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# THE BAYH EDUCATOR

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BAYH COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



THIS NEWSLETTER IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE OFFICE OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

**WELCOME**>>> **READ MORE**

Welcome to the Bayh College of Education newsletter! The goal of this newsletter is to foster a sense of involvement between faculty, staff, students, alumni, and our community. This newsletter is for you, so we want it to be relevant and interesting. We welcome and encourage any feedback and suggestions for the next edition.

**READ MORE** <<<

Please feel free to email us at [malea.crosby@indstate.edu](mailto:malea.crosby@indstate.edu) or [gsteffy@sycamores.indstate.edu](mailto:gsteffy@sycamores.indstate.edu)

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**HOW TO  
REACH US**

# FROM THE DEAN...

Dear Students, Staff, Faculty Alumni, Emeriti, and Friends of the College,

I do hope all is going well during this busy time of year. Do enjoy this month's newsletter, which includes a year-in-review coverage of many exciting college-related facets. It is with pleasure that I offer heartfelt congratulations to our May and August 2025 graduates and a sincere thanks to faculty and staff for all you do on our students' behalf. Well done!

The College recently held its Spring Reception. It is always a great gathering underscored by so much positive fellowship. This year, there were many milestones and accomplishments. The proceeding are a few representative celebrations:

- We had three new hires this semester and Melissa Gustafson agreed to serve as Interim Executive Director and University Librarian (i.e., the academic home for Librarians is now in the College)
- One promotion, one retirement, and four approved sabbaticals.
- Chris MacDonald will step down as the ACES Chairperson and Vicki Hammen takes over during the summer months. We appreciate Chris' leadership and service!
- Thirty-six awards and honors were celebrated at the College, University, Regional, and National levels.
- Fifteen accomplishments of significance were also celebrated. Examples include serving as an editorial board chair, large grant renewals, approved student success policies, and international faculty-led trips, etc.
- We also celebrated 100% submission of assessment reports – the only academic unit to have done so!!!
- Finally, we ended with our Dean's Fellow for Strategic Planning, Chris MacDonald, facilitating a conversation about our efforts to address the plan's goal statements. Much was accomplished!

In all, it's been an amazing year for the College with so much good work accomplished. I wish you the very best!

You can always find more information about the BCOE at <https://www.indianastate.edu/education/>.

Do feel free to contact me with feedback, suggestions, or concerns at [Brad.Balch@indstate.edu](mailto:Brad.Balch@indstate.edu).

GO SYCAMORES!

Respectfully,  
Brad Balch, Dean



## Alumni News

- Dr. Michelle Ginkins, PhD Educational Administration 2015, from New Albany High School was named the 2024 State High School Principal of the Year
- Dr. Tracy Lorey, MS Elementary Education 1998 & PhD Educational Administration 2006, was named the Indiana Deputy Secretary of Education

If you would like to submit an alumni update for consideration in the next newsletter, please email Todd LaComba ([todd.lacomba@indstate.edu](mailto:todd.lacomba@indstate.edu)) Thanks!

## Alumni Events and Travels

- On December 21, 2024, the Bayh College of Education sponsored the second annual Educator Appreciation Basketball game. This year's honorees included Doug Hudson an Alternative Education Teacher from Greencastle High School, Taylor Vukovits a Social Studies Teacher from South Vermillion Middle School, Loramy Davidson a Kindergarten Teacher from Marshall South Elementary School and Dr. Shawn Smith Superintendent at Lawrence Township MSD.
- On January 26, 2025, Dr. Brad Balch, Dean of the Bayh College of Education and Todd LaComba, Director of Development for the college, hosted the third annual Tampa Area Educators lunch. Educators who now live in the Tampa area met at a local restaurant to share their stories from their time on campus as well as their careers in education. We enjoyed warm weather and great food while the Dean provided updates from campus and the college.

## Faculty Awards & Honors

- Dr. Whitney Nesser: 2025 Theodore Dreiser Distinguished Research/Creativity Award recipient.
- Dr. Whitney Nesser: Named the 2025–2028 Coffman Distinguished Professor.
- Dr. Carrie Ball: Selected to receive the President’s Medal, the highest university faculty honor.
- Assistant Dean, Dr. Malea Crosby: Selected as the 2024–2025 “Career Readiness Advocate.”
- Dr. JaDora Sailes Moore: Received the 2023–2024 Foundational Studies Outstanding Instructor Award.
- Dr. JaDora Sailes Moore: Selected as a recipient of the 2024 Foundational Studies Outstanding Instructor Award.
- Dr. Min Han: Received the 2025 Richard Willey Memorial Faculty Development Award.
- Dr. Christy Coleman Brown: Completed the Master Teacher Program.
- Tracy Goff: Nominated by a student for the Caleb Mills Distinguished Teaching Award.



## Faculty Grants & Program Approvals

- Dr. Whitney Nesser: Gained approval for the Intergenerational Relationships Certificate from the Indiana Commission on Higher Education.
- Amanda Solesky and Tracy Goff: Received Blumberg Travel Grants to attend the CAPCSD Conference.
- Dr. Alyce Hopple, Dr. Annie Liner, and Dr. Chris MacDonald: Approved for sabbatical leave by the Provost.

## Faculty Publications & Presentations

- Dr. JaDora Sailes Moore:
  - “Building a sense of belonging in an asynchronous online course: Lessons learned from student voices.” (Creative Education, 2024).
  - <https://doi.org/10.4236/ce.2024.1512154>
  - “From traditional classrooms to online communities: Creating DEIB in asynchronous learning spaces.” (Presented at NAME Conference, 2024).
- Dr. Linda Sperry:
  - “A deficit story in motion...” (Journal of Social Issues, 2024).
  - <https://doi.org/10.1111/josi.12647>
- Amanda Solesky, Tracy Goff, and Danica Garrison:
  - “Using everyday items to promote speech and language development.” (Paper accepted for Indiana Early Intervention Conference, 2025).

## Student Awards & Recognitions

- Emma Kaelin: Awarded the Hines Memorial Medal.
- Chelsie Edwards: Named Physical Education Major of the Year at the National INSHAPE Conference.
- CSD Honors Students presenting GH401 research:
  - Hailey Dawson: FOXP2 and human language.
  - Ireland R. Watterson: Noise-induced hearing loss in professional musicians.
  - Keagan Green: Dialectical differences in speech-language development.
  - Lilli Weber: Celiac-safe conditions in restaurants.
  - Allyson Cline: Literacy development using AAC.
  - Cheyenne Drake: Multilingualism and speech-language assessments.
  - Sydney Bailey: Historical relevance of the Black Death today.

## Student Grants & Support

- Fatima Zahrae Berrfai: Received both Graduate Student Research and Travel Grants.
- Ashley Mattews and Caroline Warren: Awarded Graduate Student Travel Grants.

## **Program Accreditations & Approvals**

- School Psychology Ed.S. Program (Dr. Alyce Hopple and faculty): Fully accredited by NASP through 2031.
- Communication Disorders (CSD) Program: Successfully completed an accreditation site visit in preparation for continued recognition and program excellence.

## **Faculty Grants – Research & Summer Programs**

- Dr. Annie Liner and Dr. Whitney Nesser: Sycamore Summer Scholars proposals accepted.

## **Personal Milestones**

- Jessica Ross: Welcomed a baby girl in spring.

At C.H.I.L.L.'s February Monthly meeting for members, we began with a get-to-know-you game we called Similarities. The point of the game was to find similarities with the people sitting at your table. This was a fun way for people to find out information about friends and find people that share common interests. Our professional development activity was a session on 'How to Keep the Curriculum Relevant in the Classroom.' We provided strategies on how to keep all grades focused and participating in the classroom. We discussed how to relate the content to events happening in the world, fun online games to play that also pertain to the lesson, and in-class tricks and tips that help teachers keep students focused. For our community service project, we organized supplies for the hygiene kits for students at Woodrow Wilson Middle School. While working together and snacking on tailgate food all members had so much fun.



**On February 3, 2025, C.H.I.L.L. attended and presented at Indiana State University's Day at the Statehouse as a part of the American Democracy Project. Many people stopped by to discuss C.H.I.L.L. and our Teacher Education Program with our group.**





March 5-8, 2025, 6 undergraduate students and a faculty advisor attended and presented at the National Association of School-University Partnerships (NASUP) conference in New Orleans, LA. The conference theme was Elevating Collaboration: The Jazz of School-University Partnerships. This conference brings together school and university partnerships from around the country to address the challenges faced meeting the needs of students, PK-12 educators, and university faculty. This year over twenty-five college students attended which made the conference more engaged for our students. Over the course of the conference, we attended over a multitude of sessions, which focused on undergraduate programs, early field experiences, student organizations, and collaborations between students, faculty, and public school teachers. This group presented two concurrent sessions titled 'The Harmony of a Student-led Organization: C.H.I.L.L.' and 'Dancing Our Way through Teacher Education' and a roundtable session titled, 'Building the Groove: Creating and Sustaining a Student-led Organization.' University faculty and undergraduate students heavily attended these sessions where we were able to share our experiences and discuss additional opportunities with other universities. We have scheduled a zoom session with the University of Ohio to discuss our initiatives and possible collaborations, which we are looking forward to very much.



Our March Monthly Meeting began with sharing of stories and reflections about what we learned at the Association of School-University Partnerships (NASUP) conference in New Orleans, LA. All C.H.I.L.L. members attending the conference told of their experiences presenting at a national conference, meeting new people, and learning how other education programs work around the country. Our getting to know you activity was the cup game which helps focus on what the other person chooses to do. A lot of laughter and good times were had during this activity. Along with our snacks for the evening, we painted rocks for the College of Education Rock Garden.





Our April Monthly Meeting focused on Reflecting and Goal Setting. C.H.I.L.L. has had a very successful and busy spring semester. We began our last monthly meeting of the semester by introducing our professional development topic for the month: how to reflect on the school year as educators and how to set goals for the next school year. Members were invited to enjoy snacks before we participated in a Getting to Know You Activity, which was making a summer bucket list. Then, we listed applicable ways to reflect on a school year and set goals for the next school year as an educator (and even as a student). We also reflected on everything C.H.I.L.L. has done this school year, as well as set goals for our organization next school year. We ended the meeting with a community service initiative in which we collaborated with Timmy Global Health to make a success. We collected school supplies and colored coloring sheets for students in Ecuador, where one of our board members will be visiting this summer. We are proud of everything C.H.I.L.L. has accomplished this school year, and we are excited to see what we will accomplish next school year!



On April 11, 2025 several C.H.I.L.L. members participated in the 'Out of the Darkness Walk for Suicide Prevention.

Celebration hosted by the Career Center for C.H.I.L.L. earning a nomination for Team of the Year on April 14, 2025.



On April 6, 2025 five members of C.H.I.L.L. attended the Sycamore Leadership Awards where they were recognized and given the Treehouse Award.



During the Give to Blue Event at Indiana State University, C.H.I.L.L. created and designed a container for Coins for A Cause for the College of Education. C.H.I.L.L. won the decorating contest with their 'Fishing for Change' bowl.

**Congratulations to Fatima-Zahrae Berrfai for winning Graduate Student of the Year.**

**We are so proud of you!**

**Read her statement below:**

“What began as a pursuit to become a skilled teacher educator at ISU evolved into something far greater. Through the guidance of incredible mentors, the support of generous scholarships, and my involvement in meaningful organizations, I didn’t just grow as an educator- I grew as a leader, a community servant, an advocate for educational equity, a UN youth representative, and most importantly, a lifelong learner.

Being far from home as an international student isn’t easy. But Bayh College quickly became more than just a school- it became my family. The sense of belonging, encouragement, and belief in my potential that I found here has shaped every step of my journey. Being named Graduate Student of the Year and receiving the Sycamore Leadership Award is more than an honor—it's a reflection of the journey I've shared with the mentors, peers, and community who shaped it with me. Once a Sycamore, always a Sycamore- I carry that spirit with me wherever I go.”



**Congratulations to Emma Kaelin for receiving the 2025 Hines Memorial Medal.**

**We are so proud of you!**

**Read her statement below:**

“Throughout my time at ISU, I have been blessed with the opportunity of being a student-athlete. With this title, I have come into contact with amazing coaches, professors, and classmates, and each one has helped me on my wild journey. During my time as a Sycamore, I strove for excellence in all areas of my life, including academics. I put in hours of hard work into each and every assignment or class I faced, and this allowed me to achieve my goals. I am very grateful for the people who have supported me during the many ups and downs of my college journey, and I am extremely grateful for my time as a student-athlete! Once a tree, always a tree!”





# INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES 2025 FACULTY AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING, RESEARCH, AND SCIENCE

Indiana State University has announced the 2025 recipients of its highest faculty honors, recognizing exceptional achievements in teaching, research, service, and community engagement. The awardees, selected from various disciplines, exemplify the university’s mission of academic excellence and dedication to student success.

“These awards represent the highest level of peer recognition at Indiana State,” said Provost Christopher Olsen. “Each recipient has made a profound impact on students, the university, and their academic fields through their dedication, creativity, and scholarship.”

## President’s Medal for Exemplary Contributions and Dedication

Indiana State’s highest faculty honor, the President’s Medal, is awarded to:

- Dr. Carrie Ball, Chair and Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning

## Theodore Dreiser Distinguished Research and Creativity Awards

Honoring transformative scholarship and creative contributions:

- Dr. Whitney Nesser, Professor, Applied Clinical and Educational Studies

## Faculty Award for Community-Based Learning and Scholarship

- Dr. Yong Joon Park, Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning

Recognized for integrating Korean cultural programming and engagement across educational settings.



# 2025 IACTE OUTSTANDING FUTURE EDUCATORS BANQUET

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Five Indiana State University student teachers were recognized at the 2025 IACTE Outstanding Future Educators banquet on April 11th. They were honored along with 80 student teachers across Indiana.



Lauren Troesch (Social Studies Education), Stephen Anderson (Music Education), Alexis Mumma (Music Education), Reed Goodwin (Elementary Education), Kaitlyn David (Elementary Education).

# 2025 IACTE OUTSTANDING FUTURE EDUCATORS BANQUET

**Below are excerpts from the nomination letters for these incredible students:**

- I highly recommend Alexis Mumma for the Indiana Outstanding Future Educators Award. From Day 1, she has shown initiative, actively seeking out teaching opportunities. The January semester began uniquely, with e-learning days due to weather conditions. Although working from home, Alexis eagerly asked if she could create modules for the students' e-learning lessons, making and publishing 3 lessons each for Kindergarten and 1st grade.
- It is indeed an honor to recognize Kaitlyn David as an outstanding future educator. Currently, Kaitlyn David is working in my third grade classroom at Terre Town Elementary School. Miss David is exemplary both as a person and as an educator. She strives for the highest ideals and holds herself to the highest standards. Kaitlyn has spent endless hours working tirelessly for the children in our classroom this school year. She combines teaching with compassion, professionalism, and a love of learning with insight and dedication.



**Below are excerpts from the nomination letters for these incredible students:**

- Lauren did a remarkable job as a student teacher at Forest Park this semester. She attended school every day and was very punctual. She was prepared with her lessons, and her vast knowledge of the subject area was evident during her teaching. In addition to preparing the notes and information to share with the students, she was also able to answer almost all of their questions. Those questions she wasn't able to answer, she researched and reported back to them at a later date. She embraced our new initiative to implement writing across the curriculum using the RACES model
- Reed Goodwin is an exemplary student teacher with veteran-like experience as an educator. His rapport with fellow educators is one of mutual respect, as other staff members see his excellent qualities. The students respond to him positively in all situations in the classroom. He is a firm but fair teacher who cares about the learning and behavior of his students, creating a solid learning environment.
- I am proud to recommend Stephen Anderson for this distinction. He was my student teacher at Terre Haute South Vigo High School this semester and was on our summer Marching Band staff last year. Stephen is one of those rare students that a host teacher only encounters every five to ten years. He is easily in the top five percent of all the student teachers I have had the pleasure to work with in my 29 years as a teacher. He is a hard worker, self-motivated, and always up to the challenge at hand!



# BE FEATURED ON ISU LIVE



Students, faculty, staff, and alumni are invited to fill out a short survey to be featured on the ISU Live screens in the Bayh College of Education. Do you love your program? Share it with us to show others on our social media pages and the ISU Live!

[https://indstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0Mqc03wWixmvD82](https://indstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0Mqc03wWixmvD82)