

The Lead

The College of Education and Human Services
Newsletter
Lindenwood University

Vol. 2023: Mid-Fall

Dean's Message

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the latest edition of *The Lead*. I am three months into my new role in the College and am learning every day alongside a truly committed and professional team of faculty and staff.

The College, like all units across the University, is undergoing a 5-year strategic budgeting plan, looking at our needs and wants over the coming years. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to think about where we are, where we want to be, and seek out innovative and intentional ways of doing our work.

As a College we hold dear our fundamental responsibility of preparing educators, counselors, social workers, and leaders for the state and beyond. Our graduates remain in high demand and our reputation among those we serve is positive and rightly earned.

As we look to the future, we are poised to do even greater things, seek new opportunities, leverage the College to be driving change, and be on the leading edge of discourse in our fields. My goal, as the Dean of a dynamic, thriving, and professional College, is to support colleagues and students as we venture toward an ever-changing, increasingly uncertain, and disruptive period in education.



We often hear, in the post-COVID world, of a desire to get back to '*normal*' and return to how things were before the upheaval the pandemic created. I challenge us to counter that desire and instead seek out opportunity and possibility, look to do things differently, create new ways of working, and explore what education can and should look like for the coming decades. Here in the College of Education and Human Services (COEHS), we will be driving those conversations, exploring untapped possibilities, and working with partners to ensure we are meeting the needs of the mid-21st century society. I invite all of you to join us in this endeavor.

Have a wonderful Fall.

Regards, Daniel Kirk, Ph.D.
Dean, Lindenwood College of Education and Human Services



**Office Manager --
Lindsey Johnston, Ed.S., LPC**

Lindsey Johnston has taken over the role of Office Manager for the College of Education and Human Services (COEHS) as of August 4, 2023. She joins us from Mercy, where she trained new employees and supported existing employees needing continuing education. Lindsey is experienced in both Higher Education and Human Services, having worked for several years in Residential Life and as a Licensed Professional Counselor in Missouri.

In her spare time Lindsey enjoys watching The Great British Baking Show and beloved sitcoms (Friends, House, Grey's Anatomy), doing arts and crafts, frequenting Farmer's Markets and coffee shops, traveling, petting animals (particularly cats), new adventures, star gazing, and practicing yoga. She is also a multi-published writer of poetry, has been involved in both film and commercial production, and was recently 1 of 15 in Continuity STL's first graduating Crew Workshop class.

Featured Stories

Embracing New Beginnings: COEHS New Student Orientation 2023

The College of Education and Human Services (COEHS) was illuminated with excitement on August 17, 2023, as it opened its doors to a fresh wave of aspiring educators and compassionate social workers. New Student Orientation 2023 was a celebration of beginnings and a warm welcome to an incredible journey that promises growth, impact, and endless possibilities.

Dr. Daniel Kirk, Dean of COEHS, welcomed the students to a transformative chapter of their lives. Dr. Kirk's address shed light on the unique character of COEHS – a realm where rigor and support intertwine to cultivate exceptional professionals. This rigorous yet nurturing environment ensures students are equipped with not only theoretical knowledge but also the practical skills necessary to excel in the fields of education and social work.

Guiding the presentation for future teachers was Dr. Tonya Thompson. Her message emphasized the profound impact educators can have on individuals and communities alike. With each interaction, each lesson, and each moment in the field, COEHS students are presented with the opportunity to make a lasting difference.

Meanwhile, Dr. Carla Mueller and Dr. Denise King orchestrated a breakout session tailored for social work students. This insightful session delved deep into the intricate fabric of social work, unveiling the transformative power of compassion and advocacy. With real-world insights and a shared commitment to affecting positive change, Dr. Mueller and Dr. King inspired students to embrace their roles as catalysts for impactful change.

The event was graced by Murphy, the lively Doodle dog and the heart of COEHS's spirit. As our adopted college mascot, Murphy embodies the joy, unity, and camaraderie that define the COEHS community. His presence uplifted the atmosphere, reinforcing the sense of belonging that every student will find within these halls. Dr. Emilie Johnson, Murphy's "mom," welcomed students to visit Murphy during his "drop-in" hours to de-stress and rebalance emotionally.

New Student Orientation of 2023 was more than an event; it was a celebration of the bright minds and compassionate hearts that will shape the future. These

students are now embarking on a journey that holds the promise of personal growth, meaningful impact, and a world of opportunities.



Murphy is available for photo shoots, surrounded by season-appropriate props and a new outfit most weeks. Murphy's favorite pastime is bringing comfort to COEHS students, especially those away from home, and missing their own pets. Murphy also enjoys laying on the cool tile floor outside his mom's office, watching students walk to and from class.



Welcome Back Bash- Fall 2023

The College of Education and Human Services (COEHS) kicked off the Fall 2023 school year by attending the Welcome Back Bash on August 24, 2023, which set a spirited tone for the upcoming academic year. Students enjoyed a warm and festive atmosphere, creating an ideal setting for reconnecting with peers, making new friends, and getting into the swing of college life.

Dr. Jill Hutcheson, Dr. Ronda Cypret-Mahach, Dr. Annie Arnone, and Dr. Amanda Aldridge (not pictured), hosted the COEHS table for this lively event. Amid the cheerful ambiance, they distributed vibrant gold and black spirit beads, emblematic of the college's pride and unity. But that's not all – students were also treated to scrumptious s'mores that added a delicious twist to the event. The delightful treats mirrored the College of Education and Human Services' dedication to nurturing not just the mind, but the spirit as well.

As students mingled and enjoyed the festivities, the faculty members took the opportunity to connect with them on a personal level. Armed with helpful information about the College's diverse education programs, the professors enthusiastically fielded questions from curious students.

As the Fall 2023 school year unfolds, the College of Education and Human Services is poised to continue a legacy of excellence, support, and camaraderie. The Welcome Back Bash served as a captivating prologue to what promises to be yet another year of academic achievement, personal growth, and memorable experiences for all.

Here's to a remarkable Fall 2023 semester filled with learning and growth.

Minor/Major/ Certification Fair

Our faculty recently took part in the student Minor/Major/Certification fair. They helped inform and support students who were interested in any part of education!



Dr. Kathryn Arnone, Dr. Holly Karraker, Carson Hanis,
Dr. Kristen Levin, Dr. Michelle Whitacre



Strategic Partnerships and the College of Education

and Human Services Team Up

Teamwork has created some real momentum for the graduate programs at Lindenwood University. Graduate enrollment in the College of Education and Human Services (COEHS) did see significant growth in enrollment for the Fall semester of 2023. One source of this growth is a collaborative effort between Strategic Partnerships and the COEHS, the K-12 Gold Educational Partnership. As reported last Spring, this partnership is between Lindenwood University and K-12 districts. The partnership entitles K-12 schools, that sign a memorandum of understanding, to a 20 % discount on tuition to all staff, not just certificated staff for any online undergraduate and graduate program. The school partner also agrees to share information about Lindenwood programs including flyers and other promotional materials.

Names of schools that might be interested in partnering with Lindenwood were gathered from the COEHS, with a special shout-out to the Educational Leadership Department. Dr. Jill Hutchinson, Assistant Dean, accompanied Wendy Linton to the Tri-County Superintendents' meeting last May, which resulted in several Gold Partnerships being signed this past summer.

Lindenwood is also looking to meet the districts' professional development needs through graduate workshop credits with our Professional and Continuing Education (PACE). Although several districts and Regional Professional Development Centers use this option, many are still unaware. Lindenwood University is also looking at how we can meet districts' needs for educational cohorts. The intention is to keep communication open and develop other ways Lindenwood can help K-12 districts. If your school is interested in more information about the K-12 Gold Educational Program, please email Wendy Linton at [**wlinton@lindenwood.edu**](mailto:wlinton@lindenwood.edu).

In response to Lindenwood University's overall realignment, Strategic Partnership Director Donnie Wieland has added two additional employees, Azam Nathaniel, K-12 Partnerships within PACE, and Nicole Sullivan, Manager of Academic Partnerships and Early Start College. The team is rounded out by Dewitt White, Assistant Director of Military Strategy and Student Experience, and Wendy Linton, Manager of Greater Missouri Extended Sites.

According to Director Wieland, "The new realignment allows for more seamless communication and creates an optimal win-win situation for all of our partners and Lindenwood University. For example, this summer, while attending the American School Counseling Association Conference, a big partner within PACE, Azam Nathaniel and Wendy Linton not only recruited for graduate workshop credit but also our doctoral program. "The sky really is the limit when Strategic Partnerships and the COEHS work together!"



Nathaniel Azam and Wendy Linton recruiting at the American School Counseling Association 2023 Big Dream Conference in July 2023. Combining resources to meet partners' needs is crucial to success.

Coffee and Conversations with COEHS



COEHS was featured at Coffee and Conversations on September 14th. The primary objective of this event was fostering engagement with Alumni and students, as well as facilitating the exchange of knowledge about the College and its programs.



Current COEHS students Spencer Goldberg (Special Education), Meekie Trieu (Elementary Education), and Bailey Shumaker (Special Education) shared their valuable insights and experiences.

COEHS Hosts Football VIP Room



On September 30th the College of Education and Human Services (COEHS) enjoyed watching the Lindenwood Lions play the Austin Peay Governors in the VIP room overlooking the field. We had a great turnout for the game which included a number of current faculty and adjunct faculty as well as several retired faculty who returned to campus for the day. What a great opportunity to catch up with our colleagues! We were also honored to have Dr. Penny, the Superintendent of Lincoln County R-III School District, join us as well. The VIP was jam-packed with spirited football fans cheering on the Lions. Our Lions did not take the win but made a great showing.

New COEHS Advisor



Ally Sarginson has joined COEHS as Advisor for Student Success and Recruitment as of August 2023. Ally is a Lindenwood Alumna, having received a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health in 2020, and is excited to return to Lindenwood to help students navigate their future. Ally's previous experience includes working with the Boys and Girls Clubs and Hope Autism Clinic.

Certification Corner DESE Updates

Are you seeking completion of a DESE certification? DESE requires the current certification criteria to be met. Please reach out to certifications@lindenwood.edu with any questions about current requirements.

DESE updates

- The Pearson contract for state testing was not renewed. Pearson tests will only continue until June 30, 2024.
- Information about the transition process from Pearson to ETS as the vendor for state educator preparation testing will be updated regularly on [this page](#).



Curriculum & Instruction

Capstone Experience: Student Teaching Triad Training Held August 2023

Teacher Candidates, Lindenwood University Supervisors, and Cooperating Teachers from 25 area schools met at Lindenwood University on Thursday, August 24th to engage in Lindenwood's Triad Training. This training, coordinated by Dr. Amanda Aldridge, Director of Internships and Culminating Experiences in the College of Education and Human Services, provides teacher candidates and their host teachers with a thorough understanding of each of the participants' roles and responsibilities in the experience, as well as a plethora of supportive resources to use during the experience.



Dr. Dan Kirk, Dean of the College of Education and Human Services, kicked off the meeting with a warm welcome and Dr. Ronda Cypret-Mahach, Department Head for Initial Teacher Education, provided additional words of encouragement and support. Graduate Admissions representative Alicia Buchanon, and Dana Humphrey from the St Louis Regional Professional Development Center, were present and able to provide additional guidance and expertise. Host teachers from districts near and far were present in person or virtually to support candidates, ask questions of the Student Teaching supervising faculty and to calibrate on the Missouri Educator Evaluation System (MEES) tool that is utilized statewide to evaluate teacher candidates before recommending them for Initial Teacher Certification.

Two Generations of Lindenwood University Special Educators



Alumnus Andy Vangilder and Michelle Brewer Vangilder (2002) visited with faculty Rebecca Panagos when enrolling their daughter Koryn as a transfer student majoring in Special Education. Andy, who majored in Business, and Michelle, 'Outstanding Teacher' for St. Charles and Special School District of St. Louis County, reminisced tales of sitting in President Spellmann's office which is now The College of Education and Human Service's very own Center for Innovation and Insight. Michelle teaches an Essential Skills Classroom at McCluer North and her class runs the McCluer Coffee Shop. Lindenwood University's Student Council for Exceptional Children (SCEC)

plans to visit and observe the Coffee Shop this year.

Capstone Experience: Student Teaching Professional Development Workshop



Teacher candidates from 25 area schools collaborated virtually and in person at the first Professional Development Workshop Seminar class, led by Dr. Amanda Aldridge, on Friday, September 8th. Dr. Annie Arnone, Assistant Professor for The College of Education and Human Services (COEHS), presented information about the use of Artificial Intelligence in the classroom and engaged students in meaningful discussions and application activities.

More Professional Development Workshop Seminars are planned for October and November of 2023, and include informative and interactive sessions presented by the COEHS School Counseling students, Center for Engaged Learning: Career Services staff, and Public Safety and Security staff.

The conclusionary Celebration of Teaching event to honor this semester's completers will be hosted on Thursday, December 7th. All completing candidates and COEHS administration, faculty, and staff are invited and encouraged to attend. This event is co-sponsored by Kappa Delta Pi-Tau Phi Educational Honor Society.



LU Student Council for Exceptional Students Welcomes High School Seniors

Lindenwood University's Student Council for Exceptional Students (SCEC) officers greeted future freshmen interested in Special Education careers at LU's New Lions Day. Students were with their families, some who drove as far as four hours away to attend the day's events.



Faculty Sponsor Rebecca Panagos, Vice Pres. Koryn Vangilder, Pres. Brittany Patel



President Brittany Patel, High school senior Ashley and her Mom,
and Vice Pres. Koryn Vangilder



President Brittany Patel and High School Senior Christopher

Kappa Delta Pi- Tau Phi Gears Up for 2023-2024

The Kappa Delta Pi-Tau Phi leadership team for the 2023-2024 academic year has been working hard to provide a plethora of activities for the Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) members to enjoy.

KDP is an Educational Honor Society focused on supporting developing and existing teachers in the field. To be consider for KDP membership in Lindenwood's Tau Phi chapter, candidates must have taken or are currently enrolled in at least six credit hours of EDU coursework, and hold a 3.0 or higher GPA. There are numerous benefits to belonging to the KDP organization. More information can be found at www.kdp.org

KDP-Tau Phi chapter membership should be confirmed by November 3rd to participate in our November 14th Lindenwood Initiation Ceremony, held on the Lindenwood campus. If you have questions about the KDP organization or your

eligibility, please feel free to contact faculty sponsor Dr. Amanda Aldridge at aldridge@lindenwood.edu



Maria Schulte, Celinda Hefner, Sara Stubblefield, Bailey Shumaker, and Katie Hamm

Dr. Holly Karraker Earns the Emerson Award for Teaching Excellence



Dr. Holly Karraker took home the Emerson Award for Teaching Excellence. This award is presented to a faculty member who demonstrates the best combination of innovation, student centeredness, and effectiveness as a teacher.



LindenTeach Fall 2023

The LindenTeach Internship course was designed to supplement the teaching experience in identified regional partner districts. Teacher candidates engage in supervised, professional field experiences and utilize reflective practices to improve their teaching.

The Internship course will support the development of professional knowledge, skills, and disposition of the teacher candidate. This course consists of observation, individual conferences, and supervised teaching in an early childhood, elementary, middle and/or secondary school setting while enrolled in a LindenTeach seminar course. The internship provides candidates with the opportunity to experience the role of a substitute teacher in a real school setting.

To learn more about the LindenTeach Internship, [click here](#).



LindenTeach Fall 23 Interns

Meet
Abby
Budnik!



Abby is a Senior at Lindenwood University working toward her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Abby had known she wanted to be an elementary school teacher since she was a little girl and has been taking education classes since she was a Junior in high school. She has done practicums and observations in many local school districts, including Francis Howell, Fort Zumwalt, St. Charles, and Wentzville.

Outside of school, Abby has worked as a preschool teacher and an art camp counselor in order to gain more educational experience. Abby can't wait to get into the classroom this semester and is excited to get to know the John Weldon community!

LindenTeach Fall 23 Interns



Meet
Hannah
Moon!

Hannah is a senior from Easley, South Carolina working towards her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She discovered her love for children when she worked as a camp counselor for her church in South Carolina. Hannah is hoping to teach 3rd grade and wants to be an enthusiastic, fun teacher that makes her students want to attend school. Hannah is excited to get more experience in the classroom before she goes into student teaching. She is excited to grow and can't wait to pursue her dream of being an elementary educator!

LindenTeach Fall 23 Interns



Meet
Katelynn
Hamm!

Katelynn is a Senior working towards her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and is expected to graduate in May 2024. She is happy to get to use both her love of teaching and her love for being involved on campus in this role by teaching and getting involved within her school district. Katelynn is very excited about the opportunity to work with Francis Howell School District and can't wait to see what the future holds for her career!

LindenTeach Fall 23 Interns



Meet
Bailey
Shumaker!

Bailey is a senior at Lindenwood University and is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Mild to Moderate Cross Categorical Special Education K-12. She hopes to continue making an impact within her community by being involved in Phi Sigma Sigma, Kappa Delta Pi, and being a part of the LindenTeach Internship Program. Bailey is grateful for this opportunity to work with Harris Elementary and St. Charles High School while growing into the best teacher she can be for student teaching and eventually in her own classroom.

LindenTeach Fall 23 Interns



Meet
Josiah
Gross!

Josiah is a Senior working towards a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a certification for grades 1-6. He discovered his love for working with children when he volunteered for his church's children's ministry and was a leader there for several years. Josiah is hoping to teach in the 3rd grade and wishes to be a positive role model for his students. He is often quoted saying "Don't take criticism from someone you wouldn't take advice from."

LindenTeach Fall 23 Interns



Meet
Meekie
Trieu!

Meekie is a Senior at Lindenwood University pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. In 2018, she discovered her passion for working with kids while coaching at Team Central Gymnastics. For her second semester, she wanted to learn more about how different districts operate and is at Discovery Elementary in the Orchard Farm District. Trieu believes in creating a classroom where all students feel welcome and can grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

LindenTeach Fall 23 Interns



Meet
Micheala
O'Connor!

Micheala is a senior who is working towards a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She discovered her passion for teaching during her senior year of high school when she participated in her school's Students As Mentors program. Most recently, she had the opportunity to work with children of all ages while employed at a private preschool. When she is not teaching Micheala enjoys reading, spending time with family and friends, and being outdoors. She is excited to learn and grow as an educator this year!

LindenTeach Fall 23 Interns



Meet
Shannon
Callanan!

Shannon is a senior at Lindenwood University pursuing her Bachelors' degree in Elementary Education. Shannon is passionate about learning how to be an effective educator and is thankful for the experiences that the LindenTeach Internship will provide. Outside of school, Shannon enjoys singing in the Lindenwood University Concert Choir, being with friends and family, and being involved in church.

LindenTeach Fall 23 Interns



Meet
Mallory
Douglas!

Mallory is in her senior year at Lindenwood University pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Mallory has worked as an Aftercare Assistant the past two years at St. Cletus School as well as taken part in practicums with local school districts, such as Francis Howell and St. Charles. Outside of school, Mallory enjoys spending time with family and friends, taking boat rides, playing with her dogs, and more. Mallory is excited to further her career as an Elementary School Teacher!

LindenTeach Fall 23 Interns



Meet
Celinda
Hefner!

Celinda is a senior at Lindenwood University working towards her Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education which will certify her in ages Birth - 3rd grade. She works in the Study Abroad office at Lindenwood where she gets to channel her love of traveling and previous study abroad experience into her work to help others pursue their interest in study abroad. She studied abroad in Reggio Emilia, Italy for the spring semester of 2022 where she learned about the many different approaches to teaching, including the Reggio Emilia approach in the city in which it was founded. She is excited to experience another school environment within the community and to see what the future holds for her in this career that she is so passionate about!

LindenTeach Fall 23 Interns



Meet
Jessica
Wither!

Jessica is a senior from Neepawa, Manitoba, Canada, working towards her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Special Education. She is excited to gain experience in the classroom through her time at Monroe Elementary School, and is looking forward to the opportunity to learn and grow as a future educator, while pursuing her dream of becoming an elementary resource teacher!

LindenTeach Fall 23 Intern

Meet
Lauren
Dale-Derks!



Lauren is a senior at Lindenwood University. She is working to obtain a Bachelor's degree in Biological Science, with certification in secondary education. Lauren found her love of educating others through her work as a massage therapist, informing her clients of the anatomy and physiology of the body. She then recognized how teaching science information and facts to others filled her with joy. Lauren is excited to start her teaching journey at Francis Howell High this semester!

Educational Leadership

Students Successfully Complete Doctoral Dissertation Defense

Several students recently completed successful defenses of their doctoral dissertations, earning their Doctorate in Education.

Ethan Sykes defended his dissertation titled "Effects of the Imposter Phenomenon on First-Generation Students' Academic and Co-curricular Engagement." His dissertation chair was Dr. Roger "Mitch" Nasser. The purpose of this mixed-methods study was to explore the prevalence of the imposter phenomenon among community college and private university

students. Additionally, the study examined how impostorism manifested in academic and co-curricular settings.

Tiffany Whitt defended her dissertation titled “A Quantitative Methods Examination of the Relationship between Student Academic Performance and the Race and Gender of School Administrators.” Her dissertation chair was Dr. Tammy Moore. This quantitative methods study identified and tested research-based constructs of school administrators’ race and gender compared to discipline, attendance, and academic achievement. The study aimed to address inequities in educational practices, policies, and systems that directly impact student academic success in schools.

LaVada Rebecca Rice defended her dissertation titled “Unfit for Slavery: A Qualitative Exploration of African American Male Perceptions of Persistence and Academic Achievement at a Midwest Public Community College.” Her dissertation chair was Dr. Lynda Leavitt. This study examined how institutional and socio-ecological influences might be necessary to improve the persistence and academic achievement of African American male students.

Emily Alicia Dittmer defended her dissertation titled “A Mixed Methods Study on Urban Educators’ Feelings of Preparedness to Implement Practices that Impact Social and Emotional Learning in a Mid-Pandemic Environment.” Her dissertation chair was Dr. Beth Rapoff. The purpose of the mixed-methods study was to evaluate urban educators’ perceptions of their preparedness to implement social and emotional learning strategies in their classrooms/workspaces as well as to understand what the educators’ experiences were as their students returned to a five day a week school schedule after a year and a half of disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Meghan Ann McNulty defended her dissertation titled “A Mixed-Methods Investigation of How Student Goal-Setting for Improved Learner Behaviors Affects Intermediate Elementary Academic Achievement.” Her dissertation chair was Dr. Robyne Elder. The study investigated how focusing intermediate elementary school students on improving their behavior could influence their academic achievement.

Andrea Marie Melrose defended her dissertation titled “What’s the Big Fat Deal?” The Experience of Fat Students in College.” Her dissertation chair was Dr. Roger “Mitch” Nasser. The purpose of this study was to research the experiences of fat students on college campuses, examining their experiences of anti-fat bias and discrimination. Additionally, this study explored policy and practice implications for improving the experiences of fat college students and supporting body diversity on campus.

Lori A. Vaughn defended her dissertation titled “An Action Research Study on Visible Learning Feedback and Motivational Interviewing Concerning Underserved Advanced Placement Students.” Her dissertation chair was Dr. Lynda Leavitt. This study addressed inequity as well as self-motivation, self-regulation, feedback practices, and student autonomy and involved improving AP exam scores, increasing post-test essay grades, and raising self-motivation and self-regulation measurements. The study also examined student perceptions of the interventions, self-motivation and self-regulation relating to the programs, and racial bias.

Kathryn Joyce Stanley-Dietzmanher defended her dissertation titled “Student Success Navigators: The Keys to Intrusive Advising, Student Supportive Services, and Academic Success.” Her dissertation chair was Dr. Shelly Fransen. This study investigated the connections between intrusive academic advising, student success and retention, and growth within an institution. The study was conducted to demonstrate that intrusive advising is beneficial to students, especially to students who are considered to be at-risk.

Willie Mae Dean defended her dissertation titled “Moving Forward with Music to Promote Student Growth: A Mixed Methods Study with 9th-Grade Algebra 1 Students.” Her dissertation chair was Dr. Shelly Fransen. The purpose of this mixed methods study was to investigate what effect music had on student achievement and student behavior during independent practice time for 9th-grade Algebra 1 students. Benchmark assessments from the participating district, a focus group of six students, and four in-person teacher interviews provided the data for this study.

Nancy Fuchs defended her dissertation titled “Trust, Levels of Functioning, and the PLC Process in a Midwest Middle School: A Case Study.” Her dissertation chair was Dr. Lynda Leavitt. This dissertation investigated the connections between Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), trust, and targeted interventions to promote increased functioning within adult groups. The study critically analyzed the theoretical foundations of PLCs and the potential to foster professional growth and collaboration.

Kerry Von Behren defended her dissertation titled “A Qualitative Exploration of School Leader Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic.” Her dissertation chair was Dr. Sherrie Wisdom. The purpose of this study was to consider the lived experience of K-12 school leaders amid the pandemic of 2020. The study addressed the research question “What were the professional experiences of educational leaders as they responded to the COVID-19 pandemic?”

Matthew John Gaglio defended his dissertation titled “Psychological Needs Satisfaction in Teaching: A Mixed-Methods Analysis on the Impact of Evaluation Systems on Teacher Intrinsic Motivational Outcomes Using Self-Determination Theory.” His dissertation chair was Dr. Kelly Dickinson. The purpose of this study was to examine the relationships between psychological need satisfaction, motivational regulators, and intrinsic motivational outcomes regarding teacher evaluation systems related to the self-determination theory.

Fall 2023 Dissertation Help Session

Dr. Nasser will offer a Dissertation Help Session from 7:00-8:00 pm on November 20. The Zoom information is below. Please contact Dr. Nasser if you have questions: rnasser@lindenwood.edu

November 20: 7-8pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82498070025?pwd=aYDCCOM081JgU9dgiMiJ6iKYfaEZ37.1>

Meeting ID: 824 9807 0025

Passcode: 3wEis7

Human Services

MO School Counselor and Counselor Educator Curriculum Revision Task Force

This past May, Dr. Patterson-Mills finished work on a Missouri Task Force for Missouri School Counselors as part of revisions to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE MO) Comprehensive Model of School Counseling. This will take place in stages and this task force looked at school counseling curriculum. The curriculum consists of three grade level areas of focus: social emotional learning, academic planning, and post-secondary planning. The first stage was looking at general curricular themes, updating language, updating topics and terminology, and collecting expertise from multiple constituencies across the state as school counselors and

counselor educators to voice what they are seeing as needs of today's K-12 students in Missouri.

Missouri, home to the father of modern school counseling Dr. Norm Gysbers, continues to be a leader nationally in comprehensive school counseling programs and curriculum. All lesson plans are free to use by school counselors in any state.

Dr. Molly Stehn joins COEHS



Meet Dr. Molly Stehn
mstehn@lindenwood.edu

Molly Stehn, EdD, LPC joined the faculty of the Counseling and Human Services Department as Associate Professor in August 2023. Her primary professional and scholarly interest is in the practice and scholarship of Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). Dr. Stehn had previously taught at Webster University's Department of Professional Counseling from 2014-2022, where she had developed and furthered her interests in assessment,

accreditation, and the scholarship of teaching and learning. Outside of academia, she has seen clients in her capacity as a clinical mental health counselor at both St. Louis DBT and the Portland DBT Institute. Dr. Stehn earned her master's in mental health counseling and doctorate in counselor education and supervision from the University of Cincinnati. A significant part of her continuing professional education included intensive training in DBT from Behavioral Tech Institute and in a newly developed DBT-informed protocol for treating PTSD from that protocol's author, Melanie Harned.



Rigor Remains without Use of Textbooks

The Social Work Program has been textbookless since the spring of 2019. As a competency-based curriculum, annual assessment data is collected to measure if our majors meet a benchmark of 80% for the nine generalist social work core competencies as developed by our accrediting body, the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Among concerns expressed, the social work faculty was particularly concerned that going without textbooks would negatively impact the stringency of the program. We are pleased to share, however, that the rigor has been surpassed in 2023. Our assessment data reveal an average of the core competencies to be 86% in academic year 2018-19 (with textbooks) and an average of the core competencies in 2022-23 to be 93% (without textbooks).

Our senior class cohort have never had a required textbook in their social work classes, but they have had reading materials. They report benefits of being without textbooks to include lowered educational costs, as well as current and multiple expert “voices” from a variety of sources including journal articles, videos, parts of textbooks, professional training materials, and podcasts. These students report coming to class is beneficial to apply this relevant information to hone their skills and apply what they have learned from the course materials. Social work faculty recognize the burden of being without texts falls on them to remain current in a dynamic field. Faculty are continually changing course materials and updating resources almost every time the course is taught.

We are pleased to note that what began as an experiment four years ago has been a success. We consider our 'textbookless' social work program to be a hallmark in the Open Educational Resources (OER) higher education movement.

Dr. Janita Springfield joins COEHS

Meet Dr. Janita Springfield!
jspringfield@lindenwood.edu

Janita Springfield, Ph.D., CRN, NCC, attended the University of Mississippi for her Doctor of Philosophy in Counselor Education and Supervision. During her time at the University of Mississippi, Dr. Springfield honed her skillsets as an educator, researcher, supervisor, and advocate in the field of Counseling. She was honored as a University of Mississippi SREB Dissertation Scholar, University of Mississippi Cole-Eftink Fellow, and University of Mississippi Outstanding Scholar in CES Research. She has published several empirical articles on racial disparities, anti-racist practices, distance counseling in underserved populations, and addiction studies; and she has disseminated and presented her research at several counseling conferences. Dr. Springfield also holds a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling with an emphasis in Addiction Studies from the University of Arkansas Fayetteville and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff.



Illinois School Counseling Association Developmental Model Revision Task Force work completed

Dr. Patterson-Mills, Department Head for Counseling, was invited to serve on the Illinois School Counseling Association developmental model revisions task force. Dr. Patterson-Mills had the honor of serving on the last writing task force and on this version helped update terminology, standards, and other relevant information to meet today's learners' needs. School counselors will be equipped with a comprehensive plan to direct their counseling programs across K-12 schools in Illinois. Topics covered by school counselors include social emotional learning, academic organization and planning, and post-secondary planning. sented over the next year at state conferences and workshops.

Dr. Lynette Dixon joins COEHS



Meet Dr. Lynette Dixon!
ldixon@lindenwood.edu

Lynette Dixon, PhD, LPC, NCC, CRAADC is a graduate of Lindenwood University, where she earned her Master of Arts in Professional Counseling as well as her School Counseling Certification (GO LIONS!). After Lindenwood, Dr. Dixon attended Capella University where she earned her Ph.D. in Counseling Studies. Dr. Dixon has worked in community mental health, private practice, and with drug treatment courts in Lincoln-Pike and St. Charles Counties. Dr. Dixon has also worked as a school counselor for eight years. Dr. Dixon has a passion for collaborating with other specialties and has worked with nursing faculty from Maryville University to educate students in their Nurse Practitioner program on effective strategies to engage patients who need to make behavioral changes and/or are struggling with addiction. Dr. Dixon was published in the Journal of American Psychiatric Nurses Association in Feb of 2023 on the topic of motivational interviewing to promote patient-centered healing. Dr. Dixon subsequently presented at the International Conference on Nursing on the same topic. Dr. Dixon has a passion for helping de-stigmatize mental health treatment and helping people to understand that mental and physical health are intertwined as one. Dr. Dixon is also a Registered yoga teacher and promotes yoga as another tool to increase mental and physical wellness.

Conference Presentations

Dr. Sarah Patterson-Mills, the Department Head for Human Services, was nominated and received the *Career Developments* magazine Recognition Award from the National Career Development Association (NCDA) Conference in the summer of 2023.

In addition, Dr. Patterson-Mills presented at two sessions. The first discussed publications within the professional organization and the second session were on a year-long review of the NCDA ethics code revisions. Code revisions made by the Ethics Committee from last year will be open for public comment in the fall for the entire membership.

Dr. Patterson-Mills was also appointed as Associate Editor/Copy Editor of *Career Developments*, a publication of the National Career Development Association. The prior seven years, she had been the editor for a column in the publication titled, *Ethics in a Nutshell*.



Dr. Ryan Liberati joins COEHS

Meet Dr. Ryan Liberati
rliberati@lindenwood.edu

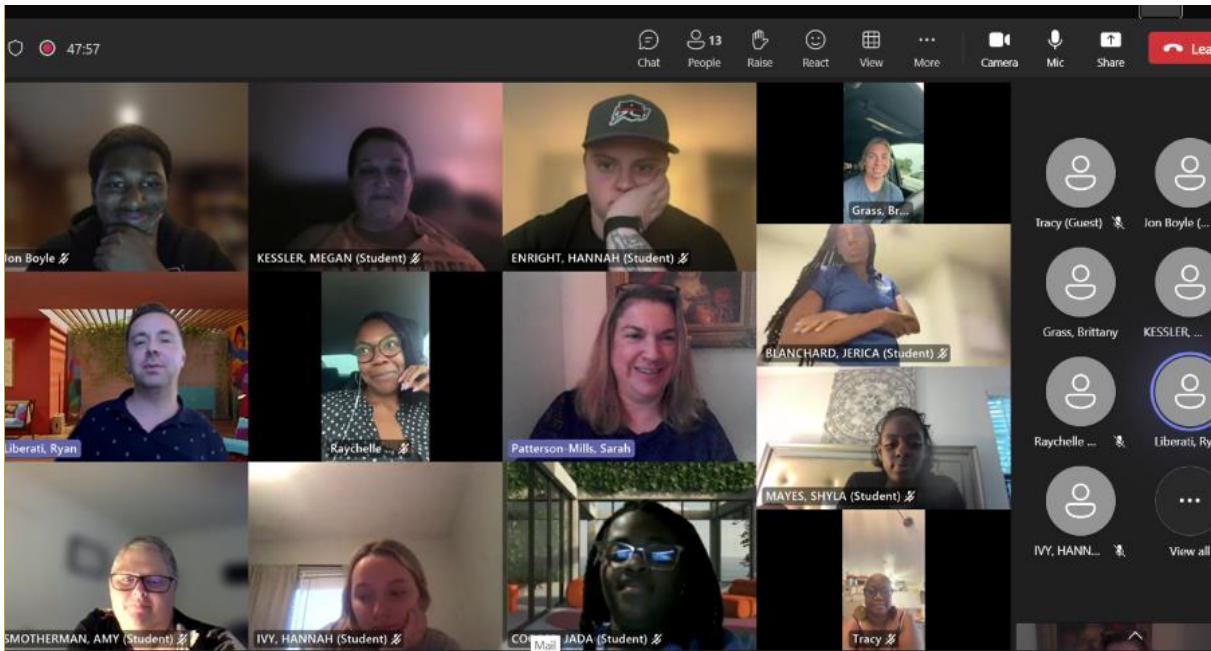
Dr. Liberati comes to Lindenwood from Webster University, where he created and directed the school counseling program. Dr. Liberati now leads the school counseling program at Lindenwood in addition to his teaching duties in the program.



Grant Money for Counseling and Social Work Students

Earlier in the year, Dr. Sarah Patterson-Mills (Counseling) and Dr. Carla Mueller (Social Work) applied for grant money from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The October, the two professors are going to be awarded stipends in the amount of \$15,000 for students of both Social Work and Counseling, School emphasis (K-12 students).

This money is designed by MO Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to recruit and retain support personnel in K-12 schools. Students will each receive an equal amount of the money and may apply it toward tuition or various K-12 service positions regarding the field, challenges, achievements they were proud of, and advice for managing stress and maintaining self-care while working in emotionally-taxing professions.



New COEHS Staff Member



Lynne Chrismer joined the staff for COEHS in September of 2023 as part-time Program Support Coordinator, working closely with Dr. Patterson-Mills. Lynne has previously worked as an Adjunct Professor for the College of Education and as a University Supervisor working with Student Teachers. She received her Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Missouri-Columbia and her master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from UMSL. Lynne was an educator in the Wentzville School District for 28 years and following retirement decided to work with students in a new setting.

Dr. Patterson-Mills

Asked to Serve on ACES Board

Dr. Patterson-Mills, Department Head of the Counseling Department was invited to serve on the American Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES) Career Interest Network and the task force within it that promotes best practices in teaching Career Counseling.

The goal of the ACES Career Interest Network is to connect counselor educators teaching career courses with one another and resources for effective pedagogy. This interest network would provide space for counselor educators to connect, discuss best teaching practices, and engage in research focused on career development and counseling.

Dr. Patterson-Mills and her colleague will be hosting a spring webinar for counselor educators in the spring on motivational interviewing in career counseling. A conference presentation on best teaching practices is in progress for the summer 2024 National Career Development Conference.

Dr. Purnell recognized in LU Digest

Value: We do what is right.

Dr. Susan Purnell meticulously reviews our field placement sites where our students complete their practicum/internship. Upon encountering evidence from students and from certain sites where students were not getting a satisfactory comprehensive internship experience, Dr. Purnell took the removed these sites from our list of recommended field placement sites for counseling students. This is never easy to do, and turning a blind eye requires a lot less labor than does following the proper protocols as Dr. Purnell did. She did right by both our students and our profession!

More from COEHS

introducing **STUDENT WORKERS**

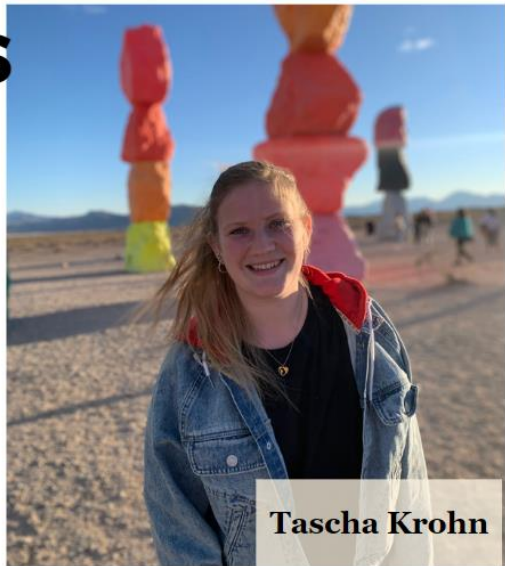
- I am a Junior but I just transferred in so this is my first year at Lindenwood University!
- I am on the LU Pridettes Majorette Team.
- My major is Fashion Business and Entrepreneurship/ Fashion Design.
- I started with COEHS Fall 2023.
- I like the friendly work environment at COEHS.
- For fun I watch Tik Toks or Hang with Family and Friends.
- About me: I graduated as a salutatorian, I'm the first college graduate of my family, and my comfort tv show is SpongeBob SquarePants.



Aria Richardson

introducing **STUDENT WORKERS**

- I am a Junior at Lindenwood.
- I am involved in the ISF. That is a student organization for international students.
- My major is Psychology.
- I started working for COEHS in August, 2023.
- Everyone is super friendly in COEHS!
- I like to spend time with my dogs and with friends.
- I am an international student from Germany.
- I have lived in the US for approximately four years.
- I love to travel!



Tascha Krohn

introducing **STUDENT WORKERS**

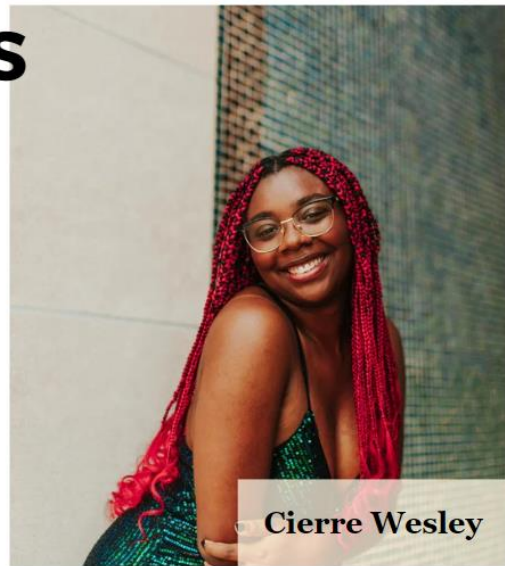
- I am a Junior.
- I am a member of Tri Sigma Sorority, where I serve as their Education Director. I am also on Student Council of the Exceptional Child (SCEC). I am also in CRU Campus Ministry.
- I am a Middle School English Education major.
- This is my third year with COEHS!
- I love working in the COEHS because student workers are treated like family! Everyone here is so welcoming and always able to make my day. It makes me so happy to be able to be a part of such a close-knit community!
- In my free time I like to hike, bake, and read books!
- I am allergic to apples.
- I will never turn down a Dr. Pepper or sweet tea.
- I love Taylor Swift, Justin Bieber, and Morgan Wallen.



Abby Thompson

introducing **STUDENT WORKERS**

- I am a senior. This is my last semester!
- I am a BA Theatre major
- I work here in Roemer and I also do theatre on campus. I have performed in several productions and will be gracing the Lindenwood Stage one last time September 27th-30th in Kodachrome. I also do photography and have done photography for the theatre department, the COEHS, and for sororities such as Delta Zeta!
- I have been working here since 2020
- I like to go to concerts, read, listen to music, and hang out with my friends!
- My middle name has been passed down for 3 generations!
- I would rather be cold than hot. If I'm cold, I can cover up!
- I love platform Converse. I currently own 4 pairs and plan on getting more!



Cierre Wesley

Celebrating our Senior, Student Worker Cierre

Cierre Wesley is a third year student worker for the College of Education and Human Services (COEHS) set to graduate in December with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre.

Cierre started Lindenwood in 2020 with only one semester under her belt before the global Coronavirus pandemic hit. Cierre reflected back on that time recalling that each student actor “had a box to stand in and couldn’t leave” referring to social distancing while still needing to be physically present for classes. Cierre recalls also having to wear masks while in dance class, which ended up helping with stamina and her breathing in the long run but is certainly not ideal when dancing for any length of time. In spite of the obstacles of being a freshman in college, a student worker, and a global citizen during a global pandemic, Cierre persisted and will be graduating a semester earlier than traditionally expected. To say that COEHS will miss Cierre is an understatement; Cierre is a bright, cheerful, kind, and helpful individual who has been *essential* in aiding COEHS’s transition between three Office Managers (plus an interim) during her time with us. In celebration of Cierre’s many contributions to COEHS, and her accomplishments while at Lindenwood, several faculty and staff members made it a point to attend *Kodachrome*, Cierre's Senior Showcase.

Kodachrome, Cierre describes, was “a production about love in all of its different stages” as expressed through photo. Cierre was part of a small ensemble and played five roles during the performances September 27th-30th, 2023. Cierre and the rest of the cast put on a beautiful performance in the Emerson Black Box Theatre, in the J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts, to a sold-out show opening night. Cierre speaks highly of her time as a theatre major at Lindenwood, stating “(I’ve) grown a lot in my acting abilities”, “gotten a lot of opportunities to perform”, and have “explore(d) different types of acting such as musical theatre”. Cierre has a continued interest in traveling to see “how other regions do theatre”, since there can be a wide variety of approaches. Cierre’s next step in the field is currently under construction but, whatever it may be, she hopes to educate others about theatre, help those in the arts build their resume and acquire any skills they may be lacking, and give back to her community. Cierre spent Summer 2023 working at a non-profit theatre in Kansas City, [Starlight](#), which engages the community through educational seminars and performance camps for kids, offering scholarships to theatre students, recognizing high school kids involved in theatre, creating opportunities for minorities to get involved in theatre, and giving free theatre tickets to employees of other non-profits in the community. Through her time with Starlight, Cierre discovered her passion for non-profit theatre and working with young actors (particularly high school students up to recent college graduates just entering their field); She plans to eventually open her own theatre company. All we can say is, she is one to watch; Cierre is sure to do great things and she will be greatly missed.





Economic Education Center

Mad City Money Financial Reality Simulation Available to Schools

Lindenwood's Economic Education Center is excited to, once again, offer the Mad City Money Financial Reality Simulation in person at middle and high schools – at no cost to schools! Mad City Money is a flexible experiential-learning activity that teaches students important personal finance skills including budgeting, saving, and debt management. Students discover the impact of their decisions, learn important financial concepts and practice money management skills in a creative role-playing activity. Mad City Money helps schools provide required personal finance content to their students. Contact Grant Black, the Associate Director of the Economic Education Center, to learn more about Mad City Money and to schedule an event for the fall and spring semesters (gblack@lindenwood.edu).



Engage Students with the Missouri Economics Challenge and Missouri Personal Finance Challenge

[MEC](#)

[MPFC](#)

Lindenwood's Center for Economic Education is again coordinating two statewide competitions for high school students: the Missouri Economics Challenge (MEC) and the Missouri Personal Finance Challenge (MPFC). These annual events are team-based competitions, for high-school students every spring, that deepen their learning about economics, its important role in their world, and vital life skills related to personal finance. Educators can easily use the MEC and MPFC to engage students and enhance their learning. Both state competitions are part of nationwide

competitions organized by the Council for Economic Education. Participation in the competitions is free due to generous support from the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. Register and learn more using the links to the left.



New Publication Schedule for The Lead

Our plan is to shift from a monthly schedule to four times per year:

Mid- Fall semester
End of Fall semester
Mid- Spring semester
End of Spring semester

For the latest information between issues, follow us on social media:

Facebook:

[Lindenwood COEHS](#)

Twitter:

[LU College of Education and Human Services](#)

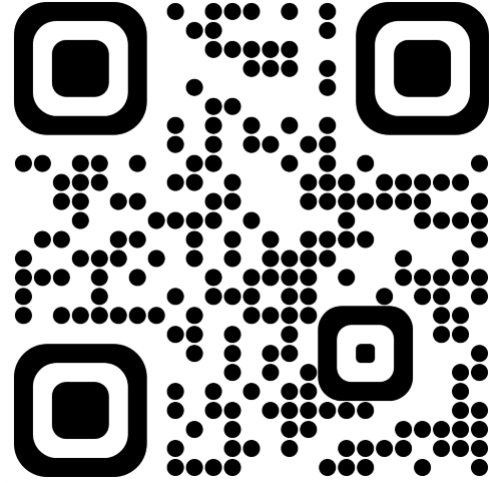
Instagram:

[Lindenwood COEHS](#)

Student Council for Exceptional Children (LU SCEC):



[Instagram](#)



[Facebook](#)

If you are a Human Services Alumni, check out:
[LinkedIn: Lindenwood University Alumni Human Services](#)

Upcoming Events

Dark Carnival- October 27th, 5-9pm

Homecoming- November 4th

8am Parade

11am Tailgating

2pm Football Game

Higher Learning Commission visit- November 6th & 7th

Thanksgiving Break- November 22nd to 26th

Finals Week- December 4th to 8th

Winter Break- December 23rd to January 1st, 2024

Spring Semester Begins- January 8th

We hope you enjoyed this issue of The Lead!

Please email any suggestions or feedback to COEHS@lindenwood.edu



**Lindenwood College of Education and
Human Services** |
lindenwood.edu/education



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St. Charles, MO 63301

