



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York
Spring 2024 Edition

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOLS



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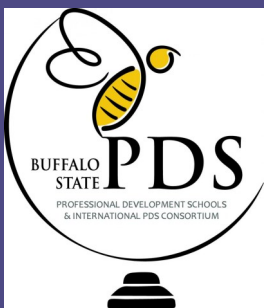
@buffalostatepds

Created by Janinna Farragher, Graduate Assistant

WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTORS



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



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Dear PDS colleagues,

I am pleased to have the opportunity to introduce myself to our Professional Development Schools Consortium members. My name is Sherri Weber, and I am honored to join this esteemed community dedicated to advancing knowledge and fostering student success.

With a background in collaborating across many different PDS schools for the last 11 years, I am excited to bring my passion in continuing to build and sustain the special relationships of school-university partnerships we have shared since 1991.

Pixita del Prado Hill will be returning to PDS as the other co-director, and we are eager to connect with each of you to further enhance the educational experience of all members of the Consortium. We believe strongly in the power of collaboration and look forward to contributing to the ongoing dialogue and development of the PDS Consortium.

I am grateful for the warm welcome I have received thus far and am excited to embark on this journey together. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or ideas you may have, as I am eager to learn from each of you and contribute to our shared goals.

Warm regards,

Sherri (and Pixita)



**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

NASUP CONFERENCE & RESEARCH

At the end of March, students, faculty and partners of Buffalo State University traveled to Anaheim, California to attend the 2024 NASUP Conference. During this conference, participants presented and facilitated their research to other conference participants. Research presented highlighted topics like PDS History, IPDS Experiences, Mentorship, Technology, Mathematical Critical Thinking, Teacher Preparation and Reflection.



Selen Yucel, Bailey Buckley, Sarah Pratt, Hailee Cipollina and Janinna Farragher.

Presenters: Hailee Cipollina

Title: The Use of Sign Language in Teacher Preparation Programs in Lusaka, Zambia and Buffalo, USA

My travels and experiences with sign language led me to this line of research. The goal of my research is to find out where sign language fits in to teacher preparation programs in the United States and Zambia.

Presenters: Janinna Farragher

Title: AI in the Art Room

This presentation will explain my findings related to Artificial Intelligence in art classrooms and how this technology impacts teachers, students and the art community.

NASUP CONFERENCE & RESEARCH

Presenters: Keli Garas-York

Title: Historical Perspectives on School-University Partnerships

This presentation will describe the origins and evolution of school-university partnerships. Attendees will take a trip through history and unpack the research and theoretical perspectives that brought school-university partnerships to where they are today.

Additional Presentations : “Collaborative Conversations: University-Based Faculty”, “Are you interested in joining the NAPDS Leadership Team?”, “Introducing The Cambridge Handbook of School-University Partnerships.”

Presenters: Andrew Hashey & Hailee Cipollina

Title: Centering Reflection in Professional Growth: Preparing Profession-Ready Teachers through PDS Partnerships

Reflective ability refers to teachers' ability to notice important teaching moments, to use their knowledge of evidence-based teaching approaches to analyze instructional decisions, and to apply insights from this process in their future teaching. Stakeholders in a PDS partnership will showcase the ways in which they have integrated reflection activities as a tool for professional growth throughout a block of undergraduate literacy courses. The presenters will highlight how video-based reflection has impacted teacher candidates' knowledge and pedagogy through the scaffolded and explicit modeling of effective reflection practices and how it informs faculty and supervisor perspectives in PDS settings.

Presenters: Tamara Horstman-Riphahn, Brandon Kawa & Bailey Buckley

Title: Evaluating the Transformative Influence of a Teach-and-Study Away Program on Alumni: Cultivating Skillful, Empathetic and Broad-Minded Educators and Citizens Through a Globalized Exchange of Thoughts and Ideas

This research examines the transformative impact of SUNY Buffalo State University's School of Education's International Professional Development Schools (IPDS) consortium. The study assesses the lasting influence of this faculty-led teach and study away experience on participants, exploring personal, professional, and pedagogical changes. Using mixed methods, we analyze pre- and post-travel reflections and evaluations, along with an alumni survey. Preliminary findings suggest alumni experience personal growth, increased cultural sensitivity, and enhanced teaching practices. This research highlights the value of international professional development in shaping educators' lives, fostering a global perspective, and better preparing them for diverse student populations.

NASUP CONFERENCE & RESEARCH

Presenters: Sarah Pratt

Title: Improving schools with research, not convenience

This project researched how school systems run based on studies regarding schedules, timing, and duration. It may be shared with parents and elected officials to respond to the current and changing school schedules to benefit all those involved in education.

Presenters: Jennifer Reichenberg, Gina Dudkowski & Michelle Gallagher

Title: A Mentor Academy Supports Teacher Professional Growth Throughout the Career Span

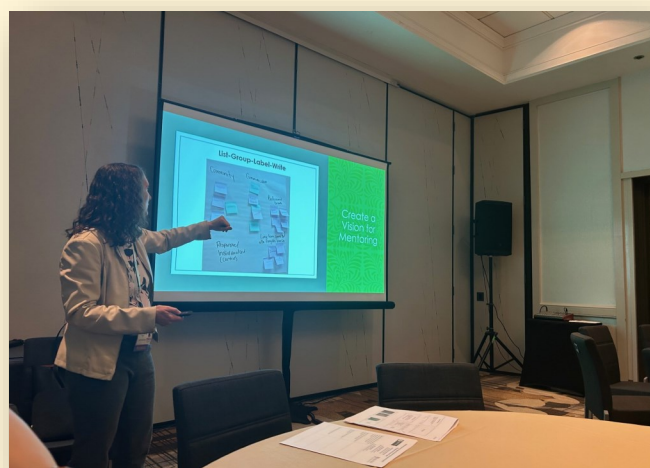
Presenters will describe a Mentor Academy that was a collaboration between the university and the PDS. The purpose of the Academy was to create mentor facilitators to support schoolwide expert mentoring of methods teacher candidates, student teachers, first year teachers, teachers new to the school, and teachers new to a grade level or other teaching situation. The Mentor Academy met monthly and was facilitated by a university faculty member and teacher liaison at the school with support from the school administration. Key features of the Academy, scaffolds for implementation, and mentor facilitators' perceptions will be highlighted.

Presenters: Selen Yucel

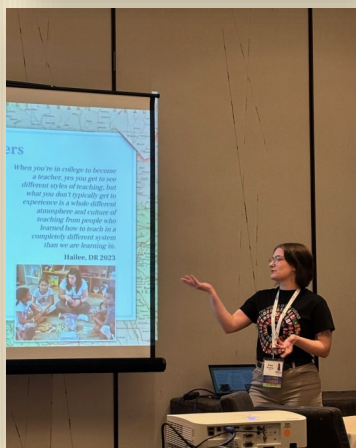
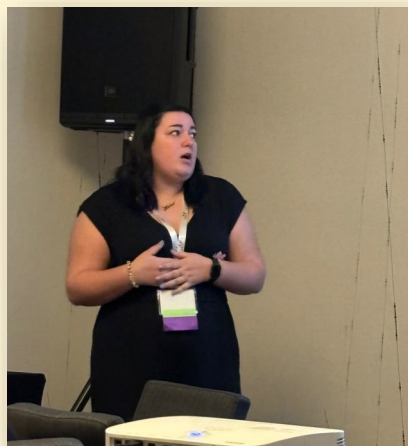
Title: Promoting A Deeper Understanding of Arithmetical Calculations and Critical Thinking Skills in the Lower Elementary Mathematics Education

This is an examination of highly engaging activities that promote critical thinking in early elementary mathematics classrooms. My research further investigates how playful activities get students to be engaged in mathematical problem solving. I believe that the use of tools such as measuring tapes allows students to further develop their mathematical understandings in a hands-on fashion and provide a tangible context to transfer concrete concepts into their abstract counterparts.

NASUP CONFERENCE & RESEARCH



NASUP CONFERENCE & RESEARCH



NASUP CONFERENCE & RESEARCH



Thank you to all participants for a job well done!



CALL FOR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Our candidates...

- Are current students in any Buffalo State education major (secondary, K-12, exceptional, childhood, early childhood education).
- Will be participating in field experience and/or methods courses.
- Posses leadership qualities and the ability to work as a part of a professional committee as evidenced by employment or volunteer experiences.



We encourage all faculty and students to invite teacher candidates to apply!

For more information visit our website <https://pds.buffalostate.edu> and view all of our past PDS representatives and their work.

Or email: garasyka@buffalostate.edu

Dr. Keli Garas-York
PDS Director



BEYOND & BACK : WHERE CAN BUFFALO STATE TAKE YOU ?

On March 5th, Michael and Nancy Chicola International Professional Development Schools (IPDS) Consortium held its 6th annual Beyond and Back event in the Campbell Student Union. Beyond and Back is an opportunity to hear from IPDS participants and to learn about the many ways to become involved in classrooms and community centers abroad. This event welcomes the entire campus community to an informational and reflective session focused on IPDS opportunities; it provides students who are interested in expanding their global perspective with an inside view and helpful directives for working in or experiencing international educational settings. On March 5, a panel of alumni shared their individual reflections and stories of participating in IPDS and the transformative personal and professional growth they experienced abroad. Panelists spoke and answered questions about a variety of topics from the first application step to where there are now.

Students seeking more information about IPDS programs – including short-term teach and study away programs and student teaching abroad – can visit the IPDS website at <https://pds.buffalostate.edu/international-pds> and on social media at <https://www.facebook.com/BuffaloStateUniversityIPDS/> and <https://www.instagram.com/buffalostateipds/>



BEYOND & BACK : WHERE CAN BUFFALO STATE TAKE YOU ?



THANK YOU TO ALL
PARTICIPANTS AND
ATTENDEES

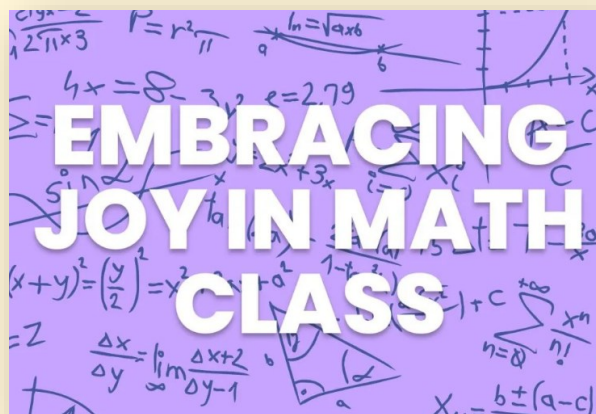


FINDING THE JOY IN MATH

The Elementary Education, Literacy, and Educational Leadership Department has been working to support our teacher candidates to find joy in teaching and learning mathematics, especially in the upper grades.

Professors Liza Bair and Alayla Ende incorporated special experiences in their Elementary Math Methods courses so that teacher candidates had the opportunity to participate in a Math Lesson Study in an upper grade classroom at Cheektowaga Middle School with Jennifer Lewis, a New York State Master Teacher. Surveys given to teacher candidates found that most of our majors were not interested in teaching 5th or 6th grade math, even though they will be certified to do so. Participating in the Lesson Study increased students' comfort level with teaching upper level math.

We are also working to boost confidence for the math certification exams. Tammy Giancola, an instructor from the math department, has offered powerful free workshops each semester where candidates work in small groups to gain confidence and practice items for the Content Specialty Test. Workshops are announced each semester by email and on flyers in Bacon Hall. Those who complete the course delight in feeling more prepared for this challenging exam.



These collaborations with our school partners and colleagues across campus help us advance the joy of math!

By Alayla J. Ende

TEACHER CANDIDATES SPARK SOLAR ECLIPSE EXCITEMENT

Shining Bright: EDU 316 Teacher Candidates Spark Solar Eclipse Excitement at Heritage Heights' STEM Night



In Western New York, the recent total solar eclipse captivated the city as the moon passed between the sun and Earth, casting its shadow over the region. For one local elementary school, the excitement began on Thursday, March 14 at STEM Night.

Mrs. Maskell's EDU 316 teacher candidates dedicated their time to plan, organize, and facilitate hands-on learning experiences related to the eclipse with their PDS partner, Heritage Heights Elementary School, in the Sweet Home Central School District.

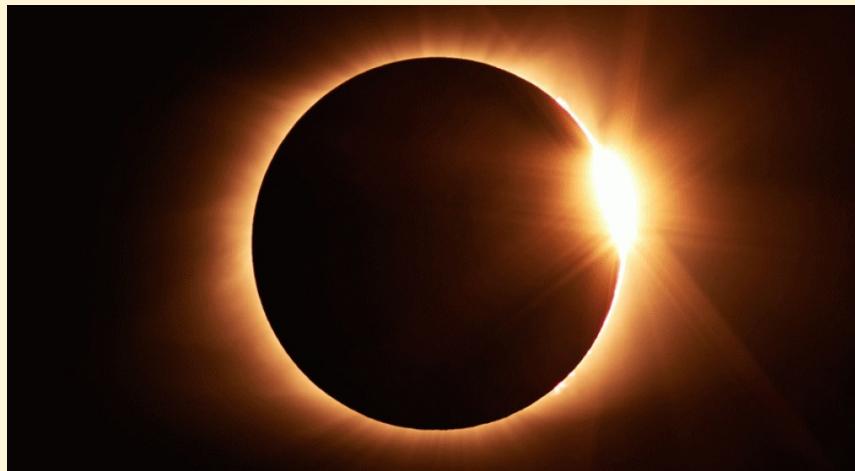
Upon arrival, each student received a bag with stickers, eclipse glasses, and a passport that showed them the different activities and locations that was "stamped" with a star sticker as they made their way around the building:

S – Science: Sun Safety (Pinhole Viewer), Eclipse Simulation
T – Technology: Photo Station
E – Engineering: Paper Model, Solar Cookie
A – Art: Eclipse Chalk Art
M – Math: Moon Math Game (+, -, x)
M – Movement: Aliens and Astronauts Game



TEACHER CANDIDATES SPARK SOLAR ECLIPSE EXCITEMENT

Approximately 200 students and their families came to Heritage Heights to learn more about the solar eclipse. The event was a huge success thanks to the Buffalo State students who were exemplary representatives of the School of Education: Camille Barnes, Matthew Berger, Grace Carey, Emily Cecere, Jennifer Flick, Adrianna Frerichs, Carson Hensley, Samia Hussain, Natajah Jackson, Kathleen Morath, Caitlin Morris, Rachel Pokornowski, Michaela Polak, Collin Polyachyk (EDU 682 student), Jocelyn Swierski, Hayden Trapper, and Stephanie Zicarelli.



Mrs. Maskell would like to thank Heritage Heights teachers Mrs. Gugino (Math Coach), Mrs. Zlotek (Library Media Specialist), and Mr. Licausi (Math Interventionist) for their collaboration and support.

In addition, we would like to extend our gratitude to the following people and places that helped make STEM Night possible:

- Buffalo State's School of Education and the Professional Development Schools Consortium for funding activity supplies through a PDS Action Research Mini-Grant
- Favorites Pizza & Wings for donating pizza
- Heritage Heights' PTA
- Sweet Home Food Services
- Tops Friendly Markets for supplying cookies and frosting to make solar cookies and donating cases of water
- Parent, teacher, and future teacher volunteers, and
- Heritage Heights' principal, Mr. Perry, for his leadership and support!

STEM Night served as a reminder of the wonders of the cosmos and brought together people of all ages to build excitement about the spectacle of nature.

By *Diana Maskell*



2024 PDS CONFERENCE

***SAVE THE DATE
OCT 4TH, 2024***

BSU SOCIAL HALL



**Do not miss this year's NYS Teacher of the Year!
Enjoy free food and refreshments.**

THANK YOU!



We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the writing of this spring newsletter. We thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to PDS and look forward to working with you all next semester!