help the children excel in school and help the parents acquire skills that would increase their employability and knowledge of English. She then worked for Project Kaleidoscope, a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant serving families in southwest Florida. Kaleidoscope provided extended-day learning activities throughout the county, including after-school and family literacy programs. Christina was born in South Carolina but has spent most of her life living in south Florida. She received her B.A. in Spanish from Tulane University and her M.A. in Latin American Studies from Vanderbilt University.

## **Karla Eaves**

*State & Federal Programs/Migrant Director, Walkerville Public Schools*

2011-2012 marks the beginning of my fourth school year with Walkerville Public Schools. I have worked in a variety of capacities with students in urban, suburban and rural school districts, in grades Pre-School through 12 during the traditional school day as well as in extended learning programs. I hold a BA in Elementary Education through MSU with endorsements in MS English and History, a MA in Curriculum and Teaching through MSU, and will soon complete a ZA endorsement. I love working with students, and hope to someday be back in a classroom of my own.

## **Lori Flower**

*Pre-K Teacher, South Haven Public Schools*

Lori has been a 3rd grade, Kindergarten and Pre-K teacher for the past 14 years at South Haven Public Schools. Prior to that Lori taught at a local preschool. For the past 3 summers, I have taught Kindergarten at our summer migrant education program. Along with that, I have visited the migrant camps in the evenings and this past year helped to implement the literacy program. I have a bachelors degree from Central Michigan University. I am married with 4 grown children.

## **Dr. Jennifer A. Fontenot**

*Teacher Consultant, Michigan Author, National Speaker, Garden City Public Schools*

Dr. Jennifer A. Fontenot is a 30-year veteran teacher consultant in public education, as well as an adjunct faculty member of the Special Education Department at Eastern Michigan University. She received her doctorate from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. Jennifer was honored as the Teacher Educator of the Year from the Michigan Reading Association, and the Teacher of the Year from the American Legion. In addition, she is a Michigan author and a National Literacy Consultant.

## **Frank Garcia**

*Michigan Department of Education*

Frank is the Migrant Education Consultant for the Special Populations Unit in the Office of Field Services at the Michigan Department of Education.

## **Cathy Hamilton**

*President, Cathy Hamilton & Associates*

Dr. Cathy Hamilton has spent the majority of her professional career in the public school arena, nineteen years in the language arts classroom (middle school, high school, and collegiate) and sixteen years in either middle school, high school, or education service center administrative positions. Recognized at the State level for excellence in the classroom and in the administrative office, Dr. Hamilton is known for her work around differentiated instruction as it impacts at-risk learners, particularly children carrying special education labels. She served for thirteen years on an Ohio State committee aimed at creating inclusive environments through effective instruction and clear assessment strategies; the initial target of this committee was to create more inviting environment for people with identified disability.

Dr. Hamilton's tenure as a high school principal saw the school recognized by John Goodlad as one of sixteen high schools in the nation, research-driven on behalf of all students.

Born and raised in economic poverty, she has been a national trainer of research around poverty as it impacts achievement; Dr. Hamilton addresses the barriers that challenge those who work with people of poverty. Sometimes people are born into poverty, sometimes they are forced there later in life. In either case, the culture of poverty is often so loud that it deafens other needs. Hamilton has also taught Multi-Cultural Education courses at Miami University of Ohio, specifically looking at society's response to people of color.

# Presenter Bios

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Cathy is the editor of an on-line course based on the Ohio Department of Education publication STANDARDS-BASED INSTRUCTION FOR ALL LEARNERS: A TREASURE CHEST FOR PRINCIPAL-LED BUILDING TEAMS. This course is nationally distributed by Education Impact, a publisher located in Philadelphia.

Formerly the Director of the Ohio Principals' Center out of Hamilton County ESC, Cathy was a member of the Ohio State pilot "Principals' Leadership Academy" that developed curriculum for administrative licensure. Cathy believes effective leadership is paramount to increasing effectiveness in any organization. Cathy also conducts leadership training for school, community, and business leadership teams, teaching especially in the areas of viable/actionable visioning and effective teamwork.

Retiring in 2005 from Ohio's education system, Cathy is currently the president of her own consultancy firm, Cathy Hamilton and Associates, LLC. She addresses both education and community leadership issues, customizing her presentations to meet the needs of her audience.

Hamilton's doctoral work is in leadership.

## **Pat Hennessey**

*Education Consultant, Early Childhood Education & Family Services, Michigan Department of Education*

Pat has spent the last three years in this position as a consultant to the 21st Century Community Learning Centers in Michigan. Previous to that she taught twelve years in grades from 3 through 8 and was a principal for a K-8 grade school for ten years. Most of her experience has been in Des Moines, Iowa, but she has also taught in Missouri, Washington D.C. and Maryland.

## **Pam Kies-Lowe**

*Homeless Education Consultant/State Coordinator, Michigan Department of Education, Office of Field Services, Special Populations Unit*

Since the fall of 2008, Pam Kies-Lowe has served as the State Coordinator of Homeless Education Programs for the Michigan Department of Education, in the Special Populations Unit of the Office of Field Services. She has worked in the area of homeless education for over 15 years, with ten years as the Title I Family Involvement Specialist and District McKinney-Vento Liaison for the Kalamazoo Public Schools, developing the district's program for homeless children and youth, and coordinating the regional McKinney-Vento Homeless Education grant. (She knows quite well that Homeless Liaisons wear multiple hats!)

Pam has also served as a consultant in the Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services at MDE, adjunct faculty at Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo Valley Community College, continuing education coordinator, preschool teacher/director, and sexuality education teacher and trainer.

She holds Bachelors and Masters Degrees from Western Michigan University in Applied Behavior Analysis and Clinical Psychology. She lives in Augusta with one dog, two young adult children (one of whom just started her freshman year of college!), a peacock, and other wildlife that wander across the street from the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary.

## **Sandy Kluskowski**

*Migrant Summer School Director and School Year Title I Teacher*

During her years as a teacher, Sandy has taught grades preschool – second and fourth grade special education. She has a Bachelor's Degree from Western Michigan University in Elementary Education and a Master's Degree from Walden University in Reading and Literacy. She has worked primarily in South Haven Public Schools. This past summer she was the director for the summer migrant program in South Haven, after teaching in the summer migrant program a number of years ago. Sandy wrote the proposal for her district's Early Family Literacy Grant and assisted two talented teachers in implementing the grant. She has a daughter in college and a son in middle school.

## **Michelle Krynicki**

*Instructional Specialist, Godwin Heights Public Schools*

Michelle Krynicki represents Godwin Heights Public Schools in Wyoming, Michigan. Michelle played an important role in change in the elementary curriculum and instruction during her 11 years in the classroom. She became a model educator through collaboration with peers and a willingness to go beyond the school walls to meet the needs of students. With supportive administration Michelle helped define best practices of instruction and change the culture to establish a foundation of success. Today her role as Instructional Specialist allows her to coach teachers in the area of best practices of instruction, analyze data, and make decisions for instruction based on data. As the district and state struggle financially, maintaining the tradition of success is her latest charge.

# Presenter Bios

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## **Mary Lang**

*Principal, Godwin Heights Public Schools*

Mary Lang is assisting the community of Godwin Heights in a variety of ways. As a principal at North Godwin Elementary she not only carries the torch for high expectations for staff and students, but also serves as the district's veteran administrator. She has experience as a classroom teacher, a Reading Specialist, Preschool Director, and Title One Coordinator. Mary brings a strong passion for education to work every day and helps maintain a positive, safe learning environment. She finds the time to make every individual feel appreciated and supported.

## **Mary Larson**

*Educational Consultant for the Michigan Department of Education*

Mary has spent her entire career in public schools, K-12 institutions, with a bit of work in the private sector which included work at a community hospital psychiatric ward, community sheltered workshop, and private speech clinic. Her background is in special education and she has been a school administrator for the past 10 years before signing on with the State of Michigan. Her roles as building principal and district special education director provided a wonderful training ground for her present position. She has a wealth of information to share with school districts and buildings as they work to provide the best education possible for all students. Some of her career highlights include raising student achievement by as much as 75% in some core areas on the state assessment, speaking in Oxford England in 2004 at the Round Table discussion for At risk students, and seeing At risk students graduate after years of stress and no success within the educational system.

## **Raymond Leighton**

*McKinney Vento Monitor, Region 5, Michigan Department of Education*

Ray Leighton retired as Principal from Orchard Center Alternative High School after 35 in K-12. In addition to Mr. Leighton's career working with at-risk students, he served as the homeless liaison for five years and currently serves as the McKinney Vento Monitor for Region 5.

## **Margaret Madigan**

*Assistant Director, Office of Field Services, Michigan Department of Education*

Margaret Madigan is the Assistant Director in the Office of Field Services in the Michigan Department of Education. Margaret oversees office operations and provides Field Services consultants with guidance as they assist districts and public school academies with implementation of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) legislation. Consultants provide technical assistance, review and approve applications, conduct On Site Reviews (monitoring visits), provide consultation on resources and initiatives, and promote collaboration and networking to meet local needs. The Office also works with High Priority Schools and Regional Assistance Teams.

Margaret has nineteen years' experience working with programs at the Michigan Department of Education. Prior to her work with MDE, she has experience as a teacher, administrator, and federal programs director.

## **Kenneth Marks**

*Contract Administrator/ Housing Resource Analyst, Department of Human Services*

Ken is a Contract Administrator for the State of Michigan Department of Human Service for Homeless Youth and Runaway where he addresses the needs of foster youth aging out of care and youth who are homeless with their housing needs. He has a special approach in developing house resources that are unique to the youth population within the urban communities. He has worked for the State of Michigan for over 25 years with youth in a residential care setting and developing independent living skills training for youth who are transitioning to independent living. Ken developed the first of its kind bachelors club for boys while working in the Flint and Beecher Schools as a Community Director. He specializes in organizing programs in hard to serve communities for at risk youth. He holds an Associate's degree in Community Education, Bachelors in Applied Science and credits his "find a way make a way" attitude for youth success.

## **Guillermo Martinez**

*Migrant Program PAC Coordinator, Van Buren Intermediate School District*

Guillermo has worked 35 years in the employment, educational health and training needs of migrant and seasonal farm workers and the Hispanic Community in the state of Michigan. He does public speaking using humor and music regarding the farm worker experience through the musical group, Los Bandits de Michigan. He has been involved in the community through Church, advocacy and non-profit organizations. As an Agricultural Employment Specialist, for the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth, he has a vast knowledge of the agricultural industry and has established an extensive communication network with farmers and agricultural workers.

# Presenter Bios

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## **Pedro Martinez**

*International Partnership Administrator, Summer Migrant, Van Buren Intermediate School District*

Pedro has 29 years of combined experience in migrant education as a migrant, a recruiter, and an instructor and administrator. His former schooling was a B.A. in Education from the University of Michigan and a Masters in Educational Leadership from Grand Valley State University. However, he attributes his most valued education from his parents.

## **Beth McCullough**

*Homeless Education Liaison and McKinney-Vento Grant Coordinator, Adrian Public Schools*

Beth McCullough is the Homeless Education Liaison for Adrian Public Schools and the Homeless Education Coordinator for Lenawee County. She can be found crawling under porches to find homeless youth and visiting aluminum sheds to rescue children who are using a blue tarp as a blanket. Beth received her Bachelors of Arts from Siena Heights University and her Masters in clinical psychology from The Michigan School of Professional Psychology.

Beth is a certified Montessori Teacher, a limited license psychologist, was the director of a domestic violence shelter and then was a psychotherapist and a college instructor for 12 years. She has presented at the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth conference, the Michigan Department of Education state conference on homeless education and has presented at a Congressional Caucus on homelessness in Washington, D.C.

## **Su McKeithen-Polish**

*MISD Bilingual Education/Title III Consultant, Macomb Intermediate School District*

Su is the Macomb ISD Bilingual Education Program/Title III Consultant. Her responsibilities include providing effective support services to English Language Learners in participating Local Education Associations (LEA's), as well as, managing the bilingual department staff of 20+ Bilingual Instructional Assistants and collaborating with Michigan Department of Education. She has over 25 years of experience in education. Currently, she is a doctoral candidate at Oakland University. Her personal background reflects my passion for education and multicultural/multilingual population. She was born and raised in Thailand, and has traveled and lived in many countries, including Laos and Haiti. She is fluent in 3 languages: Thai, English and Lao. While living in Haiti for 3 years, she studied French and continued to do so throughout high school and college.

## **Debra McNally**

*Principal, Kentwood Public Schools*

Elementary principal for 16 years. Taught high school social studies and third grade. Certified K-12, BA in psychology from Aquinas College, MA in Counseling from Michigan State, Administrative Certification. We have been working with intervention strategies for the last 5 years. Balanced literacy in Tier I instruction has been the focus of Kentwood Public Schools

## **Michelle Patton**

*Education Consultant, Michigan Department of Education*

Shelly has been involved in education since she was 15 teaching swim lessons. She has worked as a paraprofessional, teacher and principal in private, public, charter and even in prison schools. Her latest adventure has been working for the State of Michigan as an Education Consultant for the Office of Field Services. Shelly has a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Science and Art, an endorsement in Middle Level Education and a Master's Degree in Educational Administration. She loves education and will spend the rest of her life trying to improve it for children.

## **Jen Paul**

*ELL Assessment Consultant, Office of Standards & Assessment, Michigan Department of Education*

Jen began her career in education as a middle school and high school teacher in the Jackson area. After spending 5 years teaching English, Spanish and ESL, Jen followed a career path to the Jackson Intermediate School District where she managed the development of the Countywide Common Assessment. She also aided districts in understanding their data through the use of Data Director and Data4SS and provided many other professional development opportunities. For the past 2 years Jen has overseen the development of Michigan's English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA) and served as the Bureau of Assessment & Accountability's ELL Assessment Consultant.

# Presenter Bios

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## **Dr. Michael Radke**

*Director, Office of Field Services, Michigan Department of Education*

Dr. Mike Radke is the Director of the Office of Field Services at the Michigan Department of Education. Dr. Radke earned his Doctorate in Educational Psychology, majoring in Learning and Cognition, with minors in Human Development, Research, and Statistics. He spent 23 years as the Director of Medical Education at Sparrow Hospital and Michigan State University Colleges of Human Medicine and Osteopathic Medicine (as the principal and superintendent of a hospital-based school for medical students, interns, residents and fellowships). He has also managed national test development and administration for emergency medicine physician board certification for the American Board of Emergency Medicine, and served two years as a Trustee on the Okemos Public Schools Board of Education. Dr. Radke previously managed MEAP test development and administration for Michigan's K-12 schools in the MDE Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability, and has served as the Assistant Director of the Office of School Improvement, Field Services Unit, managing the distribution and compliance of \$950 million in state and federal grant funds and serving high priority schools in need of improvement.

## **Sara Rainwater**

*English as a Second/Other Language Coordinator, Genesee Intermediate School District*

Sara is the coordinator of the GISD ESL Program and TIII Consortium. She provides support to her consortium members in program administration, funding, compliance, ELL specific school improvement, alternative language direct services, support in ELPA administration, materials, professional development, and parent outreach/communication. The program services over 80 buildings and PK-12 students from more than 40 languages. Genesee County's most populous student linguistic backgrounds are Arabic and Spanish and have students from every continent except Antarctica. Sara is currently enrolled at Oakland University seeking a post-masters degree in leadership with a focus on ELL. Her particular arenas of interest, related to K-12 schools and English language learners include: the evaluation, development and use of assessments affecting LD evaluation / special education placement of simultaneous bilinguals; low-incidence ELL programming (including factors positively correlating with ELL academic success); integration of ELL support services (RTI, TI, TIII, special education).

## **LaVern R. Robinson**

*Wayne County Education Planner, Department of Human Services*

LaVern R. Robinson presently serves as one of the Educational Planners with the Department of Human Services in Wayne County. He holds a BA in Law Enforcement Administration from Michigan State University and a MA in Educational Psychology from Eastern Michigan University. Prior to this assignment with the Department of Human Services he served in the Bureau of Juvenile Justice in several capacities as a Program Manager for serious offenders, Relapse Prevention Programs and Residential programs for young women at W.J. Maxey Boys Training School and Adrian Training School. The major focus of these residential programs was to rehabilitate the youthful offenders and to provide the educational, personal skill development and individual counseling to allow these young adults to achieve their full potential and live full and productive lives.

## **Julie Ross**

*Instructional Coach, Lenawee Intermediate School District*

Julie Ross has been an educator for nearly 30 years. She has worked with both special needs and general education and students from preschool through college. Her passion for understanding the educational implications and applications of brain research has developed over the past dozen+ years and has led to numerous professional development presentations for both school districts and community organizations across the state. It has also resulted in one of her favorite nicknames, "The Brain Lady."

## **Ann Rossi**

*Department Analyst, Michigan Department of Human Services*

Ann Rossi is a member of the Health, Education and Youth Unit at the Department of Human Services. The unit does policy and programming for older youth in foster care. Ann works predominantly in the areas of education and employment. She has been employed with the State of Michigan since January 2009. Prior to coming to DHS, Ann worked for Lutheran Social Services of Michigan, where she was a foster care worker, independent living worker, and then the Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Coordinator. She received both her Bachelors and her Master's degrees in Social Work from Eastern Michigan University.

## **Jane Rudisill**

*McKinney-Vento Region 4 Monitor, Michigan Department of Education*

Jane Rudisill has over 30 years of experience as a teacher, program director, and grant writer at the secondary, adult education, and college levels. She has a B. S. degree in English, an M.A. in English and education, and thirty plus hours in education and related fields at the advanced graduate level. Ms. Rudisill was employed with the Potterville School District for 25 years in adult and alternative education, was director for 14 years, and is currently working part-time on a contractual basis. Ms. Rudisill was director for PSD's M-V grant for 12 years and is currently an MDE M-V monitor for Region 4.

# Presenter Bios

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## **Karen Schneider**

*Director of General Education, Early Childhood and Parenting Programs, Mecosta-Osceloa ISD*

Karen has worked for MOISD for ten years and has been a McKinney-Vento Grant Coordinator for seven years.

## **Nadra Shami**

*Resource Teacher, Dearborn Public Schools*

Nadra Shami serves as a SIOP/BEW Coach in her role as ELL district resource teacher in Dearborn Public Schools. She received her Ed. Specialist degree in Educational Leadership from Oakland University and a Masters in Education with an ESL endorsement from the University of Michigan. She has over a decade of experience working with English Learners and struggling students as an ELL teacher and literacy specialist.

## **Sharon Singer**

*Student Data Collection Analyst, Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI), State Budget Office, Lansing, MI*

Sharon joined CEPI's customer support team in 2006 after ten years working with the Michigan Department of Education's Office of Early Childhood Education and Family Services. In 2008, she became an analyst with the Student Data Team which is responsible for the collection and reporting of student educational data via the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS). Sharon is the lead analyst for the Early Childhood Collection, the Teacher Student Data Link Collection and for reporting migrant student data in the MSDS. Her background also includes five years of experience working in a local school district.

## **Sam Sinicropi**

*OEII Consultant and McKinney-Vento Regional Monitor, Consultant, Michigan Department of Education*

Sam Sinicropi is an Education Consultant in the Office of Education Improvement and Innovation for the Michigan Department of Education, as well as a Regional McKinney-Vento Monitor in the Special Populations Unit of the Office of Field Services. Responsibilities include Homeless Education, Alternative Education, Gifted and Talented, Dual Enrollment, Testing Out, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and Blue Ribbon Schools. Sam has a B. A. and M. A. from Michigan State University. Before coming to the Michigan Department of Education he worked as teacher, building administrator and central office administrator in the Lansing Public Schools and was Superintendent of Saline Area Schools.

## **Maura Sedgeman**

*Resource Teacher Leader, ELL and Compensatory Education, Dearborn Public Schools*

## **Bridgit Smith**

*Teacher, South Haven Public Schools*

This is Bridgit's ninth year teaching in the South Haven Public Schools System! During that time she has taught Preschool and First Grade. She also taught Summer School for Kindergarten and First Grade Title 1 and Migrant students. This past summer she had the opportunity to work with a co-worker to implement the Early Migrant Literacy Program. Bridgit holds a bachelors degree from Western Michigan University and a masters from Walden University. She is married and has two fantastic children.

## **Jason Snyder**

*ELL Director (K-12) Alpine Elementary Principal, Kenowa Hills Public Schools*

Jason was an elementary classroom teacher (2nd/3rd Grades) and varsity soccer coach for seven years prior to becoming the principal at Alpine Elementary and ELL director for Kenowa Hills Public Schools (KHPS). He is beginning his fourth year as principal and third year as ELL director for KHPS. He received his bachelor's degree from Grand Valley State University in Spanish and Elementary Education and completed his master's degree in Educational Leadership from Grand Valley State University.

## **Peri Stone-Palmquist**

*LMSW, MPP, Coordinator, Education Project for Homeless Youth, Washtenaw Intermediate School District*

Peri Stone-Palmquist is the Program Manager of the Education Project for Homeless Youth and has served as Washtenaw ISD's McKinney-Vento grant coordinator since 2006. She has a Masters in social work and a Masters in public policy from the University of Michigan. Previously, Peri served as the director of policy at the Michigan Association for Children with Emotional Disorders, ran parenting and life skills groups for a nonprofit in Wayne County and worked as a newspaper reporter.

# Presenter Bios

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## **Shereen Tabrizi**

*Ph.D., Manager of the Special Populations Unit, Office of Field Services, Michigan Department of Education-Lansing*

Shereen Tabrizi is the Manager of the Special Populations Unit with the Office of Field Services at the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). Along with a professional team of consultants, Dr. Tabrizi oversees several programs including: English Language Acquisition Program, Immigrant, Migrant, Homeless, and Neglected/Delinquent. In her current position, she has led committees that created a Parent Engagement Toolkit, a Program Evaluation Framework, and Entrance/Exit Criteria for ELLs. Shereen works closely with the Program Advisory Committee to implement the newly developed strategic plan that provides a road map for improving programs and accelerating student achievement.

Shereen brings to MDE expertise in the area of school improvement, curriculum instruction and assessment. In her former position as Director of Assessment, ELL & Compensatory Education in Dearborn, she established several research-based programs that led to narrowing the achievement gaps, initiated and led a standard-based report card and balanced assessment system. Dr. Tabrizi strengthened parental engagement in schools and created a system of parental support and outreach by forming and strengthening partnerships with institutions of higher education and community based organizations.

Dr. Tabrizi co-authored two Michigan-Map modules addressing “Student Placement and Services,” and “Use of Assessments to Improve Student Achievement.” In the area of curriculum instruction, she co-authored a K-8 curriculum and several bilingual content-based thematic units. Shereen presented at state and national conferences. She is a former president of the Michigan Association for Bilingual Education, and the Michigan Educational Research Association. In her role as an executive board member of the Michigan Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and ASCD Legislative Committee, Dr. Tabrizi advocated for implementing comprehensive and equitable services that address the “whole child” as well as using valid and reliable state assessments for English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities.

## **Dennis Terdy**

*Consultant, Great Lakes East, Center for Applied Linguistics*

Dennis Terdy has been a frequent national presenter and consultant in the field of English language learners for over 39 years. He currently provides consulting the Center for Applied Linguistics, and consults with English Language Learner (ELL) programs throughout the United States. Authoring one of the first sheltered ELL texts, Content ESL: Social Studies, his interest continues with making academic content accessible to all levels of student language proficiencies.

## **Yvonne Unrau**

*Interim Director, Seita Scholars Program/Professor of Social Work, Western Michigan University*

Yvonne A. Unrau has worked and studied in the area of foster care since 1989. Her interest in foster care began as a family preservation worker in a Canadian family service agency, where she worked with many children at risk for out-of-home placement. She later worked as a treatment foster care coordinator and then went on to earn her doctorate in Social Work from the University of Utah, which was granted in 1995. Her research has focused primarily on family preservation and foster care services, with particular interest in monitor service delivery for the purposes of improve client outcomes, as well as the service delivery experience. She is co-author and editor of several research and evaluation textbooks, and has several published articles that examine the effectiveness of services for vulnerable children and their families. Dr. Unrau is currently Professor of Social Work at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo Michigan. She is part of the core team at WMU that created the John Seita Scholars program, and currently serves as the Founding Director.

## **Katrina VanSlyke**

*McKinney Vento Monitor, Region 3, Michigan Department of Education*

Katrina VanSlyke works for Michigan Department of Education as the McKinney Vento Monitor for Region 3. She began her career working with homeless students and families as the McKinney Vento Homeless Facilitator at Genesee Intermediate School District. Katrina possesses a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with an emphasis working with at-risk students in poverty.

## **Susan Whitener**

*McKinney-Vento Monitor, Region 1 and Consultant to Inland Lakes Schools*

Susan has a MA from Central Michigan University and is a licensed counselor. She has worked with the McKinney-Vento program in various positions for ten years. She began as a grant writer/homeless liaison for Inland Lakes School District. She later went to be a consultant for the expanded program for Cheboygan Otsego Presque Isle educational Service District homeless program. Three years ago she became a consultant for Michigan Department of Education’s McKinney Vento Program and serves as the Region 1 McKinney Vento Monitor. In addition, Susan has 25 years experience working with special populations in private and public sectors, as well as in education. Currently she is also consultant to the Inland Lakes School District Work Force Investment Act youth program and Service Learning Program. Recently she has contributed and participated in State and National homeless webinars and conferences on rural transportation of homeless students and the rights of college bound unaccompanied homeless youth.

# **Presenter Bios**

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## **Michelle Williams**

*Title III and Title IC Contracted Consultant, Michigan Department of Education*

Michelle began her career as a Bilingual Upper Elementary teacher at Hall School in Grand Rapids. She worked with school and district bilingual teams to create models of ESL and bilingual instruction for the different buildings in the district. She began providing professional development to teachers while still in the classroom and moved to an administrative position within the ESL/Bilingual Department at Grand Rapids Public Schools. In 2008, she was hired as the Director of ELL & Migrant Programs for West Ottawa Public Schools. While serving as an administrator in Grand Rapids and West Ottawa, she served on the State's ELL Advisory Committee. In July of this year, she began work as a contracted consultant for Title III and Title IC programs in the Office of Field Services at MDE.

## **Joanne Winkelman**

*Ph.D., Office of Special Education and Early intervention Services, Michigan Department of Education*

Joanne taught in three states - both special education and general education - for approximately 20 years. She has been employed at the MDE-OSE-EIS for 16 years.

# Kellogg Center Map

