



 **Elmhurst University**  
School of Education

A School of Education Comm(unity)  
**NEWSLETTER**

2ND EDITION

FALL 2024

# INSIDE ELMHURST UNIVERSITY

WE WANT TO WELCOME  
DR. AMANDA (AMY) PASSMORE,  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AND  
DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE  
EDUCATION.



Dr. Passmore received her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois Chicago. She is a former early childhood special education teacher and instructional coach. Her research focuses on teacher leadership

practices among special education providers and promoting inclusive educational practices in early childhood education. Her latest research study seeks to conceptualize how early interventionists and early childhood special education providers experience teacher leadership. Dr. Passmore is an active member of the Council of Exceptional Children's Division for Early Childhood (DEC) research committee and the Early Childhood Intervention Personnel Center for Equity (ECIPC-E). Dr. Passmore advocates for teachers in Illinois through teacher leadership and early childhood coalitions.

## CELEBRATING OUR STUDENTS

IN MAY 2024, WE HAD AN AWARDS CEREMONY TO RECOGNIZE THE RECIPIENTS LISTED BELOW:

**Feldman Education Leadership Award**

Esther Pereira

**Hackman Student Achievement Award**

April Clancy

**Thaskala Education Recognition Award**

Michelle Diaz, Greta Inskeep, Tori Kornatowski, Samantha Pack

**Whitener Scholarship Award**

*Graduate:* Camille Wilczek-Drath

*Undergraduate:* Nausheen Ajmeri, Mateo Gomez Bedoya, Micaiah Brown, Stephanie Chavez, Cassandra Diaz, Jazmin Galan, Marisol Hernandez, Jorge Manjarrez, Sofia Masood, Ava Pollock, Madison Rivera, Mary Sanfilippo, Lauren Snelgrove, Kathryn Sommer

We also celebrated our candidates who completed student teaching and graduated in May. Our keynote speaker was Briana Morales, Illinois Teacher of the Year.



**Samina Hadi-Tabassum,  
Dean of the School of Education**

On October 1, 2024,  
Dean Hadi-Tabassum was awarded  
the Department of Education's  
Hawkins Center of Educational

Excellence federal grant, a value of \$1.98 million. Its purpose is to increase our pipeline of candidates entering bilingual education. The funding will be used to develop dual credit high school pathways to education careers from Hispanic Serving School Districts in the western suburbs of Chicago, \$500,000 in scholarships for bilingual/ESL endorsements, affinity groups for students of color in teacher education, mentoring programs between bilingual preservice and in service teachers and a summer dual language academy for the Midwest.

**Dr. Amanda (Amy) Passmore**

Dr. Amy Passmore presented  
their research at the Division for  
Early Childhood of the Council for  
Exceptional Children International  
Conference in September titled,  
"Perspective on Leadership in

Early Intervention (EI) and Early Childhood Special  
Education (ECSE): Insights from Educators."

**Dr. Kwadwo Oppong-Wadie**

Dr. Kwadwo Oppong-Wadie  
published an article titled,  
"Grounding Culture and Semiotics  
Through the Use of Adinkra  
Symbols: A Phenomenological  
Study" in *Voices for Educational*

*Equity Volume 20, Number 1, July 2024*  
ISSN 2771-8328 "Global Education."

**Dr. Joseph Elliott**

Dr. Elliott presented a paper at the  
Mid-Western Educational Research  
Association Annual Meeting in  
Cincinnati, Ohio in October titled,  
"Model-Based Research for  
Exploring Language Ideologies in

Dual Language Programs." This research-in-progress  
paper shares initial findings from a larger project  
exploring language ideologies, policies and practices  
in U.S. dual language programs using structural  
equation modeling (SEM) and stakeholder interviews.

**Dr. Diana Brannon**

Dr. Brannon has worked  
extensively this year studying  
diverse and inclusive literature  
for elementary students. She  
presented and shared current  
trends in children's literature

with academics and teachers at the National  
K-8 Literacy & Reading Recovery Conference  
in Columbus, Ohio, the National Association of  
the Education of Young Children in Nashville,  
Tennessee and Sharing a Vision Conference  
for the Early Childhood Division of the Council  
for Exceptional Children in Peoria, Illinois. Dr.  
Brannon also conducted a variety of professional  
development opportunities for classroom  
teachers regarding "The Science of Reading" and  
the new Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan.

**Dr. Beverly Troiano**

Dr. Beverly Troiano published the  
following articles, the latter with  
Dr. Simeon Stumme:  
Rumenapp, J., Troiano, B.,  
Adams, M., Moya, J., Lawrence,  
E., & Razfar, A. (2023).

"Developing health literacy events: A case study  
of teachers designing health curricula." *Health  
Education Journal*:

<https://doi.org/10.1177/00178969231180371>

Troiano, B. & Stumme, S. (2023). [Review of the  
book *Study abroad and the second language  
learner*, edited by M. Howard]. *Teachers' College  
Record*. 272.

**Director of Field Experiences:  
Dr. Elizabeth Bell**

We want to welcome our new  
field director, Dr. Beth Bell, who  
helps place our students in field  
sites, collaborates with school  
districts on affiliation agreements

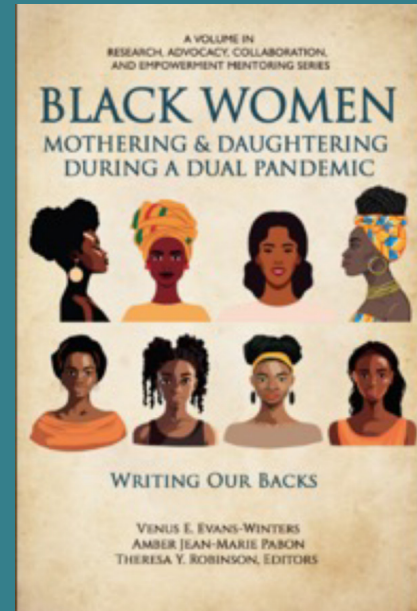
and helped launch a new digital platform  
called Sonia Live, which allows our mentor and  
cooperating teachers to approve the field hours  
completed by our teacher candidates.

If you would like to learn more about the field  
experience, please contact Dr. Bell at  
[elizabeth.bell@elmhurst.edu](mailto:elizabeth.bell@elmhurst.edu).



**Theresa Robinson, Associate Professor of Education; Director of the Noyce PRIDE STEM Teacher Scholars Program; Program Director of Secondary Education**

This book explores the unique challenges and triumphs of a group of Black female psychologists, educators, counselors and community organizers in navigating and balancing motherhood and daughterhood during unprecedented times. Scholar activist Dr. Theresa Y. Robinson provides a narrative grounded in research on best practices in STEM education and her lived experiences as a Black woman in STEM. She tells the story of a community organizing to provide high-quality, culturally relevant STEM education to families impacted by schools closing during the dual pandemics of COVID-19 and racial injustice.



Get your copy here: <https://bit.ly/4blb39U>. Use discount code **\*\*BWM4687\*\*** for an exclusive offer!



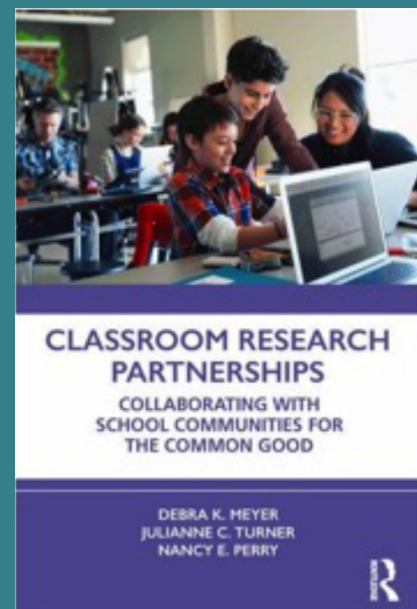
**Debra K. Meyer, Professor of Education**

Dr. Debra Meyer published a book titled, *Classroom Research Partnerships: Collaborating with School Communities for the Common Good* with colleagues Julianne Turner (Notre Dame), and Nancy Perry (University of British Columbia).

Published in early 2024, the book was Dr. Meyer's sabbatical project and explores how classroom teachers and university researchers can partner for the benefit of students, educators and research communities by focusing on five core components: collaboration, equity focused, ethically centered, informed by practice and situated in classrooms.

Please contact Dr. Meyer at [debram@elmhurst.edu](mailto:debram@elmhurst.edu) if you are interested in learning more about classroom research partnerships.

The book is available on the Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group publisher website and in the A. C. Buehler Library. DOI: 10.4324/9781003295266





## DIRECTOR OF TEACHER EDUCATION ADMISSION: WILLIAM SLODKI



We had one of the highest enrollments in the School of Education this academic year. We saw growth in numbers across all programs!

Please contact Bill at [slodkiw@elmhurst.edu](mailto:slodkiw@elmhurst.edu) if you would like to know more about the admissions process.

## FROM THE LICENSURE OFFICE: DR. MICHAEL JANKIEWICZ



Here is the latest news from our Educator Licensure Officer, Michael Jankiewicz, Ed.D.

### TEACHER PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

The Illinois School Code requires teacher candidates to pass a teacher performance assessment during student teaching in order to obtain a professional educator license. ISBE will be creating its own system, procedures and rubrics for a teacher performance system by June 2025. The teacher performance assessment will be aligned to applicable Illinois Professional Educator Standards, Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning Standards and the state's evaluation system. The School of Education will track how their

teacher candidates perform on the new TPA from ISBE.

### CONTENT TESTS

ISBE may allow content test subareas to be scored and retaken separately. ISBE plans to write this allowance into Rules Part 25. Rule updates are expected to be finalized in Fall 2025. Implementation of the updated Rules will be tied to the cyclical redesign of each test throughout the term of ISBE's contact with its testing vendor, Pearson.

### Illinois Professional Educator Standards

Teacher education programs in Illinois are beginning the transition to the new Illinois Professional Educator Standards (IPES). They will replace the current Illinois Professional Teaching Standards (IPTS). All education programs must be aligned to the IPES by September 1, 2026.

Please email our Administrative Assistant, Thanaphat "Bea" Martino at [thanaphat.martino@elmhurst.edu](mailto:thanaphat.martino@elmhurst.edu) if you would like to learn more about information in this newsletter and the School of Education at Elmhurst University.