



**BUFFALO STATE**  
The State University of New York

Spring 2022 Edition

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOLS

Created by Karly Glowny, Graduate Assistant



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BuffaloStatePDS



@buffalostatepds



**Dr. Pixita del Prado Hill**  
PDS Co-Director  
Professor,  
Elementary Education,  
Literacy, and  
Educational Leadership



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

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## WELCOME FROM THE CO-DIRECTORS

Dear PDS community,

We write this letter to let you know about leadership changes to the Buffalo State PDS Consortium. We are so pleased to welcome Dr. Selenid Gonzalez-Frey as the new PDS co-director to begin the 2022-2023 academic year as Pixita moves to the position of chair for the Elementary Education, Literacy, and Educational Leadership Department. Please see page 2 of this newsletter to learn more about Selenid. Keli will continue as a co-director, and we are excited about the new and dynamic directions for PDS at Buffalo State. Please join us in welcoming Selenid!

Sincerely,  
Pixita and Keli

### A note from Pixita:

It has been an honor and a true pleasure to serve as the Buffalo State PDS co-director since 2012 with Leslie Day, Sue McMillen, and Keli Garas-York. This position has provided the amazing opportunity to meet so many wonderful new and experienced educators and school leaders while getting to know a variety of schools and communities. What I love most about PDS is the way collaboration is used to meet common goals and that PDS provides a helpful framework while encouraging flexibility in response to the unique aspects of each partner within the Consortium. I wish you my best as you move forward in your partnership work!

**Professional Development Schools**  
Bacon Hall 320  
Buffalo State College  
1300 Elmwood Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14222

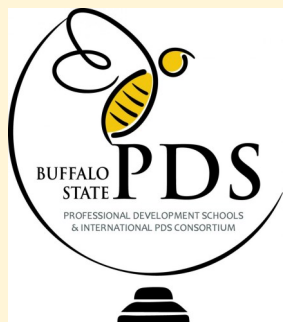
The Professional Development Schools (PDS) Partnership between the School of Education and the Teacher Education Unit (TEU) at SUNY Buffalo State and participating schools is a collaborative effort. The partnership is dedicated to college faculty, school administrators, practicing teachers, and teacher 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](http://pds.buffalostate.edu)

## INTRODUCING THE NEW PDS CO-DIRECTOR DR. SELENID GONZALEZ-FREY

When transitioning from being a teacher to my higher education academic career, one important professional goal was to always find a way to have a direct connection to schools and classrooms. Starting at Buffalo State College almost two years ago, the PDS consortium has enhanced an already rewarding experience and has helped me to reach this goal. Working with my PDS partner school has enriched my teaching of EDU 311. Creating a partnership with Niagara Charter School has been organic and seeing the great environment they provide for their students and my course's teacher candidates grounds my teaching. It has been equally rewarding being on TEUPAC (PDS Advisory board). The emphasis on connecting with stakeholders such as teacher candidates, teachers, and schools is important and one that I have embraced by working with stakeholders to present at both the NAPDS and PDS conference. Further, equal emphasis on scholarship is a major draw. I have enjoyed involving my teacher candidate students in research and presenting. It was also a rewarding experience working with a PDS student representative during the Fall 2021 semester as she created a poster presentation and presented at NAPDS.



Each new endeavor with PDS has been joyful, invigorating, and professionally fulfilling. I look forward to my next step as PDS co-director with Dr. Garas-York. The leadership and mentorship by Drs. Garas-York and del Prado Hill is beyond comparison and one I am continually learning from and grateful to experience.

With Gratitude,

Selenid Gonzalez-Frey

## NAPDS CONFERENCE 2022 PRESENTATIONS BY PDS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES AND GRADUATE ASSISTANTS



**Presenter:** Karly Glowny – PDS Graduate Assistant  
**Title:** Community School Characteristics of Lafayette International Community High School

*The focus of the research was to take a deeper look at a PDS partner Lafayette International Community High School and the community outreach programs the school offers to its students and families within the West Side community of Buffalo. Many people who reside on the West Side of Buffalo are immigrants. 100% of the students at Lafayette receive English as a New Language services, and over 45 different languages are spoken at the school.*



**Presenter:** Klihtoo Paw - PDS Student Representative  
**Title:** The Effect of Literacy Professional Development on Different Stakeholders

*The research focused on how different stakeholders, such as faculty, teachers, teacher candidates, experience a literacy professional development provided as part of an initiative to help start the 2021 school year called All Hands On Deck, (AHOD). I focused on the professional development sessions about literacy instruction. The audience for the presentations was diverse in that all types of PDS stakeholders were in attendance. Thus, the information presented had the potential to be received and used in diverse ways. I used a survey to determine the different perspectives of these stakeholders.*



**Presenter:** Emmett Baggett – PDS Student Representative  
**Title:** Finding Balance: Art Teachers' Perspectives on Balancing Their Roles as Artists and Art Teachers

*Art educators find themselves in the unique position in which their own experience as artists can have a great impact on how they teach art to students in a K-12 setting. The relationship they have to their own artistic practice informs the way they share important artistic concepts, lessons, and methods with the students they teach in their classroom. I explored the ways in which several art educators in the WNY area view the significance of their personal art making practice and how that practice can potentially inform their role as art educator.*

## NAPDS CONFERENCE 2022 PRESENTATIONS BY PDS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES AND GRADUATE ASSISTANTS



**Presenter:** Chelsea Simmeth – Elementary Education Graduate Assistant

**Title:** Importance of Play in College Students

*This project focused on play in the college environment and how college educators use play in their curriculum to increase students' creativity and learning. Play has an important role in how one learns and how they experience learning. Teachers and teacher candidates can model these activities and styles to see the benefits in their own classroom.*



**Presenter:** Sofia Fanizzi – PDS Student Representative

**Title:** Supportive Practices for Preschool Students Entering Kindergarten in 2021

*This project sought to better understand how the expected changes due to the Covid-19 pandemic affected student preparedness for kindergarten. Additionally, the project investigated the Marcellus Central School District publicly accessible kindergarten screening tool, kindergarten expectations of students and families and transitional support information.*



**Presenter:** Cassandra Thurn – Future Teachers Club President

**Title:** Re-building Future Teachers Club

*The COVID pandemic was devastating to many student clubs and opportunities for student leadership as colleges focused on social distancing and the many challenges to teaching and learning. As we emerge from the pandemic, some colleges are trying to rejuvenate clubs and student leadership. PDS provides a nurturing context for the reemergence of student leadership opportunities. This project explained how we have re-energized the Future Teachers Club at Buffalo State and how collaboration with PDS has helped get this year off to a strong start for student leadership. As President of the Future Teachers Club, I shared some successful initiatives that we have taken and some challenges that we have encountered along the way.*

## COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL OF BUFFALO WELCOMES GLOBAL BOOK HOUR

The School of Education's Global Book Hour has found a new home at the Community Music School of Buffalo! The Global Book Hour initiative relies on strong community partnerships that embrace the ideals of the Global Book Hour program. The teachers and leaders at CMS understand the value of promoting family literacy, accepting and integrating culturally diverse families and providing a rich, integrated program that promotes the arts, especially music. Located at 217 E. Delavan Avenue, the music school provides a community space that is easily accessible to local families of varied cultural and economic backgrounds.

Global Book Hour's debut at the Community Music School during the Fall 2021 semester, found Buffalo State teacher candidates feeling right at home in the music school's large recital space. As families gathered each week, the prospective teachers implemented well planned read-alouds that incorporated art and music activities and encouraged family engagement. To celebrate our partnership with the Community Music School, at the close of each GBH session, teacher candidates and families gathered together to sing "One Light, One Sun" by Raffi. After all, as the song goes, "one world is home for everyone" at Global Book Hour!

By Kathy Gramza



## SOUTH BUFFALO CHARTER SCHOOL LITERACY NIGHT

On Wednesday, November 17, 2021 the South Buffalo Charter School kindergarten through eighth grade students and their families were invited to participate in a Literacy Night. This night was made possible with support from a PDS grant, collaboration by Buffalo State College faculty, and their Junior Participants from literacy methods courses. The event provided a fun way for students to practice various literacy skills beyond their regular classroom instructional routines.

In preparation for the event teacher candidates spent the Superintendent conference day creating engaging materials and activities for the Literacy Night stations and for the take-home bags. The JPs from Susanna Schenk's sections of EDU 311 and Dr. Jennifer Reichenberg's EDU 511 developed and presented the activities for the Literacy Night creating multiple stations as well as support materials for the families to take home to reinforce the skills presented during the event. The work the JPs did to develop the materials meant that the teachers and administrators did not have to spend time before school or during instructional time working on the Literacy Night. In addition to the structured activities created by the JPs the two hour event also included guest speakers focused on reading and writing. Two local authors, Tom McDonnell (*Monster in the Morning*) and Stephanie Parwuls (*Beatrice and the Sunflower Gift*) read their books, discussed their writing process, and signed copies of their books.

The grant through PDS provided 25 families in need the opportunity to take home one of the authors' signed books. In addition, the grant bought a copy for every classroom, a class set of each book, and copies for the library. The materials created by the JPs are available when a class set is used or when children borrow the library copies.

Family engagement is a key factor in a student's academic success. Research shows that a child who lives in a house where reading is fostered and books are readily available perform significantly higher in all academic areas. The Literacy Night taught families how to work with their children using games and other engaging materials that were created by the JPs. The home/school connection that was fostered at the Literacy Night will continue beyond the two hours spent at the stations and will help to increase student achievement in literacy.

As a result of this project and the successful evening event, the Buffalo State JPs learned how to create meaningful lessons to support literacy instruction for both school and at-home settings. The JPs got to see the value of fostering meaningful experiences for families to help create literacy competence for their present and future students.

By Susanna Schenk

# SOUTH BUFFALO CHARTER SCHOOL LITERACY NIGHT



## DAY OF SCHOLARSHIP

On January 22, 2022, PDS collaborated with the SOE Dean's Office to sponsor the Day of Scholarship. There were ten attendees (faculty and school partners) who collaborated and/or worked independently on a variety of scholarly endeavors. Look for the results of their work in upcoming PDS newsletters and on the PDS website (<https://pds.buffalostate.edu/>). Be sure to save the date for the next Day of Scholarship on Wednesday June 1, 2022, from 9:30 am-2:30 pm.





# Siena

## STUDENT TEACHING



**Jillian**  
SOCIAL STUDIES ED



**Eve**  
ELEMENTARY ED



**Nick**  
MUSIC ED

# congratulations!

**THESE SUPERSTARS ARE COMPLETING THEIR SPRING  
2022 STUDENT TEACHING PLACEMENTS IN ITALY**

IPDS Siena Student Teaching is an International Professional Development Schools program that provides two 8-week student teaching placements - beginning in Western New York and completed at the International School of Siena in Italy. Participants experience life at an International Baccalaureate (IB) school and Project Based Learning (PBL) teaching methods and live with local host families.

**FOLLOW THEIR JOURNEY THROUGH THEIR BLOGS AT:  
[HTTPS://BUFFALOSTATEIPDSSIENA.WEEBLY.COM/](https://buffalostateipdssiena.weebly.com/)**

*The cohort is led by Kerry Renzoni and Jill Gredwell with support from Nancy Chicola and Tamara Horstman-Riphehn.  
Learn more at <https://pds.buffalostate.edu/international-pds>*



# SUNY Buffalo State PDS Consortium Call for Proposals 2022

**September 30, 2022 at SUNY Buffalo State  
Campbell Student Union**

**Paired Concurrent Session:** 20-minute professional presentation of school-university partnership work to inform PDS Consortium members of best practices and/or action research paired with another 20-minute session each followed by a five-minute discussion

**\*\*\*This is a change from previous years\*\*\***

**Poster Session:** visual display exploring an educational topic (posters displaying undergraduate and graduate student research are welcome)

**Note:** Special preference will be given to proposals that are submitted jointly among the various constituencies of the PDS (faculty, mentor teachers, school community-based leadership, and/or teacher candidates).

**Please submit the following information using the link or QR code  
by June 1, 2022**

- Names of all presenters
- Email addresses of all presenters
- Preferred session type (Paired Concurrent or Poster)
- Title of presentation
- 3-4 sentence description of the presentation (for the 2022 PDS Conference Online Program)



[https://buffalostate.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_4J9D9Zvq47jSmOi](https://buffalostate.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4J9D9Zvq47jSmOi)

For questions, please email Keli or Selenid at [garasyka@buffalostate.edu](mailto:garasyka@buffalostate.edu) or [freysm@buffalostate.edu](mailto:freysm@buffalostate.edu)

# PDS Consortium Meeting: Sharing Best Practices

**April 29, 2022, from 10:00 am-1:00 pm**  
**Tapestry Charter School**

**Sponsored by**



**Address:** 111 Great Arrow Avenue, Buffalo 14216

## **School Leadership:**

Eric Klapper, Executive Director K-12  
Jennifer Pangborn, CAO

## **Agenda:**

10:00-10:20 Brunch and Networking

10:20-10:30 PDS Welcome, Announcements, and Updates/Brunch

10:30 Tapestry Welcome/Brunch

10:50-12:30 Sharing Best Practices:

- Exceptional Education Success
- Mindfulness & Wellness as a Curriculum
- Mental Health & Family Engagement
- Supporting Teachers
- Commitment to Equity in Our Community
- Survey and Wrap Up

12:30-1:00 School Tour

**Please register by April 13<sup>th</sup> using the link or the QR code.**

**[https://buffalostate.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_b1LQYwkKiaS1d1s](https://buffalostate.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b1LQYwkKiaS1d1s)**



## **Parking and Meeting Location:**

\*When entering the lower school campus, located at 111 Great Arrow, please enter through the driveway which is located closest to Elmwood Ave. Proceed around the entire building and park in the lot IN FRONT of the school. There is also parking on the street.



# PDS

## SPECIAL EVENTS

MAY 2, 2022 One year later → MAY 1, 2023

Join us for a conversation about promoting **middle school reading & building libraries** featuring books by Jason Reynolds

Location: SUNY Buffalo State  
E.H. Butler Library: Curriculum Lab

Time: 4:00 - 5:00 PM

Special presentation by author **Jason Reynolds** as part of the Bulger Lectureship Series

Location: SUNY Buffalo State Social Hall



To register for May 2, 2022:



"Let's all read, because books are windows to the world"

Or go to:  
[https://buffalostate.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5vWXqmUzfqsh4Vg](https://buffalostate.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5vWXqmUzfqsh4Vg)



## JASON REYNOLDS VISITS BUFFALO STATE SPRING 2023

“I'm writing all the books I wish I had when I was a kid.”

Jason Reynolds

PDS is delighted to announce that:

On May 1, 2023, Jason Reynolds, a #1 New York Times bestselling author, will be visiting and speaking at SUNY Buffalo State as part of the Bulger Lectureship Series. Jason Reynolds is the current National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. The New Yorker, in their August 2021 profile of him, calls him a “superstar in the world of children's lit” (Rumaan, 2021). He writes books and poetry that youth, particularly, middle-grade audiences can connect with and understand.

Within this mindset and to help promote the building of libraries, mini grants have been awarded to fund projects and books by Jason Reynolds. Many teacher candidates are using these books to learn about literature circles, teaching writing, and creating resources for their partner schools. Additionally, some partner schools have been supported by the mini grants to receive books to build their libraries. For example, Niagara Charter school's 5th and 6th classes now have class sets of *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds. During his visit to our campus, middle school students from our partner school will also be invited to listen and learn.

There will be a series of events about building libraries and promoting middle school reading leading up to Jason Reynold's event. The first will take place May 2, 2022, at the E. H. Butler Library in the Curriculum Lab. We also will have events surrounding this theme during the Fall 2022 semester including during our PDS Conference on September 30, 2022.

Save the dates! We look forward to building libraries with you!

Alam, Rumaan. (2021, August 9). Who Jason Reynolds writes his best-sellers for. The New Yorker. <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/08/16/who-jason-reynolds-writes-his-best-sellers-for>

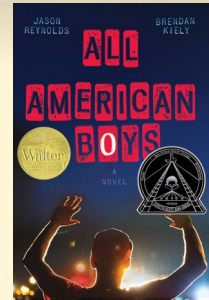
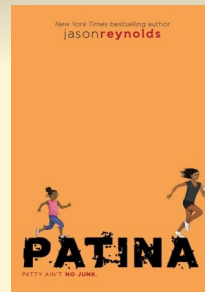
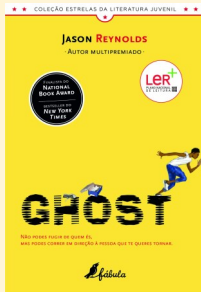
## JASON REYNOLDS VISITS BUFFALO STATE SPRING 2023



Two PDS EDU 311 students helping to bring copies of *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds to Niagara Charter School

Jason Reynolds

#1 New York Times bestselling author



## THANK YOU TO ALL PDS STAKEHOLDERS!

Buffalo State has been preparing educators for over 150 years. Since 1954 we have received continuous accreditation, a hallmark of quality assurance. External peer review of our preparation programs occurs every 7 years, most recently by the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). After a multi-year self-study, a site visit was conducted March 13-15 where faculty, candidates, alumni, school partners, and other stakeholders participated in interviews with CAEP. Participants spoke about Buffalo State's preparation practices, procedures, and their experiences in the classroom, on campus, and in the community. We highlighted our partnerships, assessment practices, and high-quality clinical education efforts over the three-day visit. We were pleased (but not surprised) that the site visit team concluded that we provided sufficient evidence to support each of their preparation standards and had no areas of deficiency. Indeed, quality and strength of our programs were highlighted!



We thank everyone who took time over the three-day visit to participate in one (or more) of the interviews. Sharing your experience and expertise was a very valuable part of this process and we could not have done it without you. The strength of our Professional Development Schools Consortium was clearly a highlight and one that we cherish.

Thank you, all!

-Dr. Shannon Budin



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