GUIDE
JUNE 24, 2023 • ASHEVILLE, NC
Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College
WELCOME //

Thanks for joining us at our second annual Impact Early Childhood Education Summit! We’re so pleased to meet you in the Blue Ridge Mountains this year.

This opportunity to share space is essential for collaborating, growing and expanding our knowledge as learners, but most importantly, as a convening of professionals who support young children. Whether you’re joining today as an early childhood educator, childcare provider, parent or caregiver, we value and appreciate YOU. We’ve worked very intentionally to develop a day that promotes the importance of high-quality early childhood education.

This event could not happen without the generous support of our partners and donors, who are dedicated to promoting equity and empowering communities across North Carolina through our public media platforms. Thanks to our local partners, supporters, PBS North Carolina staff and all who have made this event possible. It’s an honor and privilege to share this experience with you.

Warmly,

PBS North Carolina,
Division of Education & Innovation

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Join our virtual summit on Saturday, July 15. Visit pbsnc.org/impact-summit for more info.
SCHEDULE //

8–9 AM .............................................. Check-In & Breakfast
Mission Health/A-B Tech Conference Center

9–9:20 AM .............................................. Welcome
Mission Health/A-B Tech Conference Center

9:20–10:15 AM .................... Keynote by Rodney Stringfellow
Mission Health/A-B Tech Conference Center

10:15–10:45 AM ....................... Break & Partner Playground
Courtyard, Mission Health/A-B Tech Conference Center

10:45–11:45 AM ....................... Breakout Sessions A
Elm Building & Mission Health/A-B Tech Conference Center

11:45 AM–12:45 PM .................. Lunch & Partner Playground
Courtyard, Mission Health/A-B Tech Conference Center

12:45–1:45 PM ....................... Breakout Sessions B
Elm Building & Mission Health/A-B Tech Conference Center

15-Minute Break

2–3 PM ................................. Breakout Sessions C
Elm Building & Mission Health/A-B Tech Conference Center

15-Minute Break

3:15–4:15 PM ....................... Breakout Sessions D
Elm Building & Mission Health/A-B Tech Conference Center

4:15–4:20 PM ....................... Survey
Elm Building & Mission Health/A-B Tech Conference Center

4:20–4:45 PM ....................... Block Party
Elm Building & Mission Health/A-B Tech Conference Center
**KEYNOTE SPEAKER //**

**Rodney Stringfellow** is an award-winning educator, writer and filmmaker based in North Carolina. He is an adjunct professor in film studies at UNC Charlotte, where he teaches courses in screenwriting, film history and video production. In 2014 he received the UNC Charlotte College of Liberal Arts Part-Time Lecturer Award for Teaching Excellence. Previously, Stringfellow taught screenwriting at Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York.

**Children’s Series & Productions**


In addition to his series work, Stringfellow has written touring theatrical productions (*The Backyardigans, Shopkins, PAW Patrol*) for Nickelodeon, Koba Entertainment and VStar Entertainment Group. He has also written for Google’s preschool language program, Duolingo ABC and PBS North Carolina’s *Rootle’s Block Party Live at Home*.

In 2022 he was nominated for Outstanding Writing for a Preschool Animated Program (*Alma’s Way*). He was also honored with two Daytime Emmy nominations for Outstanding Writing/Animation and Outstanding Writing in a Children’s Series (*The Backyardigans*) in 2012.

Previously, Stringfellow served as Director of Development for Dorado Entertainment, a NYC-based television production company that specialized in television programming for children and families.

**Film**

Stringfellow is on the Board of the Charlotte Film Society/Independent Picture House and is the chair of the organization’s Collaboration and Education Committee.

His short film *Manhood* was an official selection in fifteen film festivals and won Best Dramatic Short Film at the 2019 Arizona International Film Festival, Best Regional Film at the 2019 CineOdyssey Film Festival and Most Creative Award at the 2019 Carolina Film Festival. The film was also included in the African American Film Festival’s 2019 Emerging Directors Showcase.

His short film *Everybody Don’t Electric Slide* was named the Best Narrative Short Film at the 2022 Skyline Indie Film Festival and Best Drama at the 2023 Apex Film Festival.

**Education**

Rodney earned his B.A. in Visual Communications Design from Purdue University and his M.S. in Communication Design from Pratt Institute.
The ABCs of Alma’s Way

Join Fred Rogers Productions in this session all about media and literacy. Alma’s Way is an animated PBS KIDS series for kids ages 4–6 that follows Alma Rivera, a proud, confident Puerto Rican girl, as she ventures through the Bronx and learns to think for herself. Hear about how the series’ learning goals are integrated in its storytelling and how Alma models them for viewers.

PRESENTERS
Mallory Mbalia, Fred Rogers Productions
Olubunmi Mia Olufemi, Fred Rogers Productions

Supporting Literacy in Families Experiencing Homelessness

This session has three primary learning goals: clarify the definition of homelessness and how to identify families experiencing homelessness; provide strategies to support literacy in the home or shelter; and provide strategies to support the unique literacy needs of these children in the classroom. The target audience includes teachers, school administrators and homeless service providers.

PRESENTERS
Sharmaine Joyner, The Salvation Army
Deb Thompson, The Salvation Army

From Day One: How ‘The Basics’ Supports Equity in Early Childhood Programs

The Basics is a strategy for whole communities to support vibrant learning and brain development among infants and toddlers. In this presentation, we’ll review the Basics’ five principles and how they connect to the North Carolina Foundations of Early Learning and Development, support families within programs at first contact and can serve as primary and continued resources for community partners.

PRESENTERS
Mary Jo Grieve, The Basics
Crystal Howser, Center for Child & Family Services

Growing Up Wild: Exploring Nature with Young Children

In this hands-on session, explore activities from the Growing Up Wild curriculum, which includes both science standards and a foundation of literacy connections. Step into children’s shoes as you play games, do a quick craft and learn about the wild critters that live in North Carolina.

PRESENTER
Tori Duval, Friends of the Western North Carolina Nature Center
Keeping the Window Open: Continuing Word-Recognition Instruction Past the Primary Grades

Explore opportunities for students to practice word-recognition skills in conjunction with vocabulary skills as instruction begins to transition from “learning to read” to “reading to learn.” Learn to integrate instructional strategies for building foundational decoding skills while developing critical vocabulary knowledge through multisensory, explicit instruction.

**PRESENTERS**
Carrie Bruns, NC Department of Public Instruction
Kelly Pratt, NC Department of Public Instruction

Dialogic Reading: Let’s CROWD the Pages

Learn how to apply Dialogic Reading CROWD (Comprehension, Recall, Open-ended, Wh-, Distancing) prompts to implement these reading techniques in classrooms and homes using culturally diverse children’s books. Practice hands-on writing prompts to reinforce read-aloud concepts building vocabulary, language comprehension and critical thinking.

**PRESENTER**
Dr. Brenda K. Williamson, NC Division of Child Development & Early Education, Durham Technical Community College

Stronger, Smarter, Kinder: Sesame Street in Communities in Western North Carolina

In partnership with Sesame Street in Communities (SSIC) since 2018, Smart Start of Transylvania County is leading SSIC expansion across western North Carolina in collaboration with other regional Smart Start agencies. Learn about the collaborative effort around social-emotional health and addressing trauma in young children’s lives, and how the impact of SSIC in one rural county is now spreading across the region.

**PRESENTERS**
Aiyanna Lollis, Smart Start of Transylvania County
Eileen Mouyard, Smart Start of Transylvania County
Deb Tibbetts, Smart Start of Transylvania County

Everything Happens in the Context of Relationships—So Why Aren’t We Investing in Them?

Building relationships is some of the most important work we do (in fact, it is the work). What can we do to change our perspective about the importance of spending time, energy and even money to develop genuine relationships built on trust and collaboration?

**PRESENTERS**
Daphne Alsiyao, North Carolina Partnership for Children
Mebane Boyd, North Carolina Partnership for Children
Christina Peterson, North Carolina Partnership for Children
Creating Trauma-Sensitive Inclusive Schools: Planning for School-Wide Innovations

Trauma- and resilience-informed education recognizes the powerful impact of individual experience on student success (physiologically, emotionally, psychologically). Student success is enhanced by recognizing trauma and resilience practices as a universal precaution, necessary to optimize learning and development. This session examines the research base on trauma- and resilience-informed practice and what this means in classrooms and schools.

**PRESENTER**
Dr. Lissanna Follari, CTRP-T, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

Tinkering for Tomorrow: A Playful Pedagogy

Explore approaches to expanding pathways for informal STEAM learning and literacy development through child-directed play and nature-based learning experiences. Drawing on evidence-informed programs that support the benefits of playful learning, explore best practices using fun, hands-on activities. Resources for building the foundations of literacy—using nature to scaffold literacy learning and expand STEAM explorations—will be provided.

**PRESENTERS**
Linda Kinney, North Carolina Zoo
Kathy Osborne, North Carolina Zoo

Supporting the Home-to-School Connection Using a Three-Prong Approach

Have you ever “broken” Zoom? We did with this very effective approach to supporting children reach early learning outcomes by empowering caregivers and educators with resources. This session will provide turnkey resources that have been successfully used with our local Head Start programs, including kindergarten readiness skills and social and emotional learning resources. We will share previously recorded sessions for educators and handouts, take-home letters for parents, lesson plans and material lists for resource kits. Information will also be shared on how to use the model to teach topics that are important in your learning space.

**PRESENTERS**
Michelle Imler, WQED
Denice Pazuchanics, WQED
Advancing Latinx Student Success

A growing number of Latinx students are enrolled in North Carolina public schools. Let’s examine how our education systems and leadership can meet the diverse needs of Latinx immigrant families. During this session, we’ll critically reflect on the state of Latinx education in North Carolina and discuss challenges/opportunities within schools to transform these spaces.

**PRESENTER**
Zamantha Granados, LatinxEd

Laying the Foundation: Experiences & Relationships That Promote Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health

Infancy through early childhood is the most critical time for growth and learning as relationships and experiences shape the architecture of a young child’s developing brain. This session draws the connection between early childhood mental health and later academic success, supporting adults in recognizing the ways they can contribute to a child’s growing mental health capacity.

**PRESENTERS**
Kelsey Smith, North Carolina Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Association (NCIMHA)
Julissa Thompson, North Carolina Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Association (NCIMHA)

Address the Stress: Trauma-Informed Approaches to Identify & Reduce Stress

This session highlights how prioritizing responsive relationships and identifying and reducing sources of stress can help adults cope. We’ll practice and emphasize the importance of self-reflection, self-awareness, self-care and cultural responsiveness to build capacity for supporting responsive relationships in childcare settings. Staff of the ITTI Care (Infant/Toddler Trauma-Informed Care) Project, a multilevel trauma-informed approach to promoting workforce wellness and relationship-based childcare environments, will provide an interactive session designed to help prioritize workday wellness, reduce stress and strengthen relationships with coworkers.

**PRESENTER**
Kristy Price, Duke University, ITTI Care Project

Making Connections with Literacy Through Storytelling/Story Acting, Vivian Paley-Style

"Is it my story day?" Dictated stories by young children support emerging literacy skills. Discover ways children's stories and a group's dramatization enhance language development, self-regulation, empathy and classroom community. Storytelling/story acting is an integrated approach that can quickly become part of your daily routine. Join us for guidance in this approach as we build a learning community.

**PRESENTERS**
Christine Gehlhausen, Asheville City Schools Preschools
Pat Tuttle, Independent Consultant in Emerging Literacy
Literacy Instruction Standards for Pre-K: Transforming Research into Practice

Literacy Instruction Standards (LIS) are a set of research-based practices developed by the NC Department of Public Instruction in support of advancing literacy. LIS for Pre-K were developed to include and highlight the unique needs of early learners and early education settings when providing instruction for literacy skills. Educators and caregivers can utilize LIS to inform and guide their practice when working to impact literacy achievement with some of our youngest learners.

PRESENTERS
Carrie Bruns, NC Department of Public Instruction
Sarah Morrison, NC Department of Public Instruction

Let’s Get Messy! How to Facilitate Process-Based Art in Early Childhood Education Classrooms

This presentation will arm teachers with knowledge of what process-based art is and how to facilitate it in their own classrooms. Learn about relevant research, the benefits of process-based art and how to implement it in the classroom, plus engage in your own experience of process-based art.

PRESENTER
Laekan Holzworth

What’s in a Book? Opportunities for Learning Foundational Computational Thinking Concepts for Our Youngest Learners

Did you know that storybook reading not only supports early literacy skills but also helps foster early computational thinking skills for our youngest learners? This session will discuss strategies and approaches to embedding foundational computational thinking skills such as sequencing, conditionals and repetition into everyday storybook reading activities for all young children.

PRESENTER
Jessica Amsbary, FPG Child Development Institute–UNC Chapel Hill

A Systemic Link Between the Absence of a High-Quality Early Childhood Education Experience & K–3 Literacy Skills

The pandemic has shed light on equitable policies and practices that have been in place for years. This presentation dives into how the affordability of early childcare centers plays major factors on our students in kindergarten through third-grade literacy skills as well as their social and emotional well-being. After this presentation, we’ll not only be better advocates but brainstorm action steps to dismantle systemic barriers.

PRESENTER
Tanneshia M. Dukes, Assistant Principal
Let's Go Take a Hike: Outdoor Environments for STEM Learning & Language

Learn the benefits of outdoor environments for promoting children’s language and STEM-focused thinking, as well as executive function (EF) and physical activity (PA). Activity examples will be provided for families, early educators and interventionists. Learn strategies for embedding language and STEM learning into outdoor environments, including formal early childhood education settings and informal community parks, nature trails and greenways.

PRESENTERS
Derek Becker, Western Carolina University Birth-Kindergarten Education Program
Cathy Grist, Western Carolina University Birth-Kindergarten Education Program
Sarah Pedonti, Western Carolina University Birth-Kindergarten Education Program
Myra Watson, Western Carolina University Birth-Kindergarten Education Program

Exploring STEAM: Wonder Is the Key to Wisdom

With a focus on STEAM, this session takes a play-based approach to the integration of twenty-first-century learning and literacy. Expand your knowledge of NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development, experience hands-on exploration and discuss ways to plan for these learning opportunities. You’ll also have the opportunity to authentically embed literacy within STEAM experiences.

PRESENTERS
Brooke Hough, Early Educator Support Office at UNC Charlotte
Tara Kidroske, Early Educator Support Office at UNC Charlotte
Melissa Ledbetter, Early Educator Support Office at UNC Charlotte

Teachable Moments: Spark the Learning

Explore some of the Teachable Moment videos produced by WQED Education and ways to use them with the provided resources to engage families and maximize their learning at home. We’ll inspire you to capitalize on opportunities and prepare you with the necessary information and skills. Build upon a child’s own curiosity using Teachable Moments.

PRESENTERS
Denice Pazuchanics, WQED
Elaine Volpe, Bethel Park Public Library
Social-Emotional Learning Equates to School, College & Career Readiness

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is a lifelong skill, and it’s important that educators and parents understand the practices that foster and promote SEL. This presentation centers around methods grounded in conscious discipline, restorative practices, affective language and mindfulness.

**PRESENTERS**
Dr. Salandra Bowman, SCETV
Denise Bullock
Mallory Mbalia, Fred Rogers Productions
Stephanie McFadden, Alaska Public Media

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The Classroom as Reading Teacher: Cultivating Lifelong Readers & Writers

To support and enhance literacy development in young children, teachers must understand the role of a child’s environment in the developmental process. This session builds on the work of author Brian Cambourne to explore how to enlist the classroom itself as a literacy teaching partner. In this interactive session, discover strategies to promote meaningful language and literacy development.

**PRESENTERS**
Michelle Salcedo, Teaching Strategies
Julia Whitney, Teaching Strategies

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Parental Engagement, Portfolios & Literacy Development with Spanish-Speaking Families

Early literacy skills develop along a continuum that begins in the home, continuing to contribute even after the child begins to attend more formal education. As educators, we can assist parents in creating a positive literacy home environment. This presentation will discuss ways to create opportunities for Spanish-speaking families to engage with their children in the home environment.

**PRESENTER**
Dr. Sandra Ixa Plata-Potter, University of North Carolina at Pembroke

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Supporting Language & Literacy in Preschool & Pre-K

This session reviews how The Creative Curriculum solutions intentionally support language development and literacy learning for children from birth through five years of age, providing actionable suggestions to enhance language and literacy development through a broad range of daily resources as well as other large-and small-group experiences.

**PRESENTER**
Dr. Nicol Russell, Teaching Strategies
Beyond Storytelling: Building Literacy Skills & the Classroom Community

Enjoy an interactive presentation on what storytelling can bring to the classroom community. We'll discuss how to promote literacy through making connections, building problem solving skills, sharing information and allowing children to express what's important to them. This presentation will showcase hands-on, practical ways to bring storytelling alive in the early childhood classroom and beyond.

PRESENTERS
Elisa Klingel, Asheville City Schools Preschool Program
Maria Malone, Asheville City Schools Preschool Program

The Duke Endowment's Summer Literacy Initiative

The Summer Literacy Initiative, a program of the Duke Endowment's Rural Church program, works with rural congregations in North Carolina to combat learning loss in their communities through summer literacy programs for rising first- through third-graders. This session focuses on program implementation and child and family outcomes and includes a panel discussion with directors from three program sites.

PRESENTERS
Helen Chen, Ph.D., Education Consultant
Aleksandra Holod, Ph.D, American Institutes for Research

Computational Thinking for Early Elementary

Explore computational thinking resources from Ready to Learn for preschool, early elementary and the entire family. This content encourages problem solving and critical thinking, flexible mindsets/habits of mind and collaboration. Learn to encourage these skills by providing opportunities for children to use the design process, think outside the box, make connections and develop a flexible mindset through play.

PRESENTERS
Holly Ackerman, KET
Amanda Wright, KET

Early Learning: A Pathway to Equitable Literacy Practices

Early learning and literacy are essential to the development of a young learner’s educational foundation. Equitable interventions ensure that all learners, no matter where they are in their reading journey, receive intervention support uniquely tailored to their specific area of needs. This presentation highlights the importance of ensuring instruction and outcomes that promote reading achievement in all students.

PRESENTERS
Dr. TaVshea Smith, Educator
PBS LearningMedia 101

In this hands-on session, explore the adaptive and multimodal possibilities of PBS LearningMedia. Participants will dive into research-based, classroom-ready digital learning experiences and tools to engage learners in exploring concepts that align with national and state standards. Join to watch, play, explore and share.

**PRESENTERS**
Jennelle Lewis, PBS North Carolina
Angela Wilson, PBS North Carolina

Creating a Literacy-Rich Outdoor Environment

Looking for ways to increase language development and literacy justice for your classroom? The outdoor space is a great way to do that. Join us for an interactive session with information and ideas about how to create a literacy-rich environment for all ages. We’ll provide resources, literacy-setting examples, book ideas, guidance and success stories from programs that have transformed their outdoor spaces.

**PRESENTERS**
Natasha Bowden, Buncombe Partnership for Children
Anya Robyak, Buncombe Partnership for Children

Beyond the Checklist: Building Belonging

Building upon the National Association for the Education of Young Children’s (NAEYC) Advancing Equity in Early Childhood position statement and in alignment with NC Foundations, this session will support the construction of an equitable learning environment for all children. Move from theoretical approaches to actionable practices to impact children’s positive self-identity, appreciation of their own and others’ cultures and support development of belonging in the class community.

**PRESENTERS**
Danielle Caldwell, NCAEYC Equity Circle Facilitator
Margo Ford Crosby, NCAEYC Equity Circle Facilitator
Kelly Green, NCAEYC Equity Circle Facilitator
Tammy Sneed, NCAEYC Equity Circle Facilitator
Connect Four: Language & Literacy at Home & School

Partnerships between caregivers and early childhood professionals can build the foundation for learning to read by engaging in meaningful activities with young children at home and in the classroom. In this interactive session, unpack key components of early language and literacy development, connect skills to NC Foundations and get tips for supporting children’s language and literacy development throughout their day.

**PRESENTERS**
Catherine Burke, Early Educator Support Office at UNC Charlotte
Jessica Burris, Early Educator Support Office at UNC Charlotte
Amy Paschal, Early Educator Support Office at UNC Charlotte

ELM BUILDING, ROOM 103

Learning to Facilitate Meaningful Large-Group Experiences in the Inclusive Preschool Setting

Explore the importance of limiting wait time in the classroom, and learn a variety of ways to keep children engaged during those tricky transition times. Leave the session with make-and-takes that are ready to use, confidence in facilitating large-group math and literacy games, a bank of focus finger-plays and simple songs for meaningful transitions and strategies to engage children with special needs in large-group activities.

**PRESENTERS**
Melody Sentelle, Asheville City Schools Preschool Program
LeeAnn Wright, Asheville City Schools Preschool Program

ELM BUILDING, ROOM 132

Relationships Are the Keys to All Development

This interactive presentation will take you on the Birth to Three Quality Initiative and Babies First NC journey of incorporating Circle of Security (CoS) into our quality-enhancement projects with families and early childhood professionals. CoS is a framework that explains the dynamics of attachment and emotional regulation between a caregiver and a child, the foundation of learning.

**PRESENTERS**
Jennifer Anderson, Child Care Services Association
Asata Virgo, Child Care Services Association

ELM BUILDING, ROOM 208A

Support Linguistic Diversity with PBS KIDS’ Rosie’s Rules in a Meaningful & Relevant Way

A growing number of children in North Carolina speak languages other than English at home. In the PBS KIDS series *Rosie’s Rules*, characters discover what they have in common and celebrate their differences despite coming from different countries and speaking different languages. In this session, explore the benefits of learning a second language. We’ll introduce new vocabulary, review the learning stages of the developmental sequence of language acquisition and create tools for teaching in your classroom environment. Bring back ideas you can use in just about any space and with children of all ages.

**PRESENTERS**
Celia Santos, PBS North Carolina
Angela Wilson, PBS North Carolina
For the Culture: How to Include Diverse Cultures into the Pre-K Learning Environment

Explore how to connect with families from diverse backgrounds to learn about their cultures. This presentation concentrates on innovative ideas that focus on children developing a sense of self inside the Pre-K classroom while considering each child’s home culture. You’ll have the opportunity to navigate through the lens of a young child who is culturally unrepresented inside their learning environment.

PRESENTERS
Jade Miller, Early Educator Support Office at UNC Charlotte
Justina Vaughan, Early Educator Support Office at UNC Charlotte

Fluency & Comprehension: Emphasize the Process, Not the Product

Explore the relationship between fluently read words and reading comprehension. Reading comprehension is an active, constructive exchange between the reader’s mind and the text itself—much of comprehension is “invisible.” This is where we make a distinction between the process of constructing meaning and the products that are produced to show the evidence of the process.

PRESENTERS
Dr. Donna Albaugh, NC Department of Public Instruction
Jenni Wilkinson, NC Department of Public Instruction

Let’s Learn Kentucky: Creating a Kindergarten Readiness Resource for Parents & Caregivers

Have you been looking for a resource that delivers a consistent and clear message to parents and caregivers about the ways in which they can best support their child’s kindergarten readiness? Well, help is here. Join KET (Kentucky Educational Television) to learn how it partnered with key stakeholders to fill a gap in resources and steps you can take to do the same.

PRESENTERS
Holly Ackerman, KET
Amanda Wright, KET

Supporting Families in Navigating Early Childhood Transitions

Explore the kinds of concerns that families have about transitions, and discuss strategies to support families from diverse backgrounds during transitions, from early intervention services to special education preschool services followed by kindergarten. Also learn of resources that will aid professionals and families in navigating early childhood transitions as well as tools for family engagement.

PRESENTERS
Terri Leyton, Exceptional Children’s Assistance Center (ECAC)
Beverly Roberts, Exceptional Children’s Assistance Center (ECAC)
### Using Stories to Support Young Children Who Are Grieving Family Death

Through didactic and small-group discussion, explore how stories told verbally through books and play can support young children in their grief and healing after family death, in addition to developing their literacy and social-emotional learning.

**PRESENTERS**

Cheri Coleman, Book Harvest
Mary Wise-Kriplani, Advancing Resources for Children Project at the Center for Child & Family Health

### Family Engagement: Partnering with Families to Support Learning

This session considers the “what, why and how” of authentic partnership with parents/families to support children’s learning and literacy. We’ll discuss the guiding principles of family engagement from NC’s Family Engagement and Leadership Framework and share the key ingredients to partnering with families, drawing from Head Start’s Relationship-Based Competencies and tips from the parent-led advocacy organization MomsRising. The session includes interactive activities on benefits/challenges, plus opportunities for participants to share practical tips on what works.

**PRESETER**

Alexandra Morris, MSW, Division of Child Development & Early Education, NC Department of Health & Human Services
AMBASSADOR Program

Local educators, parents, caregivers and community leaders make a tremendous impact within the early childhood education space. PBS North Carolina has developed the Rootle Ambassador Program to celebrate and support their work. Rootle Ambassadors give us the opportunity to equitably reach classrooms, communities and homes across the state with curriculum-informed content and resources. Learn more at pbsnc.org/rootle-ambassadors or email rootle_ambassador@pbsnc.org.

Anson County ................. Caroline Goins
Ashe County ................... Sara Kesterson
Beaufort County ................ Jennifer Walker
Bertie County .................. April Swain
Bladen County .................. Amanda Pate
Cabarrus County ............... Friday Okure
Caldwell County ................ Julie Overby
Catawba County .............. La’Gentry Ross
Chatham County .............. Sheen Klaus
Cherokee County .............. Brenda Millett
Clay County .................... Bridget Wilson
Cleveland County ............. April McClain
Craven County .............. Sandra Ixa Plata-Potter, Ph.D.
Davie County ................. Allison Lambert Gupton
Duplin County ............... Amanda Sanderson
Durham County .............. Steven Harrison
Edgecombe County .......... Jackie Kearney
Forsyth County ............... Brooke Hough
Gaston County ............... René Crump
Greene County ............... Yuvonka Davis
Guilford County .............. LouMecia Staton
Harnett County .............. Brandy Powers
Henderson County ............. Latisha Miller
Iredell County ................... Sydney Taylor
Jackson County ............... Jody Miller
Johnston County .............. Dr. Faith Jackson
Lenoir County ................... Jennelle Lewis
McDowell County ............ Chastity Gouge
Mitchell County .............. Ruthie Styles
Nash County ................ Sesa Woodard
New Hanover County .......... Yolanda House
Northampton County ....... Dr. Stacey Henderson
Pasquotank County .......... Faith Mosley
Pitt County .................... Deirdre Ingram
Randolph County ............ Lisa Hayworth
Robeson County ............. Connie Locklear, Ed.D
Rockingham County .......... Latasha Dalton
Rowan County ................ Ermalyn Jaec
Transylvania County .......... Erika Brock
Wake County .................. Twanna Joyner Jones
Watauga County .............. Jenna Kissel
Wayne County ................. Tameka Allen
Wilson County ............... Krista Keith

PBS NC TRAINERS

Andrea Ausby
James Sebastian Byers
Andrea DeGette
Khalilah Gilmore
Jason Lineberger
LaToya McCrimmon
Celia Santos
Angela Wilson

Jennifer Sarmento
PBS Digital Innovator
We gratefully acknowledge those whose financial support enables PBS North Carolina to provide equitable access to lifelong learning opportunities across our state and beyond.

Mr. David E. (Woody) Clinard
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Dianna & Jeffrey Goodman
The Carlson Family Foundation
Alice & Britt Preyer
The Donald & Elizabeth Cooke Foundation
Dr. Ann Barefield
Jeanie & Tom Cottingham

The William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust
The Burroughs Wellcome Fund
The F.M. Kirby Foundation
PNC Foundation
The Dickson Foundation

The North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services,
Division of Child Development & Early Education
The North Carolina Department of Natural & Cultural Resources
The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
U.S. Department of Education
See you next year in eastern North Carolina!

– PBS NORTH CAROLINA’S EDUCATION & INNOVATION TEAM

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