

Quality Montessori - practice & assessment

All sessions, in person & virtual, are on Saturday November 12, 2022

All workshops are 90 minutes

7:30am - Symposium doors open

Check in at the MEPI table and receive a tote filled with items from MEPI.
Relax - have some coffee or tea and morning breakfast items to begin our day!

9am - 10:30 Session 1-A Maximize Time - Mini lessons that Follow the Child

Hear how to assess and monitor progress when students are immersed in reading and writing and how to grab on to “re-teaching” moments during individual practice.

There are essential elements that can accelerate students’ progress and confidence as readers & writers.

Theories and strategies by *Marie Clay’s Reading Recovery* will be shared which enhance Montessori’s work to support reluctant readers and writers.

Ladene Conroy is an experienced (over 40 years) educator, coaching and advising teachers & principals in the private and public sector. She was asked to be the “turn-around” principal for 4 schools and the Charleston County District’s Montessori specialist. She helped open 2 Montessori schools and has worked with under-resourced students - an important and joyous work in challenging situations.

9am - 10:30 Session 1-B State Standards and Montessori

The Montessori Method of Instruction does not need to conflict with state standards.

This session talks about how the standards can be successfully integrated and not affect the fidelity of Montessori education.

Marcia Baxter has over 45 years in public education both as a teacher and administrator. The last 22 years, her focus has been on literacy - serving as a literacy coach since 2000. Her undergraduate degree is from U of SC, and a Masters from Clemson U and has an additional 66 hours in Administration and language and Literacy

9am - 10:30 Session 1-C Intentional Connections: A Guide for Parent Engagement

Parent/Teacher partnerships aren’t automatic - especially in the busy lives of working families.

Parent engagement requires deliberate action on the part of the teacher to develop a relationship between child, teacher and home.

There is a need to intentionally create and prepare that relationship with the same attention as preparing our classrooms.

Practical strategies will include tools for effective parent conferences, discussing both successes and challenges, parent education, at-home volunteerism, and easy parent/child home activities.

Dorothy Harman is an AMS EC credentialed and retired public school Montessorian. She holds a BA in Early Childhood, and a M.Ed with an emphasis in Integrative Creative Arts. she is an instructional guide for CGMS and Adjunct lecturer at the U of Nebraska-Kearney. She has authored “*Connections: A Practical Guide to Parent Engagement in Early Childhood & Lower Elementary Classrooms.*”

Break

10:45 - 12:15 Session 2-A Renew & Re-energize our Role as Montessori Guides

As Montessori educators, we know the importance of preparing and environment that genuinely serves the needs of the child and adolescent.

Dr Montessori also asks the guide to give that same attention and care to their own self-preparation

Join this workshop to renew and reflect upon our self-preparation that must precede all other work in our practice.

Melody Mosby is a lifetime Montessorian with 40 years’ experience as a practitioner for the young child and the adolescent in Montessori education. She holds an AMI advanced elementary diploma and Secondary Montessori Certification for MEPI. She is the program director for MEPI’s Adolescent training. Melody has been a frequent presenter at our MEPI conferences facilitating workshops that specialize in the transformation of the Montessori Guide.

10:45 - 12:15 Session 2-B Assessing Developmental Environments: DERS & MEFS *

How do we measure classroom quality in a developmental environment?

Learn about the intersection of

DERS - Developmental Environment and Rating Scale and **MEFS** - Minnesota Executive Function Scale both of which are used to assess Montessori environments and student development.

Hear how to best foster skills like executive functions, social & emotional development and linguistic and cultural fluency.

Katie Brown works for the National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector as the Director of Research and Professional Learning. She holds a PhD in urban Education from UNC Charlotte, where she studies outcomes for African American students in public Montessori. She is an adjunct faculty member at Whitworth University and adjunct researcher at the U of Kansas. Her recent research has focused on creativity, executive function, and distance learning during the pandemic.

* **Note:** Katie will be joining us virtually to present her workshop.

12:30 - 1:30 Lunch Buffet

1:45 pm - 3:15pm Session 3-A Role of MACTE Accreditation

The Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE) is the only nationally recognized accreditor for teacher education by the US Department of Education.

What does that mean for you? For your program? For your graduates? To the public? and why do it?

Dr. Rebecca Pelton, the President of MACTE, will help us understand the importance and the role accreditation plays in the quality of our programs. Time will be spent on the process of accreditation and how you can be actively involved in that process. In addition, time will be given to participants for an "ask us anything". Please come and join this important conversation.

Dr Rebecca Pelton has been active in the area of national accreditation for over 20 years. Prior to her work with MACTE, she served as the Vice President for Membership for the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC). Rebecca taught in public and private schools for over 20 years. She earned her doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Delaware. Her tenure at MACTE is based on her commitment to supporting Montessori teacher and leadership preparation and thereby improving the educational experience of Montessori students.

1:45 pm - 3:15pm Session 3-B MEPI School Accreditation

Having the highest standards for your school and staff will create the best environment for your students.

Come see how this process works for your school and how you can begin embarking on the path of excellence for your school, your staff, your students and the families you serve.

Claire Salkowski has worked worldwide in various Montessori roles from school administrator, teacher educator, curriculum director, and school/staff conflict mediator. She is the Chair of the MEPI School Accreditation committee and a member of the Board of Directors.

Break and snacks

3:30 pm - 5:00 Session 3-C Grappling with Quality - a plenary session for all

You have attended the workshops and taken notes.

Now is the time to pick the brains of the workshop presenters in this interactive informational discussion.

Questions you ask will help others and, with the professional guidance of the presenters, begin to brainstorm solutions, and glean additional information or clarification not covered in the sessions.

Registration Rates: \$150 - includes all meals and foods served during the Symposium

\$100 - virtual attendance. Link and instructions will be sent to you prior to the Symposium

\$100 - partial attendance - morning only (no lunch) or afternoon only with lunch.

Register [HERE](#)

Lodging Information at Kiawah

Lodging has been reserved for the lovely villas on site at a special rate for attendees. Each has full kitchen, washer/dryer, free WiFi, free parking. Lodging check-in begins at 4:30pm.

Call Kiawah Reservations: 800-654-2924 and use **Booking Code 19712**

Email for Reservations: reservations@kiawahresort.com and include **Booking Code 19712**

1 bedroom Scenic View Villa = \$149

2 bedroom Scenic View Villa = \$189

Registration rates increase Oct.15, 2022 by \$50.

Registration closes Nov 1, 2022

Cancellations honored to Oct. 15 less \$40.