

Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Education Center Report of Activities 2021-2023

The Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Education Center (referred to in this report as the Center) has continued the mission to provide an innovative site for early childhood research, teacher and professional training, and high- quality early childhood services to the Southern Nevada community.

Summary of Community Engagement

Total Families/Children Served:

- Spring 2021=110
- Spring/Fall 2022=140

Current/Renewed MOUs:

- Clark County School District (IDEA Part B619 early childhood special education)
- Therapy Management Group (IDEA Part C early intervention play group)

Center Personnel:

- 18 UNLV head staff members (FTE 1.00)
- 7 CCSD staff
- 40 UNLV student workers, part-time (FTE.50)

Coursework and Programs Accessing the Center

- ECE 299 practicum students
- ESP781 fieldwork students
- Project FOCUS Vocational Training/Employment: 3 students
- Early Childhood Assessment Center Access for ECE473 & ESP773
- Doctoral candidate studies

National Accreditation and Quality Rating

The Center again received accreditation renewal through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) in 2018 and forthcoming in Spring 2023. (NAEYC Accreditation maintained since 1994). Center maintained its 5-star rating with the Nevada Silver Stars Quality Rating and Improvement System.

External Funding

American Rescue Plan (ARP)

PI: Claire Tredwell, LBECEC

Funding provided support for meals (\$12,384); new equipment and furniture (\$378,076); updated communications (\$12,385); parent support (tuition stipends for non-CCAMPIS families; \$236,256); and additional PPE, office materials, repairs, and outdoor equipment (\$542,515). Funding source: U.S./State of Nevada \$1,181,280. 2022-2023.

Child Care Access Means Parents In School (CCAMPIS)

PIs: Sunny Gittens, Office of Student Affairs; Jenna Weglarz-Ward, College of Education
LBECEC Director: Claire Tredwell, LBECEC

University United Methodist Child Development Center Director: Chelsie Shurtleff

Graduate Assistant: Yu-Jyuan Ye, Special Education

Funding Source: U.S. Department of Education; \$460,000 per year/4 years. 2021-2025.

This project provides substantial support for UNLV students that are parenting young children birth to 5 years old. This collaborative project across campus provides tuition support for early childhood education at either LBECEC or the University United Methodist Early Development Center; parent education, and additional wrap around activities. Starting in Spring 2022, between 32-35 UNLV students each semester. This project also funds one full-time graduate student.

Continued Funding

Family-Centered Practices for Children with Disabilities during Distance Learning and Beyond:
Supporting Early Childhood Professionals (FCP & Beyond)

PI: Jenna Weglarz-Ward, College of Education

Funding Source: Nevada Department of Education. \$170,479. 2020-2022

Summary of Research Activities

LBECEC Research Open House—November 29, 2022

This event was attended by over 25 people from the university and community to learn about recent research projects taking place at the Center, tour the Center, and network with each other for future projects.

Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Education Center Research Grants

In 2021, we launched the Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Education Center Research Grants to support research at the Center. These grants are designed to provide seed funding to support the development or extension of a research project addressing topics related to young children birth to 5 years old, their families, and/or professionals in this context and intended to stimulate new research and partnerships. These grants were available to faculty and students with College of Education faculty serving as Principal Investigators for budgets up to \$10,000.

2021-2022 Awardees

A Mixed Method Study on the Professional Resilience of Preschool Teachers in their Pursuit of Equity and Quality for their Students during the COVID-19 (data analysis)

Dr. Katrina Liu, Teaching & Learning; Dr. Richard Miller, Music, & Dr. Claire Tredwell, UNLV/CSUN Preschool

Parent Empowerment Survey (PES) Instrument Development (data collection)

Dr. Jungnam Kim, Dr. Ching-Chen Chen, Dr. Katherine Feather, Haeun Lee, Department of Counselor Education, School Psychology, and Human Services

2022-2023 Awardees

Supporting Student/Parents Success Through Understanding Their Needs (S³TUN) (data collection)

Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Marissa Rakos, Jessica Ally, Lissa Love, Stephanie Meza, Early Childhood, Multilingual, and Special Education; Dr. Claire Tredwell, Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Education Center; Sunny Gittens, Office of Student Affairs; Acacia Dorsey, Teaching & Learning

Center-Supported Research Studies

A Mixed Method Study on the Professional Resilience of Preschool Teachers in their Pursuit of Equity and Quality for their Students during the COVID-19 (data analysis)

Dr. Katrina Liu, Teaching & Learning; Dr. Richard Miller, Music, & Dr. Claire Tredwell, UNLV/CSUN Preschool

The Lived Experience of Teaching Literacy and Science with Innovation and Technology in Early Education (data analysis)

Dr. Steven Grubaugh, Teaching & Learning; LeAnn Putney, Educational Psychology, Leadership & Higher Education; Cindy Coleman, Daryl Coleman, Pride Learning

Parent Empowerment Survey (PES) Instrument Development (data collection)

Dr. Jungnam Kim, Dr. Ching-Chen Chen, Dr. Katherine Feather, Haeun Lee, Department of Counselor Education, School Psychology, and Human Services

Family-Centered Practices for Children with Disabilities during Distance Learning and Beyond: Supporting Early Childhood Professionals (FCP & Beyond) (data analysis)

Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Early Childhood, Multilingual, and Special Education

Supporting Student/Parents Success Through Understanding Their Needs (S³TUN) (data collection)

Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Marissa Rakos, Jessica Ally, Lissa Love, Stephanie Meza, Early Childhood, Multilingual, and Special Education; Dr. Claire Tredwell, Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Education Center; Sunny Gittens, Office of Student Affairs; Acacia Dorsey, Teaching & Learning

Teacher Understanding of Behavior: Distinguishing Between Normative and Disruptive Behaviors in Young Children (data collection)

Michela Gearin, Dr. Joseph Morgan, Early Childhood, Multilingual, and Special Education

Recently Completed Studies:

The Effects of Coaching Provided via Video-Conferencing to Caregivers of Children with ASD

Dr. Kendra Antill, Dr. Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Early Childhood, Multilingual, and Special Education

A Parent-Mediated Package to Teach Auditory Tacts to preschoolers with ASD

Dr. Hazim Ismail, Dr. Josh Baker, Early Childhood, Multilingual, and Special Education

Upcoming Studies:

Using Naturalistic Observations to Assess Potential Early Manifestations of Bias

Dr. Jennifer Rennels, Psychology

Evaluation of Timer Type to Increase Delay Tolerance in Preschool Children

Dr. Steven Payne, Turia Penkalski, Early Childhood, Multilingual and Special Education

Examination of the Variability of Hand Scooping Infant Formula

Dr. Richard Rosenkranz, Kinesiology & Nutrition Sciences

The Effect of Maternal History of Child Maltreatment in Latinx Women on the Level of Warmth They Provide Their Preschool-aged Children

Maria Camila Borrero, Dr. Natalie Cort, Clinical Psychology, William James College

Center-Supported Publications and Presentations

Weglarz-Ward, J. M., & Yarczower, M. B. (2022, September). *Supporting family practices through virtual professional development*. Poster session at Division for Early Childhood (DEC) for the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)'s 38th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Disabilities & Their Families. Chicago, IL

Weglarz-Ward, J. M., Tredwell, C., & Wright, M. (2022). [*Continuous quality improvement for early care and education programs*](#). [Interactive learning module for Virtual Lab School at the Ohio State University & U. S. Department of Defense]

Research Advisory Council

Research Advisory Council Members 2021-2022	Research Advisory Council Members 2022-2023
<p>Kendra Antill (Student Member), Early Childhood, Multilingual, and Special Education</p> <p>Alain Bengochea, Early Childhood, Multilingual, and Special Education</p> <p>Andrew Cummings, Psychology</p> <p>Chia-Liang Dai, Teaching and Learning</p> <p>Erin Hannon, Psychology</p> <p>Dak Kopec, Architecture</p> <p>Erica Marti, Civil & Environmental Engineering</p> <p>Amanda Melilli, University Libraries</p> <p>Pricella Morris (Student Member), Early Childhood, Multilingual, and Special Education</p> <p>Sean Mulvenon, Educational Psychology, Leadership, and Higher Education</p> <p>Heather Rappaport, Educational Psychology, Leadership, and Higher Education</p> <p>Jennifer Rennels, Psychology</p> <p>Marla Stanford, Marketing & International Business</p> <p>Claire Tredwell, LBECEC Director</p> <p>Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Early Childhood, Multilingual, and Special Education</p>	<p>Kendra Antill, Early Childhood, Multilingual, and Special Education</p> <p>Alain Bengochea, Early Childhood, Multilingual, and Special Education</p> <p>Yolanda Covington, Advising</p> <p>Andrew Cummings, Psychology</p> <p>Chia-Liang Dai, Teaching and Learning</p> <p>Megan Griffard, Educational Psychology, Leadership, and Higher Education</p> <p>Stephanie Huff (Student Member), Early Childhood, Multilingual, and Special Education</p> <p>Dak Kopec, Architecture</p> <p>Katrina Liu, Teaching & Learning</p> <p>Erica Marti, Civil & Environmental Engineering</p> <p>Amanda Melilli, University Libraries</p> <p>Pricella Morris, Early Childhood, Multilingual, and Special Education</p> <p>Turia Penkalski (Student Member), Early Childhood, Multilingual, and Special Education</p> <p>Heather Rappaport, Educational Psychology, Leadership, and Higher Education</p> <p>Jennifer Rennels, Psychology</p> <p>Gerilyn Slicker, Early Childhood, Multilingual, and Special Education</p> <p>Marla Stanford, Marketing & International Business</p> <p>Claire Tredwell, LBECEC Director</p> <p>Jenna Weglarz-Ward, Early Childhood, Multilingual, and Special Education</p>

Center Staff Accomplishments

Awards and Honors

Dr. Claire Tredwell, Director—*UNLV Administrative Faculty of the Year, Honorable Mention (2021)*

Carl Esteban- *Nevada Early Childhood Educator Award, Nevada Dept. of Education, (2022)*

Staff Certifications Maintained

Center staff are certified in varied assessment tools and are registered trainers for Nevada's professional development programs. Center staff conduct multiple in-house and public training sessions for professionals and families to support early learning in the Southern Nevada community. Annually, the Center supports approximately 60 students in completing professional practicum experiences that lead to educator licensure and degree completion.

Nevada Registry Trainers Trainers: Claire Tredwell, Shin Silver, Eileen Quinn, Yamila DeOliveira, Ruxandra Draia, Jenna Weglarz-Ward

- Understanding Social/Emotional Classroom Supports, Classroom Organization and Instructional Supports, Infant/Toddler/ Preschool Development
- NV State Teaching License: Eileen Quinn, Claire Tredwell

Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale 3 Trainers (ERS): Claire Tredwell

Infant/Toddler Environmental Rating Scale-Revised (ITERS) Certified Trainers: Claire Tredwell

Professional Learning Community Trainer (PLC): Shin Silver

Zero to Three Approved Trainer: Ruxandra Draia

Center Leadership Teams

- Early Childhood Special Education: Claire Tredwell, Shin Silver, Eileen Quinn, Yamila DeOliveira, Shin Silver
- Facilitating Leadership for Inclusive Early Childhood Program Model: Claire Tredwell, Eileen Quinn
- Inclusive Curriculum Development and TSG assessment: Claire Tredwell, Yamila DeOliveira, Shin Silver, Ruxandra Draia, Amelia Jara-Magallanes, Jacquelyn Lopez, Danielle Rice, Justine Morales, Shelae Cadeau, Jusmine Abad, Brenda Aguilar
- Program Operations: Claire Tredwell, Shin Silver, Eileen Quinn, Jennifer Miller, Anais Servis, Nick Hardge
- Pyramid Model Trained: Claire Tredwell, Eileen Quinn, Yamila DeOliveira, Shin Silver, Ruxandra Draia, Danielle Rice, Amelia Jara- Magallanes, Jacquelyn Lopez, Shelae Cadeau, Elizabeth Sanchez-Walker, Laura Callihan
- Nevada Pyramid Model: Jenna Weglarz-Ward