



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York
Fall 2022 Edition

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOLS



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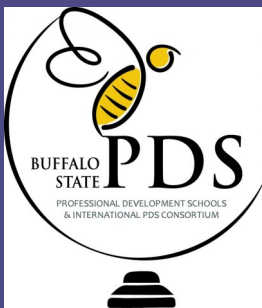
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Created by Chloe Mokadam Graduate Assistant

WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dr. Keli Garas-York
PDS Director
Professor,
Elementary Education,
Literacy, and
Educational Leadership
Program Director,
Literacy Specialist



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Hello Partners,

I hope you had a wonderful autumn. Fall 2022 was a busy time for Buffalo State's Professional Development Schools (PDS) Consortium. The semester began with an exciting online PD session entitled "Creatively Solve the Real Problem with Dr. Roger Firestien" and "Problem Solving through Visual Journaling with Alexa Kulinski" on September 10, 2022. This well-attended two-part online workshop was organized by Dr. Mary Wolf and funded by a PDS Action Mini-Grant.

Also in September, PDS was proud to be a co-sponsor of the Teacher Tailgate event on campus. Buffalo State teacher candidates gathered in the Campbell Student Union Social Hall to find out about all the opportunities available to them by the Buffalo State community. Clubs, departments, programs, and offices had informational tables to advise teacher candidates about ways to enhance their college experience, discover available supports, and meet peers, faculty, and staff. Everyone enjoyed pizza and snacks ahead of a Bills Monday Night Football Game on September 19, 2022.

The month wrapped up with the annual PDS Conference on campus. The day opened with an inspiring talk by Buffalo's very first Poet Laureate, Jillian Hanesworth. If you missed it, check out Jillian's poetry and her initiative to bring little, free libraries to Buffalo's East Side at jillthepoet.com. There was also an energizing mix of paired concurrent sessions from PDS partners. The conference ended with a keynote address from the New York State Teacher of

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The Professional Development Schools (PDS) Partnership between the School of Education and the Teacher Education Unit (TEU) at SUNY Buffalo State and participating schools is a collaborative effort. The partnership is dedicated to college faculty, school administrators, practicing teachers, and teacher candidates exploring effective practices to: (a) cooperatively mentor teacher candidates and provide close connections to authentic classroom practice; (b) promote shared professional development for all constituents; (c) impact student learning; and (d) research innovative and best educational practices.

VISIT US ON THE
WEB:

pds.buffalostate.edu

WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR (CONTINUED)

the Year, Carly Santangelo. Please join us on September 29, 2023, for next year's PDS Conference.

During October, the graduate assistants and PDS student representatives (reps) prepared their research proposals for the National Association of Professional Development Schools (NAPDS) conference in March 2023 in Jacksonville, Florida. The students have an eclectic mix of research topics that will likely attract many attendees to their presentations. Thank you to all the faculty members who spent time mentoring these students.

The international program associated with PDS was officially named the Michael and Nancy Chicola International Professional Development Schools Consortium in October. Recruitment was back on for the popular program this fall after a pandemic pause. Teacher candidates from across the Buffalo State Teacher Education Unit will once again be traveling on short-term, faculty-led, study away trips in 2023. A group is headed to Torremaggiore, Italy in January for 3 weeks. As well, there is a group headed to Cabarete, Dominican Republic in January. The Experienced Educator Exchange will also be up and running again in February. A group of practicing educators will travel to Medellín, Colombia over winter break. If you are interested in finding out more about these experiences and/or reading and responding to student blogs, please check out the website - <https://pds.buffalostate.edu/international-pds>.

PDS was a co-sponsor of the Pet-Themed Family Fun Event at the Buffalo State Child Care Center in November. Please read more about this wonderful event in this issue of the PDS newsletter.

As the fall semester is coming to an end, there is so much to be thankful for. It is my privilege to work with such a strong, knowledgeable, and loyal group of partners dedicated to helping grow Buffalo State's teacher candidates into the very best teachers.

Keli Garas-York
PDS Director

INTRODUCING THE NEW GRADUATE ASSISTANTS



Jennifer Greene Childhood Education & Early Childhood Education, M.S.Ed., '23

“Working with the PDS faculty and student representatives is teaching me how to collaborate effectively as a team. This is an important skill that is needed for success in education in any capacity.”

Jennifer Greene is a current graduate assistant for the Elementary Education, Literacy & Educational Leadership (EEL) and Professional Development School departments (PDS). She received her undergraduate degree in Health Studies at Brock University in Ontario, Canada. She is now working towards her M.S.Ed in Childhood Education and adding Early Childhood certification via the MIITC program. Jennifer loves working with children and helping them achieve their full potential.

She has a love of learning that is infectious and

hopes to instill that into her future students! Also, she is planning to continue with her academic career by working towards her EdD or PhD after graduation.

2023 NAPDS Conference Research Presentation:

Jennifer’s research is focused on how the international abroad experiences, both short-term faculty-led, and student teaching programs, affect beliefs and practices regarding cultural diversity in the U.S. elementary schools. Pre and post surveys to collect data before and after travel will be investigated.

INTRODUCING THE NEW GRADUATE ASSISTANTS



Chloe Mokadam Science Education, M.S.Ed., '23

“I love working with the PDS department. It is wonderful to see how committed the School of Education is to providing teacher candidates with as much class-room experience as possible and how focused they are on ensuring that those class-room experiences are rich, valuable learning opportunities for teacher candidates through PDS. My opportunities to learn in PDS partner schools last semester were very formative and have helped shape how I imagine my future as an educator.”

Chloe Mokadam is a graduate assistant for the School of Education. She received her undergraduate degree in Biology from Buffalo State, as well as a Master of Arts in Biology. Currently, she is completing the Master of Science in Science Education program. Chloe is a nature enthusiast and loves spending her spare time outdoors. She has worked with the Buffalo State Arboretum for the past 5 years on various projects, including cataloging the trees on campus and developing tools so that the Arboretum may be used as an outdoor classroom. She loves fungi and can often be found in local parks foraging for edible mushrooms. She hopes to spread her love for nature through teaching and looks forward to becoming a high school biology teacher someday soon.

2023 NAPDS Conference Research Presentation:

In traditional science teaching, biological sex is framed as a dichotomy between male and female. However, within natural world and our own species, biological sex is often more complicated than this simply binary. This oversimplification has many ramifications, especially for students with intersex conditions. Thus, it is important for science educators to learn and emphasize the true complexity of biological sex. Chloe’s presentation will address this issue, possible solutions, and opportunities for partnerships between schools and universities.

INTRODUCING THE NEW PDS REPRESENTATIVES



Hailee Cipollina Exceptional Education, B.S., '24

“Because of PDS I have been exposed to more opportunities to make so many strong connections not only at other schools but at Buffalo State as well.”

Hailee is a junior in the Exceptional Education department with a concentration in Spanish. She is a PDS representative as well as Vice President of a local sorority on campus, delta Delta Phi Zeta. Hailee loves spending time with her family and friends as much as she can. She also has a strong passion for traveling and her next trip is to the Dominican Republic with Buffalo State’s IPDS program!

She decided to become a teacher because she wanted to make a difference in students’ lives. She has always loved working with children and enjoys seeing the joy they have. She wants to help students learn and become the best version of themselves. She wants to help students grow not just academically but in their everyday lives outside of school.

In the future Hailee hopes to teach abroad for a few years. She wants to work with children from all walks of life and help them become who they want to become. PDS has allowed Hailee to make so many great connections to be able to have such great opportunities to follow her dreams.



Summer Grandinetti Childhood Education & Early Childhood Education, B.S. '24

“Because of PDS, I have become more involved in understanding curriculum and classroom strategies.”

Summer is a senior working towards combined majors Childhood Education and Early Childhood Education and loves to be involved on campus here at Buffalo State. She is a PDS rep and is involved in the Future Teachers Club. In her PDS school she works at King Center Charter School and helps the faculty develop science curriculum for the students that is easier to use and more convenient for the teachers. Outside of school she works in a childcare facility and adores the students that she works with and truly enjoys what she does! She also loves to play soccer, rock climbing, and watching the Buffalo Bills!

Summer’s research focuses on teachers’ surveyed responses to their Amplify Science Kits. Science teachers struggle with making sense of these elaborate kits. Surveys pre and post assistance via teacher candidates of unpacking and organizing these kits will provide the data collection needed to assess the ease of using these kits in their classrooms

INTRODUCING THE NEW PDS REPRESENTATIVES

Sofia Fanizzi

Early Childhood Education, B.S., '23



“Because of PDS I have grown academically and had a lot of professional experience I wouldn't have had before.”

Sofia Fanizzi is a senior working toward an undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Education. As vice president of the Future Teachers Club, a member of the Muriel A. Howard honors program, and a resident assistant, she is incredibly involved on the Buffalo State campus. Aside from her clubs and activities, she also likes to spend time with her nine siblings when she has the chance.

Sofia decided to become a teacher because she finds it easy to work with children and enjoys it so much that it doesn't feel like a job. She credits Dr. Reichenberg, a professor in the literacy department, with encouraging her to become involved with Professional Development Schools. Through PDS, she has been able to work with children and gain more experience in classrooms, even before student teaching.

In the future, Sofia plans to become a preschool teacher or work with children as young as infants in a daycare setting. If the opportunity arises, she would love to study abroad and learn about education in other countries. Her ultimate goal is to eventually complete a Master's program in child psychology to learn more about the ways children learn. No matter what she does, she knows the opportunities afforded by PDS will help her achieve her goals!

Sofia's research is focused on how well the Montessori method of education works here in the United States. Her presentation will include a literature review of articles outlining the Montessori method at the preschool level and will discuss the results and their implications in the United States.



Cassandra Thurn

Childhood Education & Early Childhood Education, B.S., '23

This is Cassandra's first year as a PDS representative. She also serves as the President of the Future Teachers Club. Cassandra is a senior studying Early Childhood/Childhood Education with a concentration in Liberal Arts. After receiving her bachelor's degree, she will continue her education at Buffalo State in the graduate literacy program. Her dream is to become a kindergarten teacher and eventually go back to school for her administration degree. If Cassandra isn't caught doing schoolwork, she is at her part time job working as a patient care representative. She also teaches young kids to ice skate at the Buffalo State arena on the weekends.

Cassandra's research focuses on literacy instruction. Her presentation will look at changes in literacy instruction over the span of 30 years in education noting changes in delivery and instruction of elementary school teachers.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT AT THE BUFFALO STATE CHILD CARE CENTER

On November 2nd, the Buffalo State's Child Care Center collaborated with Professors Kathy Doody and Patty George to host a Family Fun Event for the Center's students and families that was supported by a PDS Mini-grant.

Children and families were invited to rotate through pet-themed stations that presented activities and materials that span the relevant domains within early childhood (literacy, academics, speech/language, social-emotional, and physical) all within the common theme of pets. Families participated in the featured activity and often left the station with a finished product (a dog collar, a book about pets, etc.) Some stations required physical activity, such as navigating an obstacle course with their "pet" (stuffed animal), similar to the agility courses featured at the Westminster Dog Show. Students in EDU 513 – Theory, Research and Practice of Literacy Instruction, EXE 612 – Managing the behavior of young children with disabilities EXE 652 – Interventions for young children with disabilities, staffed all aspects of the event with the help of Future Teachers Club volunteers.

The evening opened with a welcome from Dean Paterson (and her puppet sidekick, Baby Monkey) and an overview of the important connections throughout time between animals and humans from Dr. Krista Vince-Garland.

Additionally, dogs from [Paws for Love](#), an animal therapy visitation program sponsored by the Erie County SPCA, were on hand to visit with the children and families. This arrangement allowed children who are comfortable with the animals to seek their comradery and allow children who are less comfortable to admire them from a safe distance.

There were more than 50 children in attendance, almost 70 parents/family members, about 35 student volunteers, administration, several Board members, and SOE faculty, for a total of over 180 people.

By: Dr. Kathy Doody and Ms. Patty George





Family Fun Night 2022



PDS PARTNERSHIP AT HOLMES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Our unique PDS partnership at Holmes Elementary School provides EXE majors seeking dual certification in childhood education & childhood special education, a 9-hour block of coursework, that promotes the acquisition of literacy practices needed to support diverse learners. “Working together to provide evidence-based best practices in literacy instruction to ensure the growth of all learners into literate, knowledgeable, and humane human beings” is the shared vision that guides our Holmes Elementary PDS liaison team. This co-created vision statement reflected our belief that students’ access to knowledge and rigorous education is an equity issue (Braetz, 2022) that we are both passionately

and collaboratively committed to. Two important elements that contribute to the success of this partnership are: 1) an intentional blending of best practices to create an aligned and authentic classroom-based learning experience and, 2) a commitment to broadening and deepening Holmes students’ knowledge of the world beyond their lived experiences.

Dr. Jan Richardson’s book, “The Next Step Forward in Guided Reading (2016),” is a key resource used by both Ken-Ton elementary teachers and our Buffalo State Candidates. Preservice teachers and veteran teachers sit side by side and study, implement, and reflect on shared literacy practices. These practices are the basis for small-group guided reading lessons, large-group literacy lessons, assessments, and interventions. The benefits of having an aligned curricular focus and a similar belief in targeted and differentiated literacy practices have resulted in mutually beneficial growth opportunities for our mentees, mentors, professors, and most importantly Ken-Ton students

Our liaison team also recognized that for our Holmes students to become truly successful, we needed to do more than ensure that they acquired important reading skills. We needed to immerse them in content-rich material, deliberately exposing them to sophisticated vocabulary and



PDS PARTNERSHIP AT HOLMES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

ideas. In conceptualizing a project that would embody this vision, we leveraged local resources at Buffalo State College as well as the specialized expertise of science and classroom teachers to create a PDS project that was not only locally relevant and engaging but also academically rigorous. Teacher candidates taught whole-group literacy lessons aligned with the New York State ELA (2017) and Science Learning Standards (2016) - specifically focusing on Earth and Space Sciences. They then organized and led a field trip to Whitworth Planetarium where students learned about the solar system and participated in an engineering lab where they created their own “space transporter”, applying engineering and modeling principles. This incredibly motivating experience grew directly from our liaison team's shared vision.. Holmes elementary students not only grew their knowledge base as they applied meaningful comprehension strategies, but they also had their first encounter with a college campus, which planted seeds for their future ambitions and dreams.



By: Mary Lavin & Dr. Andrew Hashey

IPDS COSTA RICA



Since 2012, the Buffalo State School of Education has provided opportunities for teacher candidates to teach and study on five continents through the (newly renamed) Michael and Nancy Chicola International Professional Development Schools (IPDS) Consortium. As IPDS has grown, so have efforts to collaborate with faculty and engage students from across grade levels and academic disciplines. New and current IPDS programs are consistently developing, all focused on the goal of helping individuals at any stage of their education trajectory to globalize their understanding and experience of education and to foster individual relationships with school and community partners across the globe.

IPDS is pleased to announce that program leaders Tamara Horstman-Riphahn of the School of Education Office of the Dean, Pamela Schuetze of Psychology, and Angela Patti of Exceptional Education are developing a new opportunity for Buffalo State students to experience Costa Rica.

This past November, Horstman-Riphahn and Schuetze traveled to the capital city of San José and the small town of Uvita in order to organize program details and fortify relationships with school and community partners. This new program will include Spanish language immersion courses and homestays provided by Personalized Spanish, service-learning at a preschool center, field experiences at Escuela Flor de Bahía including bilingual teaching and learning and classroom instruction, cultural activities and encounters with Costa Rican food and traditions, and ecological explorations of the flora and fauna throughout the country and surrounding the famed “Whale Tail” on the southern coast.

The inaugural IPDS Costa Rica program is tentatively scheduled to be a spring 2024 course with 2-3 weeks travel in Costa Rica during May/June 2024. This program is particularly well-suited for PK-8 teacher candidates, science educators, and students whose program or interest center on child development. Visit the IPDS Costa Rica website for updates: <https://pds.buffalostate.edu/costa-rica>

By: Tamara Horstman-Riphahn

IPDS COSTA RICA



PDS CONFERENCE 2022

This year's PDS conference, held on Friday, September 30th, was attended by over 100 PDS partners, including school administrators, classroom teachers, Buffalo State faculty, teacher candidates, and alumni, who convened to share the fruits of their ongoing research and discuss a variety of topics related to education and PDS partnerships.

The morning was highlighted by a visit from Buffalo's first Poet Laureate, Jillian Hanesworth. Jillian discussed her experiences in education – from growing up on the East Side, a community disenfranchised by decades of racist city policies, to her struggles as one of few Black college students at SUNY Fredonia. Importantly, she emphasized how her love for reading and the attention of a few, dedicated educators not only supported her through her educational struggles (including a surprising dyslexia diagnosis during her time at Fredonia) but also ignited her passion for poetry. Jillian performed a handful of her poems, including the haunting “Little Black Boy” written in response to the 2014 murder of Michael Brown. Children's books were



collected to support Jillian's ongoing library box project, Buffalo Books, that has brought over 40 library boxes to the East Side. Jillian will be holding a hybrid in-person and virtual writing workshop for teachers entitled “Teachers are Writers’ through Just Buffalo Writing Center on Thursday, December 15th.



Presentations and discussions related to PDS partnerships, ongoing research, and a variety of topics relevant to educators filled the afternoon. As the sessions wound down, attendees reconvened to hear from the New York State Teacher of the Year, Carly Santangelo. Carly has been a classroom teacher for 10 years and currently works as a middle and high school agriculture teacher at Cuba-Rushford. Carly spoke about her efforts to bring authentic

PDS CONFERENCE 2022 (CONTINUED)

learning experiences to her students, including her adventures in raising chickens and writing grants to enrich her teaching through field trips and guest speakers. Santangelo also emphasized the importance of building community both in and outside of school, describing her journey of supporting a student as they pursued their personal goal of earning a drone pilot's license.

We would like to thank this year's keynote speakers, presenters, and attendees for a successful 2022 PDS Conference!

By: Chloe Mokadam



Upcoming Events



Save the date!



March 1, 2023

**Calls for PDS 2023
Conference Proposals
Open**

March 3, 2023

**South Buffalo Charter
School PDS Consortium
Meeting**

March 23-25, 2023

**Buffalo State PDS Team
Travels to NAPDS in
Jacksonville, FL**

April 18, 2023

IPDS Beyond and Back



Thank you to all who contributed to the writing of
the newsletter!