



The Early Childhood Commission Virtual Professional Development Institute 2021



Sponsors



**Jamaica Diaspora Taskforce Action Network
(JDTAN)**



**Culture, Health, Arts, Sports and Education
(CHASE) Fund**

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OUR VISION & MISSION

Mission

An integrated and coordinated delivery of quality early childhood programmes and services which provide equity and access for children zero to eight years within healthy, safe and nurturing environments.

Vision

All children having access to high quality early childhood development services enabling the realization of their full potential.



The Early Childhood Commission Twelve Operating Standards for Early Childhood Institutions

#ECCJA
#GetCertified

Standard 1: STAFFING



The staff at early childhood institutions has the characteristics, training, knowledge, skills, and attitude, to help children achieve their full potential.

Standard 2: DEVELOPMENTAL/EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES



Early childhood institutions have comprehensive programmes designed to meet the language, physical, cognitive, creative, socio-emotional, spiritual, cultural and school readiness needs of children.

Standard 3: INTERACTIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHILDREN



Early childhood staff has the characteristics, training, knowledge, skills and attitude to promote positive behaviours and reduce difficult and challenging behaviours in children.

Standard 4: PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT



Early childhood institutions have physical environments that meet building, health and safety requirements; allow adequate space for children and facilitate the development of children and staff.

Standard 5: INDOOR AND OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT, FURNISHING AND SUPPLIES



Early childhood institutions have indoor and outdoor equipment and furnishings that are safe, child-friendly and promote optimal development of children.

Standard 6: HEALTH



Early childhood institutions have physical facilities, policies, programmes and procedures that promote healthy lifestyles and protect children and staff from illness.

Standard 7: NUTRITION



Early childhood institutions provide children in their care with nutritious meals and model good nutritional practices for children and families.

Standard 8: SAFETY



Early childhood institutions provide safe indoor and outdoor environments for children, staff, stakeholders and visitors to the institution.

Standard 9: CHILD RIGHTS, CHILD PROTECTION AND EQUALITY



Early childhood institutions uphold the rights of children, protect them from harm and ensure that all children have equal access to services.

Standard 10: INTERACTIONS WITH PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS



The management and staff of early childhood institutions have good relationships with parents, caregivers, family members and the community.

Standard 11: ADMINISTRATION



Early childhood institutions have a management structure that ensures good administration. There are plans, policies, procedures and programmes that ensure child, family and staff well-being

Standard 12: FINANCE



Early childhood institutions have sound financial practices and adhere to standard accounting principles.



ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System Implementation at the Early Childhood Commission

Currently the ECC is undergoing the implementation of the ISO 9001 Quality Management System. This is a strategic intervention by the government to use standards to:

- a. Transform the Jamaican public sector to:
 - Deliver high quality public service
 - Improve the business environment, in order to become consistent with “developed countries”
- b. Transform businesses to create high quality goods and services that are globally competitive;
- c. Transform values, attitudes/mind-set, organization and societal culture.
- d. Achieve Vision 2030 “Making Jamaica the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business.”

ISO

International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is an independent, non-governmental international organization.

ISO 9001

ISO 9001 is the international standard for a quality management system (“QMS”). In order to be certified to the ISO 9001 standard, the ECC must follow the requirements set forth in the ISO 9001 Standard. The standard will be used by the ECC to demonstrate their ability to consistently provide products and services that meet customer and regulatory requirements and to demonstrate continuous improvement. During the journey to become ISO certified there will be several audits. These will ensure that the ECC is meeting the requirements of the ISO 9001: 2015 Standard.

The Early Childhood Commission Quality Policy Statement

The Early Childhood Commission is committed to provide an integrated and coordinated delivery of quality early childhood programmes and services within a healthy, safe and nurturing environment consistent with legal and regulatory requirements.

We are committed to continual improvement in meeting or exceeding customer expectations through a highly efficient, motivated and performance-driven team.

The Early Childhood Commission Scope Statement

The Scope of the Early Childhood Commission is to improve the quality of early childhood care, education and development within the early childhood sector operating from Shops 44-49 Kingston Mall, 8-10 Ocean Blvd, Kingston, Jamaica.

About The Virtual Professional Development Institute

Overview of PDI

In responding to the needs of the early childhood sector, the Early Childhood Commission designed a Professional Development Programme to meet the specific continuing education needs of early childhood practitioners. This year, our second hosting of the Professional Development Institute will be virtual.

Theme: “Through a Transformational Learning Environment our Children Are Inspired to be Creative”

General Aim of PDI 2021:

- To provide EC practitioners with the training necessary to improve their skills and techniques to be more effective in the teaching and learning environment and ultimately within the sector.

Objectives of PDI 2021:

- Continue to set the agenda that will focus on the early childhood sector developing the right strategies to utilize the developments of the 4th Industrial Revolution.
- Fill the gaps in technology knowledge and skills identified, and highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on the traditional teaching and learning environment.
- Present regional and international information that is current and relevant to shaping the early childhood sector.
- Provide training and development opportunities to practitioners that align with the ECC and global agendas of preparing our children for the 21st Century.
- Strengthen partnerships between regional players in the field of early childhood education that will enhance and foster the coordination of activities, information sharing and increased training.
- Equip professionals with the knowledge and skills to be successful in their roles within the sector and ensuring that they have a clear understanding of the role that technology now plays in the new normal.

General Information: Five Plenary sessions are held concurrently from Tuesday, May 18, 2021 to Thursday, May 20, 2021 from 9:15 am-10:30am. All Plenary sessions are live. Workshop Sessions are held concurrently each day from 11:00a.m- 4:45p.m. The Workshop Sessions are 60 minutes in length.

The workshop sessions are aligned to the following tracks:

- a. Track 1: Parenting
- b. Track 2: 0-3 Early Learning and Care
- c. Track 3: HOWARD University
- d. Track 4: STREAM
- e. Track 5: Lindamood-Bell for Schools
- f. Track 6: Leadership in a Pandemic

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY
THE MOST HONOURABLE SIR PATRICK ALLEN ON, GCMG, CD, KSt.J
GOVERNOR-GENERAL



The first 1,000 days of a child's life is a critical time when children learn important social and emotional skills and interact with their parents, teachers and peers.

Early childhood educators face many challenges in presenting the right balance of training and stimulation and the Professional Development Institute (PDI) will equip stakeholders and practitioners to develop best practices that will enhance their delivery to young children.

I commend the Early Childhood Commission (ECC) for hosting this second staging of the PDI which brings together experts from around the world to share in the development of

techniques and ideas which will guarantee that our young children receive the best possible education.

The theme ***“Through a Transformational Learning Environment Our Children Are Inspired to be Creative”*** recognizes the fact that *“Children are not things to be molded but are people to be unfolded”* (Jess Lair). It is, therefore, important that the right environment be created for the molding of young minds.

I trust that the ideas emanating from this forum will serve to strengthen the practices, development plans and programmes of early childhood education in Jamaica and the Caribbean so that practitioners can be responsive to the ever-changing and unorthodox teaching-learning environment.

As the ECC continues to uphold its pledge to support, supervise, promote and listen to our children, I encourage you to remain steadfast in your mission to provide *“an integrated and coordinated delivery of high-quality early childhood programmes and services, within healthy, safe and nurturing environments.”*

I wish you a successful event filled with opportunities for new collaborations, creative ideas and renewed vigor that will benefit our young children.

Message from Prime Minister

The Most Honourable Andrew Holness, ON, MP



I extend warm greetings to the Early Childhood Commission (ECC) as it hosts the largest gathering of early childhood practitioners and stakeholders in the Caribbean, virtually, for the second staging of its Professional Development Institute (PDI).

Indeed, the theme “Through a Transformational Learning Environment our Children are inspired to be Creative” embodies the principles on which the ECC operates to provide an integrated and coordinated delivery of high-quality early childhood programmes and services. These

principles are also aimed at teaching our little ones how to interact with others, including peers, teachers, and parents, and begin to develop interests that will remain with them throughout their lives.

Since its establishment, the ECC has, through a highly efficient, motivated, and performance-driven team, developed comprehensive programmes designed to enable early childhood institutions to strategically improve language, physical, cognitive, creative, socio-emotional, spiritual, cultural, and school readiness needs of children. Moreover, the ECC ensures that the staff at early childhood institutions are exposed to and possess the training, knowledge, skills, and attitude to help children achieve their full potential.

Through Regulation and Monitoring, Sector Support Services, and Cross-Sectoral Coordination, the ECC has sought to ensure the effective implementation of policies and programmes within the early childhood sector, especially now as the world grapples with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and placing the learning environment primarily in the virtual space.

As a firm believer in quality education and development, particularly at the early childhood level, I am pleased to see the work done by the ECC through the Ministry of Education, Youth and

Information, creating Brain Builder Centres islandwide. This initiative will nurture the next generation of brilliant Jamaicans who are well-rounded and able to compete globally.

Stakeholders are guided by the National Strategic Plan (NSP) to ensure that children at the early childhood level are provided with the requisite support to realize their full potential. Proper growth and development are attainable with effective parenting and education support, preventative health care, early and effective screening, diagnosis and intervention for ‘at risk’ children, the provision of safe, learner-centered, well-maintained ECI facilities, and effective curriculum delivery.

As the ECC hosts the second staging of its Professional Development Institute on May 17-21, 2021 virtually, I am confident that the Commission will realize its objectives. I encourage all participants to use the exposure to high-quality plenary sessions, workshops, and practical demonstrations to enhance their skills in listening, supervising, promoting self-discipline and emotional intelligence, and supporting the needs of the children.

I wish you a successful event as you work to ensure all children from zero to eight years have access to quality early childhood development services enabling the realization of their full potential within a healthy, safe and nurturing environment.

Message from Minister of Education, Youth and Information

The Honourable Fayval Williams, M.P



I am delighted to join with all the participants for this year's Professional Development Institute organised by the Early Childhood Commission.

This is a great opportunity for us collectively to look at the well-being of our children how they are learning amid all the contemporary challenges.

I know that many studies have already been done but we each have unique experiences and perspectives and so to the extent that we can share together we can all benefit.

This year's theme "Through a Transformational Learning Environment our Children are inspired to be Creative," throws into sharp focus the interdependence of multiple partners and agencies to bring about the desired changes we want to see effected in our children's education, especially at the early childhood level.

Transformational teaching is based on the idea that teachers do more than deliver information. Rather they help students develop their creativity and become participants in the learning process and well-practiced at critical thinking, goal setting and reflection.

The ability to engage students and keeping them engaged is no easy task and there is no one size fits all formula that will work in every setting. Engaging students as active learners is key to transformational learning. Class or small-group activities and discussions built around real-world problems encourage students to apply their learning in a practical way.

In addition, the Covid-19 pandemic has brought with it new challenges and some opportunities to revisit what we are doing.

I commend the ECC for its efforts in seeing that more ECIs are registered and more importantly, that they are certified. This occasion, serves, I believe, to highlight standard one of the Early Childhood Commission's Twelve Standards. Standard One (Staffing) says, "The staff at early childhood

institutions have the characteristics, training, knowledge, skills and aptitude to help children to achieve their full potential.”

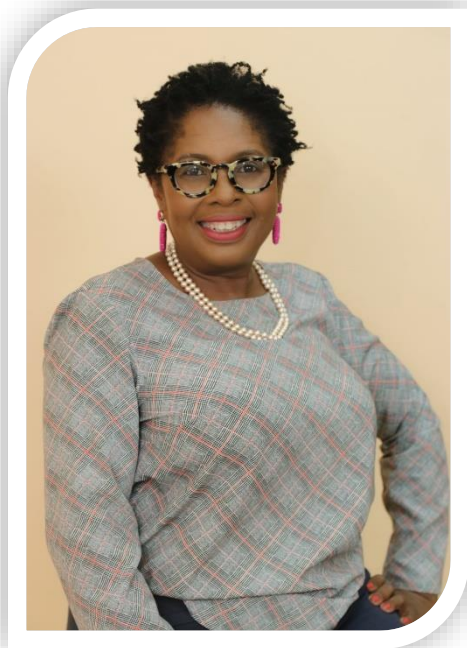
This Professional Development Institute is therefore very important as it provides early childhood practitioners the opportunity to grow in their profession and in their interaction with their children. The workshops, plenary discussions, demonstrations and overall discussions this week will assist in improving how early childhood practitioners will be able to serve children, parents and the nation as a whole.

I am sure the sessions will be productive and will ultimately help all of us to do a better job. We must all continue to support the efforts to lay a strong foundation for our children. The Ministry therefore fully supports this initiative of the Early Childhood Commission.

Best wishes for a successful meeting and I am looking forward to recommendations that will flow from it.

Message from the Opposition Spokesperson on Education

Dr. Angela Brown Burke



Early Childhood Educators have one of the most rewarding yet difficult jobs. You are tasked with the molding of our future leaders and citizens and at the most vulnerable stage of a child's life, the teachings imparted to these young children pave the way for the men, women and citizens of the future. Studies show that high quality education in the early stages of a child's life leads to a more well-rounded individual both emotionally and socially.

Many of the children who enroll into an Early Childhood Institutions in particular basic schools, come from homes where parents are struggling to be parents while facing other challenges to make a living and to make a home. Many of our teachers assume the roles of mothers and fathers taking on their education as well as their welfare and well-being.

In this evolving educational space, Early Childhood Educators have been creating an atmosphere that encourages free and purposeful exploration. You have been paying close attention to each child's unique talents and disposition and providing hands on learning opportunities that spark natural curiosity.

Your challenges have been many and you are probably not thanked often enough. So let me state unequivocally that As Early Childhood Educators, your hard work and dedication do not go unnoticed. Today, I say congratulations for the magnificent work that you are doing and continuing to do. I look forward to seeing the even greater achievement as we standardize service, and improve participation by more families in the Early Childhood Education sector.

Message from Chairman, Early Childhood Commission

Trisha Williams-Singh



This staging of the Early Childhood Commission’s Virtual Professional Development Institute marks a significant milestone in the operations of the Commission due to the unprecedented circumstances under which it is being executed. Over the years, the ECC has had our children at the forefront of strategic planning, by ensuring that they are continuously provided with high quality programmes and services to ensure that they are optimally developed and are on the right path to becoming productive members of society. The Commission also ensures that our early childhood

practitioners are equipped with the requisite knowledge and skills to be fully prepared for the classroom, whether virtual or physical.

Unfortunately, one of the many hindrances caused by COVID-19, is that curriculum, instruction and assessment activities were disrupted as the pandemic came to our shores and lead to the closure of our schools, including early childhood institutions. Even with this obstacle, the Commission ensured that the needs of our practitioners were being met through the provision of online training in various areas. The ECC in working with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information began to provide the technical support required to assess the learning gaps, develop and execute the appropriate remedial efforts or the response to intervention plans to mitigate learning loss, within the context of a blended model of education.

The theme for this year’s PDI “through a transformational learning environment we inspire our children to be creative” is testament to the dedication of my team, to maintain focused in our provision of services and guidance for the Early Childhood Development Sector despite the changing circumstances. This PDI will feature interactive workshops and sessions running concurrently and will be facilitated by experts in Early Childhood Development. Practitioners will be given an opportunity to attend workshops and sessions that are specific to their professional development needs as we aim to provide Early Childhood Practitioners with the training necessary to improve their skills and techniques to be more effective in the teaching and learning environment and ultimately within the sector.

Message from Executive Director, Early Childhood Commission

Karlene DeGrasse-Deslandes



The Early Childhood Commission (ECC) is providing Early Childhood Practitioners with the training necessary to improve their skills and techniques to be more effective in the teaching and learning environment and ultimately within the sector. This is being done through the second staging of the Commission's Professional Development Institute this year.

The Commission, in responding to the protocols and changes from the impact of COVID-19 and increasing number of infections last year, we rescheduled the

Professional Development Institute (PDI) from May to August 2020. However, as the number of COVID-19 cases continued to rise, our team reassessed and made the decision to host PDI in May 2021.

We continue to navigate the changing times with our enthusiasm, purpose and drive to serve the early childhood sector in Jamaica; the continued professional development and success of our stakeholders remain our priority. Through this year's staging of the Professional Development Institute, we hope to: Continue to set the agenda that will focus on the early childhood sector developing the right strategies to utilize the developments of the 4th Industrial Revolution; fill the gaps in technology knowledge and skills identified highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on the traditional teaching and learning environment and equip professionals with the knowledge and skills to be successful in their roles within the sector and ensuring that they have a clear understanding of the role that technology now plays in the new normal.

This year's PDI will also see the provision of training and development opportunities for practitioners; these opportunities align with the ECC and global agendas of preparing our children for the 21st Century. Through our presentation of regional and international information that is current and relevant to shaping the early childhood sector, we believe this will be as impactful as our PDI when held in physical spaces.

Finally, we hope to strengthen partnerships between regional players in the field of early childhood education that will enhance and foster the coordination of activities, information sharing and increased training.

Sincere gratitude to ECC's partners – the Culture, Health, Arts, Sports and Education (CHASE) Fund and the Jamaica Diaspora Taskforce Action Network (JDTAN) for contributing to the success of this year's PDI.

**Message from Chief Executive Officer,
Culture, Health, Arts, Sports and Education (CHASE) Fund
Mr. Billy Heaven**



The CHASE Fund is pleased to support the Early Childhood Commission's Professional Development Institute 2021. The theme: *"Through a Transformational Learning Environment, our Children are Inspired to be Creative"* is fitting given the paradigm shift in the delivery of education caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic has reinforced the value of well-trained teachers who can engage students in blended learning settings. The Fund applauds the ECC's Professional Development Institute's decentralized approach which allows for the participation of more practitioners across the island. It is in sync with our mandate to support capacity development initiatives that are inclusive and impactful. We are confident that the PDI's plenary sessions, workshops and practical demonstrations delivered virtually, will facilitate the professional growth in teachers' knowledge and teaching techniques that enhance their ability to adapt to this changing educational environment.

In the last year, having examined the relevance of its support to ECIs, CHASE increased the number of schools that receive SMART Boards and prioritized the acquisition of personal protective equipment (PPEs) and tablets for early childhood students and teachers. This was done in addition to the facility upgrades; scholarship awards for specialist training in Early Childhood Education; and contribution to curriculum initiatives, conferences and workshops.

One thing that has not changed is the Fund's commitment to the early childhood sector. Twenty-five percent of our budget continues to be invested in this critical area of the education system. Like the ECC, we are working to ensure that less ground is lost during the pandemic period and that previous investments made are not eroded.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, management and staff of the Fund, I thank the Early Childhood Commission for the recognition of the Fund's contribution to the development of the early childhood education sector. Our Company remains committed to its development mission for the sector and its continued partnership with the Early Childhood Commission.

ECC's Virtual Professional Development Institute

Agenda

May 17 – 21, 2021

Theme: "Through a transformational learning environment our children are inspired to be creative"

DAY 1 - MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021

OPENING SESSION

9:00am

MC: Mr Leighton Jones

Director Continuing Education - EMCVPA

National Anthem of Jamaica

9:10am – 9:15am

Welcome – Chairman ECC

Mrs. Trisha Williams-Singh

9:15am – 9:30am

Greetings

CHASE Fund

Mr "W" Billy Heaven

Jamaica Diaspora Education Task Force Action Network

Mr Leo Gillings

Opposition Spokesperson on Education

Dr. Angella Brown-Burke

Minister of Education Youth & Information

Hon. Fayval Williams

9:30am – 9:35am

Cultural Item

EMCVPA

9:35am – 9:40am

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Mrs Karlene DeGrasse-Deslandes

Executive Director, Early Childhood Commission, Jamaica

9:40am – 10:30a.m

Keynote Speaker

Dr Harry Patrinos

World Bank Education Global Practice

Practice Manager for Europe & Central Asia Region

11:00 am – 1:00pm

Recognition/Awards Ceremony

VIEWING OF VIRTUAL BOOTHS

DAY 2 - TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021

SESSION TWO

9:00am – 9:15a.m.

Welcome

National Anthem of Jamaica

9:15am - 10:30am

Track 1 - PARENTING

Panel Discussion – Raising Resilient Children

Panel Facilitator: Dr Orville Taylor

Panellists: Miss Tanisha Miller, Mr Mark Bryan (Parent), Miss Kemesha Swaby, Dr. Rebecca Harper,

9:15am - 10:30am

Track 2 – EARLY LEARNING & CARE

Panel Discussion – Creating Conditions for Success

Panel Facilitator: Dr Jean Beaumont

Panellists: Miss Brandi Aronson, Dr Anderson-Morgan, Dr Melody Ennis, Dr Zoyah Kinkead-Clark

9:15am - 10:30am

Track 3 – Howard University

Panel Discussion- Approaches to Learning, Curriculum Integration and the Use of Play in EC Settings

Panel Facilitator: Dr Hakim Rashid

Panellists: Dr. Elizabeth Ricks, Ms. Taheerah Boyd, Mrs. Ameenah Rashid,

9:15am - 10:30am

Track 4 – STREAM

Panel Discussion – Using Loose Parts from our Environment in our Daily Interactions

Panel Facilitator: Mrs. Rachel Dolcine

Panellists: Mrs Taneka Munroe-Baker, Dr Angelica Brooks, Dr Trudy-Ann Barrett, Miss Rochelle Williams, Miss. Gwen Cambridge

9:15am - 10:30am

Track 5 – Lindamood-Bell with Creative Language Based Learning Foundation (CLBL)

Presentation – A Picture of Success: The Imagery-Language Foundation For Language Comprehension And Reading

Presenter: Ms. Brilliana Rawlins

9:15am - 10:30am

Track 6 - Leadership in a Pandemic/COVID -19 Conversations

Presentation-The Impact of COVID-19 on Children and Families in the Caribbean

Presenter: Professor Maureen Samms-Vaughan

Concurrent Workshops:

11:00am – 12:00noon

Track 1	Track 2	Track 3	Track 4	Track 5	Track 6
Parent and Child: How to Read to your Child- <i>Miss Lorraine McLean</i>	Milestones Matter for Infants and Toddlers- <i>Miss Rochelle Williams</i>	Inclusion and Early Childhood: A Story of Discovery- <i>Dr. James Jackson</i>	Using Web 2.0 tools for Learner Engagement in the Early Childhood Classroom- <i>Mr Dale Bedasse</i>	Concept Imagery as a Basis for Comprehension and Critical Thinking- <i>Ms. Brilliana Rawlins</i>	Reimagining Teacher Supervision in Early Learning Environment- <i>Mr. Moses Abiero</i>

12:00pm - 12:30pm **LUNCH BREAK**

12:30pm – 1:00pm

Afternoon Welcome

Concurrent Workshops:

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Track 1	Track 2	Track 3	Track 4	Track 5	Track 6
The Integrated Preschool Classroom With A Focus On Children With Autism- <i>Dr Rebecca Harper</i>	Creating a Responsive Early Learning and Care Environment- <i>Mrs Michelle Campbell</i>	Dr. Velma LaPoint	The Digital Future of Work: What skills will be needed- <i>Mrs. Erica Simmons</i>	Symbol Imagery as a Basis for Reading- <i>Ms. Brilliana Rawlins</i>	Reflective Leadership: An Imperative for Effective Transformation- <i>Dr. Taneisha Ingleton</i>

2:05pm – 2:15pm **MOVEMENT – Millie's Movers**

Concurrent Workshops:

2:30pm – 3:30pm

Track 1	Track 2	Track 3	Track 4	Track 5	Track 6
Safeguarding Children in the Early Years- <i>Mrs Rosalee Gage-Gray</i>	Process Quality Interactions- <i>Dr Zoyah Kinkead-Clark</i>	Learning Standards and Young Children of African Descent: Cultural Factors and the Teacher's Role- <i>Dr. Hakim Rashid</i>	Embracing the Transformational ECI: Unearthing the Children's Creativity- <i>Mrs Valmarie Smith & Mrs Yvette Edwards-Wilson</i>	Numeral & Concept Imagery as the Basis for Maths – <i>Ms. Brilliana Rawlins</i>	Deferred Potential: The Impact of COVID- 19 on Children in the Early Childhood Age Cohort – Different Perspectives- Facilitator: Jennifer 'Jenny Jenny' Small- Panellists: <i>Children, Mrs Diane White-Jamaica; Gwen Cambridge -St Vincent & Grenadines, Ms. Leja Burrows and Ms. Theresa Hunter-Bahamas; Ms. Colette Kane- Canada; Mr. Moses Abiero - Kenya</i>

3:45pm – 4:45pm

Track 1	Track 2	Track 3	Track 4	Track 5
Using Resources At Home To Engage The	How Children Learn about Numbers- <i>Dr Lorna Thompson</i>	Parent Education on Managing	How to Support Teachers in the 21 st	Articulatory Feedback as a Basis for the Development

Whole Child-Miss Sydonnie Pellington		Behaviour- Dr. Mercedes Ebanks	Century-Mrs Ingrid Peart-Wilmot	of Phonemic Awareness- Ms. Brilliana Rawlins
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DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2020

SESSION THREE

9:00am – 9:15a.m.

Welcome

National Anthem of Jamaica

9:15am - 10:30am

Track 1 - PARENTING

Panel Discussion – The Importance of Parents in the Home/School Relationship

Panel Facilitator: Mr. Newton Douglas

Panellists: Mrs Shaunette Grant, Kateisha Allen, Ms. Heather Bernard, Professor Helen Henningham, Mrs. Diahann Gordon-Harrison

9:15am - 10:30am

Track 2 – EARLY LEARNING & CARE

Panel Discussion – The Importance of the Play and Interactions in ECD

Panel Facilitator: Dr Rebecca Tortello

Panellists: Ms. Annmarie McIntosh, Dr. Dwayne Dyce, Dr Lorna Thompson, Professor Gail Hunter

9:15am - 10:30am

Track 3 – Howard University

Panel Discussion – What Parents Need to Know about Inclusion

Presenters: Dr. James Jackson and Dr. Mercedes Ebanks

9:15am - 10:30am

Track 4 – STREAM

Panel Discussion – Preparing your Learning Environment for the 4th Industrial Revolution

Panel Facilitator: Narda Gray

Panellists: Mrs Jodi-Ann Gowie-Ragbar, Dr. Winsome Gordon, Mr Dale Bedasse, Mrs. Erica Simmonds, Mrs. Melani Gooden

9:15am - 10:30am

Track 5 – Lindamood-Bell with CLBL Foundation

Presentation– A Picture of Success: The Imagery-Language Foundation For Language Comprehension And Reading **Panel Presenter: Ms. Brilliana Rawlins**

9:15am - 10:30am

Track 6 - Leadership in a Pandemic/COVID-19 Conversations:

Panel Discussion - Great Leadership = Better Child Outcomes

Panel Facilitator: Miss Dorret Campbell

Panellists: Ms Faithlyn Lyle, Mrs Ingrid

Peart-Wilmot, Dr Kasan Troupe, Dr Tracy Sinclair, Dr Jean Beaumont

Concurrent Workshops:

11:00am – 12:00noon

Track 1	Track 2	Track 3	Track 4	Track 5	Track 6
Introducing Irie Homes- <i>Prof Helen Henningham</i>	Building Brains – What to do in the First 1000 days of Life- <i>Dr Rebecca Tortello</i>	Inclusion and Early Childhood: A Story of Discovery- <i>Dr. James Jackson</i>	The Benefit of Robotics at the Early Childhood Level- <i>Mrs. Erica Simmons</i>	Concept Imagery as a Basis for Comprehension and Critical Thinking- <i>Ms. Brilliana Rawlins</i>	Core Skills for 21 st Century Leaders in Education- <i>Dr Kasan Troupe</i>

12:00pm - 12:30pm **LUNCH BREAK**

12:30pm – 1:00pm

Afternoon Welcome

Concurrent Workshops:

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Track 1	Track 2	Track 3	Track 4	Track 5	Track 6
Family Engagements: Building Great Relationships that Support Young Children- <i>Prof. Gail Hunter and Ms. Colette Kane</i>	The Outdoor Infant and Toddler Play Environment- <i>Miss Narda Gray</i>	Dr. Velma LaPoint	Using Web 2.0 Tools for Learner Engagement in the Early Childhood Classroom- <i>Mr. Dale Bedasse</i>	Symbol Imagery as a Basis for Reading- <i>Ms. Brilliana Rawlins</i>	Mentorship and Coaching Strategies for New Teachers- <i>Mrs Ingrid Peart-Wilmot</i>

2:05pm – 2:15pm **MOVEMENT – Millie's Movers**

2:30pm – 3:30pm

Track 1	Track 2	Track 3	Track 4	Track 5	Track 6
Preparing Parents for the 21 st Century Child- <i>Dr. Winsome Gordon</i>	Math Through Play – Early Years- <i>Dr Lorna Thompson</i>	Learning Standards and Young Children of African Descent: Cultural Factors and the Teacher's Role- <i>Dr. Hakim Rashid</i>	Embracing the transformational ECI: Unearthing the Children's Creativity- <i>Mrs Valmarie Smith & Yvette Edwards-Wilson</i>	Numerals & Concept Imagery as the Basis for Maths – <i>Ms. Brilliana Rawlins</i>	Leadership and Early Years Professionalism- <i>Dr Tracy Sinclair</i>

3:45pm – 4:45pm

Track 1	Track 2	Track 3	Track 4	Track 5	Track 6
Transforming the Lives of Children and Families through Early Intervention- <i>Mrs. Antonica Gunter Gayle</i>	Learning through Digital Play-Mr. Dale Bedasse	Parent Education on Managing Behaviour- Dr. Mercedes Ebanks	New Media Literacy for Preschool: Why? How? When?-Dr Suzette Kelly-Williams	Articulatory Feedback as a Basis for the Development of Phonemic Awareness- Ms. Brilliana Rawlins	Talking to and Supporting Children and Families During the Pandemic-Dr Melody Ennis

DAY 4 - THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021

SESSION FOUR

9:00am – 9:15a.m.

Welcome

National Anthem of Jamaica

9:15am - 10:30am

Track 1 – PARENTING

Panel Discussion – Getting it Right from the Start: Perspectives on Parenting Practices in Jamaica

Panel Facilitator: Dr Suzette Kelly-Williams

Panellists: Mr Kevin Parker, Dr. Melody Ennis, Inspector Jackie Dillion, Miss Heather Bernard, Mr. Keevie Miller (Parent)

9:15am - 10:30am

Track 2 – EARLY LEARNING & CARE

Panel Discussion –Leveraging the Hashtag

Panel Facilitator: Ms. Rachael McDonald

Panellists: Mrs. Taniesha Pascoe- Matthews, Ms. Heidi Echternacht, Ms. Christine Anderson, Ms. Kerensa Smith

9:15am - 10:30am

Track 3 – Howard University

Panel Discussion:

Panel Facilitator: Dr. Velma LaPoint

Panelists:

9:00am - 10:30am

Track 4 - STREAM

Plenary Session – Connecting Policy, Practices and Research

Panel Facilitator: Dr Harry Patrinos

Panellists: Miss Sibane Reid, Miss Ingrid Bjerk, Mr. Easton Williams, Mrs. Rosalee Gage-Grey, Dr Grace-Camille Munroe

9:15am - 10:30am

Track 5 – Lindamood Bell with CLBL Foundation

Presentation– A Picture of Success: The Imagery-Language Foundation For Language Comprehension And Reading Panel Presenter: Ms. Brilliana Rawlins

9:15am - 10:30am

Track 6 - Leadership in a Pandemic

Panel Discussion - Leadership and Teacher Quality: Critical Ingredients for Child Outcome

Panel Facilitator: Mrs. Maureen Dwyer

Panellists: Miss Louri-Ann Robotham, Dr Zoyah KinKead-Clark, Mrs Teneisha Myers-Ferguson, Dr Sadie Harris-Mortley, Mrs Kadia-Ann Daley, Mrs Jaqueline Chen, Miss Sophia Harold

Concurrent Workshops:

11:00am – 12:00noon

Track 1	Track 2	Track 3	Track 4	Track 5	Track 6
Talk and Do Science at Home- <i>Dr Sue Dale Tunnicliffe</i>	In Pursuit of FUN- <i>Miss Rachael McDonald</i>	Inclusion and Early Childhood: A Story of Discovery- <i>Dr. James Jackson</i>	Parent Involvement and Technology- <i>Dr Grace-Camille Munroe</i>	Foundation Concept Imagery as a Basis for Comprehension and Critical Thinking- <i>Ms. Brilliana Rawlins</i>	Core Skills for 21 st Century Leaders in Education- <i>Dr Kasan Troupe</i>

12:00pm - 12:30pm **LUNCH BREAK**

12:30pm – 1:00pm

Afternoon Welcome

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Track 1	Track 2	Track 3	Track 4	Track 5	Track 6
The Role of Fathers in the First 1000 days of a Child's Life- Disrupting the Stereotype-Dr Orville Taylor	Planning for the Inclusive Classroom- Dr Sharon Anderson-Morgan	Dr. Velma LaPoint	Transitioning from Early Childhood To Primary: A Focus on STREAM- Dr Clover Hamilton-Flowers	Symbol Imagery as a Basis for Reading- Ms. Brilliana Rawlins	Mentorship and Coaching Strategies for New Teachers- Mrs Ingrid Peart-Wilmot

2:05pm – 2:15pm **MOVEMENT – Millie's Movers**

2:30pm – 3:30pm

Track 1	Track 2	Track 3	Track 4	Track 5	Track 6
Building Brains – What to do in the First 1000 days of Life- Dr Rebecca Tortello	Learning through Play-Mrs. Rachel Dolcine	Learning Standards and Young Children of African Descent: Cultural Factors and the Teacher's Role- Dr. Hakim Rashid	The Benefits of Robotics at the Early Childhood Level-Mrs. Erica Simmons	Numerical & Concept Imagery as the Basis for Maths – Ms. Brilliana Rawlins	Leadership and Early Years Professionalism-Dr Tracy Sinclair

3:45pm – 4:45pm

Track 1	Track 2	Track 3	Track 4	Track 5	Track 6
The Inclusive Classroom: Arts Integration for Every Ability-Mr Andre Adman	A Prescription for Play – How Fun and Games Help Children Thrive-Dr Sherian Demetrius	Parent Education on Managing Behaviour- Dr. Mercedes Ebanks	Implementing developmentally appropriate STREAM in Early Children Learning Environment- Ms Melani Gooden	Articulatory Feedback as a Basis for the Development of Phonemic Awareness- Ms. Brilliana Rawlins	Talking to and Supporting Children and Ourselves During the Pandemic-Dr Melody Ennis

DAY 5 - FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2021

SESSION FIVE

9:00am – 9:15a.m.

Welcome: Ms. Monique Pryce

National Anthem of Jamaica

9:15am - 10:00am

Plenary Session – Changing the Mind-set: From Job Slaves to Creative Potentials

Facilitator: Dr Ganesh Shetty

10:15am - 11:15am

Plenary Session – Thinking Visible in Early Childhood Classrooms

Facilitator: Dr Megel Barker

11:15am – 12:30pm

CLOSING CEREMONY

End of Day

Presenters' Profiles



Keynote Speaker **Dr. Harry Anthony Patrinos**

Harry Anthony Patrinos is the Practice Manager for the Europe and Central Asia region of the World Bank's education global practice. He specializes in all areas of education, especially school-based management, demand-side financing and public-private partnerships. He managed education lending operations and analytical work programs in Argentina, Colombia and Mexico, as well as a regional research project on the socioeconomic status of Latin America's Indigenous Peoples, published as

Indigenous Peoples, Poverty and Human Development in Latin America (Palgrave Macmillan, 2006). He is one of the main authors of the report, Lifelong Learning in the Global Knowledge Economy (World Bank, 2003). Mr. Patrinos has many publications in the academic and policy literature, with more than 40 journal articles. He is co-author of the books: Policy Analysis of Child Labor: A Comparative Study (St. Martin's, 1999), Decentralization of Education: Demand-Side Financing (World Bank, 1997), and Indigenous People and Poverty in Latin America: An Empirical Analysis with George Psacharopoulos (World Bank/Ashgate, 1994). He has also worked in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North America. He previously worked as an economist at the Economic Council of Canada. Mr. Patrinos received a doctorate from the University of Sussex.



Professor Maureen Samms-Vaughan CD, MBBS, DM (Paed.), PhD (Epidemiology).

Professor Maureen Samms-Vaughan is known locally, regionally and internationally for her seminal research, clinical work and policy development in the field of child health, child development and behaviour. She is also recognised as an advocate for the well-being of all children, but particularly so for those at the early childhood level, those with disabilities and those who have been victims of violence. She works very closely with families of children with autism.

She has served in a number of academic UWI positions since 1993, and was appointed UWI's first Professor of Child Health, Child Development and Behaviour in 2006. She has been Consultant Developmental and Behavioural Paediatrician at UHWI and Director of the weekly Child and Family Clinic for children with developmental disabilities and behavioural disorders since its inception in 1993. She has taught at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels throughout the UWI and has supervised doctoral students at the UWI and at several universities in the USA in child development research. She has Adjunct Professorial status at universities in the USA.

Prof. Samms-Vaughan has over 120 publications, including three books, several book chapters and peer reviewed papers, on a range of child development and behaviour related topics. She has also completed numerous consultancies in the field of child development and behaviour for the IDB, the World Bank, UNICEF, PAHO and the governments of the Caribbean. She is currently a member of the IDB's Advisory Group on Early Childhood Development. She has received numerous research grants for child development research from UNICEF, the IDB, the World Bank, the National Institutes of Health and the Canada Fund. Her most recent research, the JA KIDS study, a national birth cohort study of 9,700 Jamaican children and families which commenced in 2011, has identified factors that promote and prevent optimum development for Jamaica's young children. Prior research on fatherhood in Jamaica has been featured on a National Geographic television programme on testosterone and fatherhood. Administratively, she was appointed Head of the Department of Child Health in 2001, a position which was relinquished when seconded to the Government of Jamaica to guide the development of its new agency, the Early Childhood Commission (ECC).



Dr. Zoyah Kinkead-Clark

Zoyah Kinkead-Clark is a Senior Lecturer, researcher and coordinator of early childhood programmes at The University of the West Indies, Mona. As a researcher, she is particularly interested in understanding how young children are shaped by their ecological experiences within the home and wider community with a view to explore how educators can build on these in early years classrooms.

Dr. Kinkead-Clark currently serves as an external examiner in Early Childhood Education for the Joint Board of Teacher Education. She is also a member of Jamaica's Early Childhood Development Oversight.



Brandi Aronson

A Development Officer in Region 2, St. Mary for over a decade, Miss Brandi Aronson is an advocate for young children and has a passion to serve our children and country. She is a trained Early Childhood educator with a Diploma and Bachelors in Early Childhood Education and a Master's of Science in Curriculum and Instruction.

Miss Aronson has supported the Commission in several activities/projects outside of her responsibilities in her zone and has proven that she is dedicated, committed and hardworking. Some of these include Age 4 Assessment and working on a curriculum with HEART Trust NTA to facilitate an online platform for NCTVET Level III in Early Childhood Care and Development.



Brilliana Rawlins

Brilliana Rawlins has worked in education for nearly 20 years. Her background is in math education at the secondary level. Brilliana has been with Lindamood-Bell for 14 years and has engaged in professional development in over 40 states and 7 countries, training thousands of educators in the research-validated programs authored by Lindamood-Bell's founders. She has facilitated a wide range of initiatives, including Special Education grants, second language acquisition, and dyslexia law implementation. As the Manager of International Endeavors, Brilliana collaborates with educators from around the globe on a daily basis. She currently lives in Reno, Nevada, USA.



Dr. Rebecca Tortello

For the past ten years, Dr. Rebecca Tortello has regularly lectured at the University of the West Indies in the Department of Education. Dr. Tortello has also worked with the Jamaican Government as Senior Advisor/Consultant to the Minister of Education, directed the Spanish-Jamaican Foundation (SJF) and now works with UNICEF as the education specialist in the Jamaica Country Office. Dr. Tortello has also served on numerous boards including the Early Childhood Commission and the Jamaica Commission for UNESCO, the Jamaica Library Service and the Institute of Jamaica.

Dr. Rebecca Tortello holds a PhD in Comparative Education and Sociology from Columbia University, a Masters in Teaching and Curriculum from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a Bachelor's Degree with Honours in History and Literature.

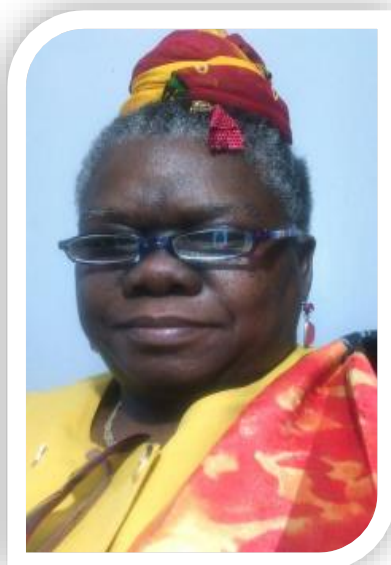
She is the author/editor of a number of children's books and education articles and the popular history book, "Pieces of the Past – A Stroll Down Jamaica's Memory Lane."



Dr. Sharon Anderson Morgan

Dr. Sharon Anderson Morgan has been a Special Educator for over 25 years. She taught at the Lister/Mair Gilby School for the Deaf- May Pen Unit where she had responsibility for the lower school and also for in-service training. She also worked as a Resource Room teacher at the Exeter High School in Ontario, Canada. As a Teacher Educator at the Sam Sharpe Teachers' College, she served as Head of the Special Education Department and a Principal Lecturer with specific responsibility for the community outreach programme of the College. In 2016 Dr Morgan assumed the post of Assistant Chief Education Officer in the Special Education Unit in the Ministry of Education Youth and Information.

Dr. Sharon Anderson Morgan holds a Diploma in Special Education from Mico Teachers' College, a Bachelor in Special Education with a concentration in Clinical Assessment, from the University of the West Indies, as well as a Master of Science in Literacy Education from Central Connecticut State University. She was awarded a Doctor of Education degree, majoring in Special Education from Nova Southeastern University, where her research focused on the preparation of pre-service teachers for including students with special needs in general education classrooms.



Dr. Lorna Thompson

Lorna P. Thompson is a Curriculum Developer; a Mathematics Advisor and an Early Grade Educator. She entered the field of Education as the JTA Teacher of the Year with the greatest potential to be the best teacher in the year 1987. Dr. Thompson has been involved in curriculum design and development activities at the national level since 1999. This aspect of her work life spans the areas of Mathematics and Integrative Studies for children in the early grades; including children with special needs, comprising the gifted and talented and children of the state through to the tertiary level.

Dr Thompson has collaborated with a variety of public and private; national and international groups in order to improve curriculum offerings, its delivery, and assessment. She has trained mathematics specialists and resource teachers to effect change in all areas of Mathematics teaching and learning; and have worked with and supported the activities of a wide variety of projects (ESTP, JBEP, EEHP, PESP, JAASP, NHP, PEAP, and PEIP).

This mathematician has served on committees responsible for the development of the National Curriculum Policy; Numeracy Policy; Special Education Policy; Numeracy strategies and the Expanded Secondary Mathematics Curriculum. She continues to work with teachers who are teaching children; teacher educators who specialize in early childhood education and development; publishers who are involved in the development of appropriate learning resources for all children; as well as colleagues who are tasked with the responsibility to improve the life of all students at all levels of the society.



Dr. Clover Hamilton Flowers

Dr Clover Hamilton Flowers Assistant Chief Education Officer – Core Curriculum Unit is an educator who has served for approximately 18 years at the secondary and tertiary levels. Her professional experience includes the development of courses and curriculum for various institutions, lecturing professional courses, designing, managing and evaluating instruction, participating in educational research, serving as a presenter at professional development seminars/workshops.

In addition to the above, are her experiences in the field of Scientific Research and Development for eight (8) years; and contributions to the spiritual development of children and adults. As a practitioner, she has integrated the varied experiences to influence her approach to classroom management in various contexts with favourable results. She is also an Ordained Minister.

She earned a PhD at the UWI where she is explored through qualitative inquiry, constructivism in teacher practice at the tertiary level. She lectured for many years at the Shortwood Teachers College the Mico University College



Erica Simmons

A global business strategy, sales and marketing executive with Fortune 100 experience in American, European, Asian and African Markets, Mrs. Erica Simmons' career has included strategic roles for Siemens AG, Oracle Corporation and Expedia. Her experience as a master relationship builder with executives, management, colleagues and partners led her to explore many interesting business ventures in the manufacturing, technology and philanthropy industries. A patented inventor and innovator, Mrs. Simmons is a frequent speaker on the 4th Industrial Revolution and the opportunities for wealth creation in the next industrial age.

In September of 2017, she joined the Caribbean Maritime University as the Executive Director for the Centre for Digital Innovation & Advanced Manufacturing where she runs the region's most foremost centre of excellence for Digital Transformation & Industry 4.0 technologies such as additive manufacturing, industrial internet of things, digital twins, predictive analytics and virtual reality.



Mrs. Michelle Campbell

Mrs. Michelle Campbell is the Director of Cross Sectoral Coordination at the Early Childhood Commission. In her 10th year at the ECC, she has current responsibilities to lead ECD programmes and services within a coordinated and integrated delivery across Ministries, Agencies and Private/ Public Stakeholders. Mrs. Campbell oversees the research arm of the Commission in providing the availability for relevant high quality and timely information for effective planning, policy and decision making on ECD issues. She holds a Bachelors Degree, a Masters Degree in Early Childhood Education from Nova Southeastern University and a specialized Graduate Certificate in working with infants and toddlers with Special Needs from the University of Central Florida.



Mr. Dale Bedasse

Dale Bedasse is a teacher of Visual Arts and Animation who has conducted animation workshops at the National Gallery of Jamaica, the Multi Care foundation and at the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts. Dale is also the inventor of an animation table that can be used to teach stop motion animation. Bedasse recently joined the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information as Assistant Education Officer with responsibility for Animation. Bedasse has been working with the team of Education officers in Region four to integrate animation in the Education System.



Dr. Mercedes E. Ebanks

Dr. Mercedes E. Ebanks is a Certified Parent Coordinator and serves as a Parent Education Trainer. Dr. Ebanks is an Associate Professor in the Counselling Psychology Program in the Department of Psychoeducational Studies in the School of Education of Howard University. She prepares new clinicians to work with sensitivity and awareness of cultural diversity factors. Dr. Ebanks has published articles on the effects of corrective feedback to treat destructive behaviour, the impact of race and school environment that influence teacher's attitudes and behaviour, and evaluating test preparation program for minority students. Her research interests include co-parenting and identifying the problems and solution for parental conflict with separated and divorce parents, overrepresentation of minority children in special education, counsellor education preparation, and multicultural treatments to behaviour disorders.



Rachael McDonald

Rachael McDonald has a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from Allegheny College and a Master of Science in Education from Nova Southeastern University. Rachael McDonald exemplifies the word "edu-preneur" by demonstrating the perfect link between education and entrepreneurship. This innovative educator began her career in 1997. Her love for children and enthusiasm in the field of education grew from hosting and managing summer camps in Jamaica and St. Kitts; teaching Spanish to elementary and secondary aged students in the United States and Jamaica; to the realization of her dream of starting educational centres that offer programmes, services and activities for children up to age eighteen under the business name, Fundaciones. The centres have recently launched bilingual early childhood programmes with

objectives that include sensitizing children to linguistic differences and subsequently cultural ones with the hope of creating more tolerant members of society. Rachael believes in volunteerism



Jodian Gowie-Ragbar

Jodian Gowie-Ragbar has served the Early Childhood Commission in the capacity of an Early Childhood Inspector for 12 years. Her primary role includes conducting inspections of Early Childhood Institutions in the Parish of St. Mary to monitor and assess compliance with the Early Childhood Act and Regulations of 2005. Mrs. Gowie-Ragbar is passionate about her role in improving the quality of programmes and services in the early childhood sector and has devoted her efforts towards the attainment of the vision of the Early Childhood Commission.

Mrs. Gowie-Ragbar holds a Master of Education Degree in Educational Administration from the University of the West Indies, Jamaica and Bachelor of Science Degree in Child Care and Development from the University of Technology. Mrs. Gowie-Ragbar has served in other capacities and has acquired experience working with children as a teacher at the early childhood level at Liberty Learning Centre. She also assisted in coordinating and facilitating summer programmes for children spearheaded by The Jamaica Library Service in Portland.



James T. Jackson, Ph.D., M.F.A.

Dr. Jackson serves as an Associate Professor of Special Education and former Chair, in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, at Howard University. He has extensive service in teacher preparation and program evaluation. While much of Dr. Jackson's work has focused on teacher preparation, he has also worked with parents to provide training in behavior management and effective parenting. His evaluation experience has been diverse, with most of it directed teacher quality and development. He has also had opportunities to evaluate programs for the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the Chester Mental Health Center of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Dr. Jackson is former Consulting Editor for the International Journal of Special Education. His research and publications address the impact of

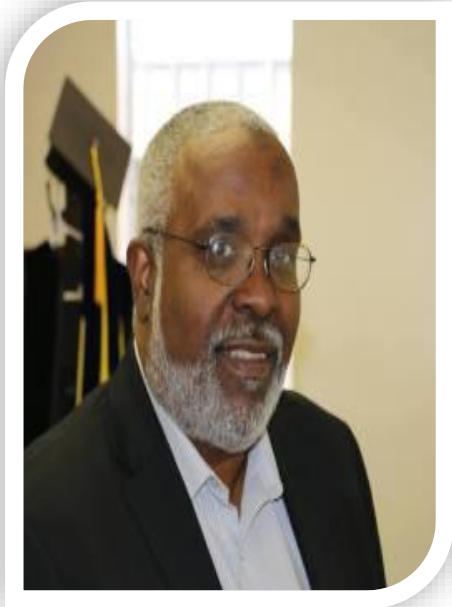
stress on learning and behavior of students with emotional and behavioral challenges, as well as how the arts can be a tool for educating and managing behaviors in both regular and inclusive classroom environments. He has served as an external examiner for Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia and Carlow University in Pennsylvania. A former faculty member and administrator at Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville and the George Washington University, he spent significant time working with teachers helping them learn strategies to manage classrooms and children with challenging behaviors. He has worked as a public-school teacher for Memphis, Tennessee and Prince George's County Maryland. His area of expertise is in preparing teachers to work with children with special needs – particularly those with learning and behavioral challenges. He has conducted professional development workshops on a variety of topics for numerous school districts.



Velma LaPoint, Ph.D.

Dr. LaPoint is Professor of Child Development in the Department of Human Development and Psychoeducational Studies, School of Education at Howard University in Washington, DC. Dr. LaPoint teaches graduate and undergraduate courses related to youth development, education and human services, and youth/families and public policies where titles include Children and Adolescents Placed at Risk, Diverse Youth and Families, Youth and Consumer Culture, and Diverse Families and Public Policies. Dr. LaPoint has conducted and conducts research on children's development in varying contexts such as families, schools, the marketplace, human service settings, and other community settings: (a) academic achievement and social competence of black and underserved middle and high school students, (b) commercialism's influences on diverse youth, especially youth of color and low-income youth, (c) career

development and programming among youth, and (d) parental incarceration and children's development.



Hakim M. Rashid, Ph.D.

Dr. Rashid is a Professor and former Chairman of the Department of Human Development and Psychoeducational Studies in the School of Education at Howard University in Washington, DC. A former preschool teacher and administrator, Dr. Rashid has also served as a Research Associate at the High Scope Educational Research Foundation, and a consultant to child development programs across the country. In addition to Howard University, Dr. Rashid has served on the faculties of Jackson State University, the University of Michigan at Flint, and the University of South Carolina. Dr. Rashid has served as a Fulbright Scholar at King Saud University in Saudi Arabia, a Visiting Professor at Khartoum University in Sudan, and a Fulbright-Hays Seminar Abroad Fellow in China. He has lectured widely and has made numerous presentations at conferences such as the National Black Child Development

Institute, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and the American Educational Research Association. Articles written by Dr. Rashid have appeared in the, the Journal of Negro Education, Educational Research Quarterly, Contemporary Education and Young Children, among other publications.



Jo-Anne Manswell Butty, PhD

Dr. Manswell Butty is the Education Expert at the NOAA Cooperative Science Center in Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology (NCAS-M) at Howard University. She also works with the Project on Youth and Families of Color in Digital Culture, Department of Human Development and Psychoeducational Studies School of Education, Howard University. Dr. Manswell Butty earned her MEd in International Development Education and Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from Howard University.



Stacey McDonald Lowe, PhD

Dr. Lowe is an expert in research technologies and evaluation, is a Senior Education Research Analyst at the US Department of Education where she leads efforts to increase student financial empowerment as students prepare for post-secondary education. Her primary policy, evaluation and research interests and work include culturally responsive evaluation of teaching practices in schools and other community settings for marginalized student populations; student achievement motivation and outcomes in higher education using interdisciplinary contexts to understand students' motivation, persistence, and self-efficacy; and improving access to post-secondary education leading to degree completion. She has a special focus on females and other vulnerable

groups, including African Americans, in STEM. Dr. Lowe has also served on a team to implement alcohol, marijuana, tobacco and opioid prevention programs targeting youth. Dr. Lowe also works with the Project on Youth and Families of Color in Digital Culture, Department of Human Development and Psychoeducational Studies School of Education, Howard University.



Maimunah Marah

Ms. Marah is an expert in the field of early education where she has trained and worked in national and global settings for several years. She currently works as a Developmental Therapist with DC Strong Start Early Intervention Program where she uses parent coaching to support the whole development of children ages 0-3 with developmental delays. She is the Principal Early Interventionist with Sahara Educare Services which is an early development and early literacy service provider agency servicing the Washington, DC metro area. She is a graduate of Howard University's School of Education with a BS in human development. She earned her master's degree in early childhood special education from The Johns Hopkins University. Ms. Marah also works with the Project on Youth and Families of Color in Digital Culture, Department of Human Development and Psychoeducational Studies School of Education, Howard University.



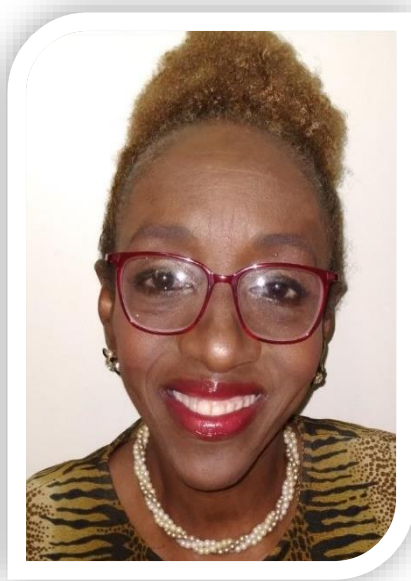
Brilliana Rawlins

Brilliana Rawlins has worked in education for nearly 20 years. Her background is in math education at the secondary level. Brilliana has been with Lindamood-Bell for 14 years and has engaged in professional development in over 40 states and 7 countries, training thousands of educators in the research-validated programs authored by Lindamood-Bell's founders. She has facilitated a wide range of initiatives, including Special Education grants, second language acquisition, and dyslexia law implementation. As the Manager of International Endeavors, Brilliana collaborates with educators from around the globe on a daily basis. She currently lives in Reno, Nevada, USA.



Teneisha Myers-Ferguson

Teneisha Myers-Ferguson has been in the education field for the past twenty years. She has a diploma in Primary education from St. Joseph's Teachers' College. In addition, she has obtained a Bachelor of Science in Education and a Masters of Arts in Educational Supervision from Western Carolina University. She is a Lecturer at The Mico University College also with responsibility to lead the Early Education Department. She is employed by The National Education Inspectorate as a Contract Inspector. In addition, she was employed to Maths Unlimited for five years as a Curriculum and Content Specialist for Grade 6. She currently resides in Greater Portmore St. Catherine with her husband and two children.



Mrs. Narda Gray

Mrs. Narda Gray, Lecturer, Trainer is a graduate of the Mico University College, with teaching experience that spans over 30 years in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, is passionate about all things Early Childhood. She received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Guidance and Counselling from the Institute of Theological and Leadership Development and earned a Master of Arts Degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of South Florida.

Her transition from the teaching of young children to the lecturing of Early Childhood Teachers in Training began at the Bethlehem Moravian College in 2012. Mrs. Gray is currently the Coordinator for Early Childhood Education at the Catholic College of Mandeville, Williamsfield, Jamaica.



Heather Bernard

A product of Jamaica, Heather Bernard has established herself as behaviour change specialist having worked across industries and age groups to help people unearth their talents while contributing to the space in which they operate. A manager, educator and mentor, she is often sought after for guidance on communication, administration and events management matters.

Over the years she has demonstrated her skills in working with parents and children at risk to ensure that these children are able to benefit from and contribute to their immediate communities. At the Commission, she is responsible for the development and implementation of programmes that empower

parents to raise children who are able to make worthwhile contributions to their communities, nation and world. A firm believer that everything is possible, she is eager to find solutions to every problem very often resorting to technology. She emphasises the need to work smart, ensuring balance in all aspects of life. Miss Bernard is the holder of a Masters of Arts degree in International Relations, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish and a certificate in Project Management and Proposal Writing. Heather has a passion for empowering people to unearth the talents that reside within them to live meaningful lives while positively impacting those around them.



Ann Marie McIntosh

Ann Marie McIntosh holds a Bachelor's Degree in Primary Education from the University of the Caribbean and a Diploma in Early Childhood Education from Shortwood Teacher's College. With over 15 years of experience as an educator, she is a trained mentor and has participated in a variety of professional development workshops centred on student motivation, engaging learning activities, differentiated learning instructions and learning through play. She has had extensive training in Infant Toddler curriculum implementation, What you Do with baby Matters and Ire Classroom. She is also familiar with a variety of approaches in the teaching and learning process of both children and adults and has the ability to motivate and create a

vibrant learning environment.

Ann Marie believes that a learning environment that is child centred with active engagement is critical for learning as students gain knowledge by experience, the more hands on the better. She is currently employed at the Early Childhood Commission as a Development Officer in Region Four.



Lorraine McLean

Mrs. Lorraine McLean is employed to the Jamaica Library Service in the capacity of Regional Director for Region 5 which comprises of the parishes of Manchester and St. Elizabeth.

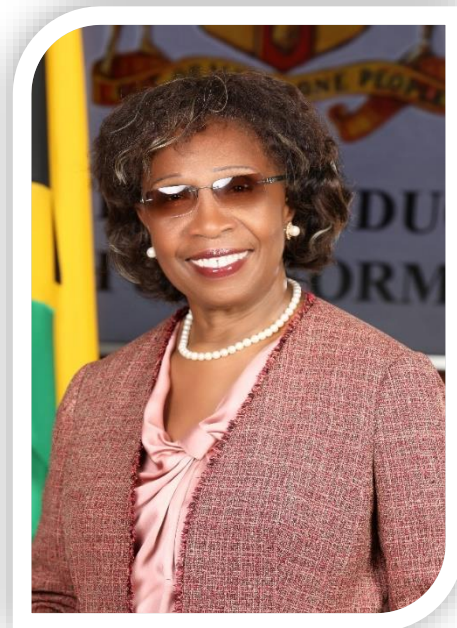
She has been a Librarian for the past 28 years and strongly believes that Public and School Libraries provide the grass root foundation for early literacy.

As a graduate of the University of the West Indies, Mrs McLean possesses Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts from Management Institute of National Development (MIND).

Mrs McLean is passionate about developing programmes to support reading and literacy at the Primary Level. She introduced the Grade 4 Literacy Library Revision session at selected primary schools in Region 5 which assisted students to prepare for Grade 4 Literacy test. She enjoys READ ALOUD sessions

and seeks every opportunity to do so.

Mrs McLean has a special 'soft spot' for boys and hosts annual Boys Reading Day to motivate and celebrate boys who read. She continues to be a bastion in building communities and schools through librarianship.



Dr. Winsome Gordon

Dr. Winsome Gordon, OD, JP is the Chief Executive Officer of the Jamaica Teaching Council, established in 2008 as part of the National Education System Transformation Programme in Jamaica. She holds a Doctor of Philosophy and post-doctoral certificates including one from the Harvard University Investment Appraisal Programme, and the Public Sector Investment Programme offered by The World Bank.

In 1981, she joined the Ministry of Education as an Assistant Chief Education Officer in charge of Planning, Research and Statistics. She joined the Planning Institute of Jamaica in 1984 as Manager of the External Economic Programme. She later accepted a senior post in the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), a position that she held for 20 years.



Dr Grace-Camille Munroe

Dr Grace-Camille Munroe holds a doctorate in Adult Education and Community Development, with a focus on Transformative Learning, from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto. She has acquired the knowledge, experience, and skills to make interventions as an evidence-based researcher, policy analyst, competent project manager, program evaluator, and adult facilitator. She has worked extensively in education, youth, and community development as international consultant and researcher in Jamaica to appreciate the complex nature of teaching and learning and the critical factors necessary to implement system-wide change. She is committed to employing her expanding knowledge and skills to projects and programs that are geared towards building a sustainable legacy for generations to come.

She currently works as the Manager for Research, Projects and Operations for the Leadership By Design Program, the signature program for the Lifelong Leadership Institute. The Lifelong Leadership Institute (LLI) is an educational organization that provides innovative leadership development to Canadian youth of Jamaican, African-Caribbean and Black heritage, so that they may fulfil their personal and professional ambitions, provide inspiring leadership to their communities and country, and make this world a better place for all.



Kateisha Allen

My name is Kateisha Allen, I am a 26 years old beekeeper making a living from this very interesting venture. I am also an entrepreneur. I am an honest fun-loving and reliable person who is very hard working and is gold oriented.

From hobby to profession

For many years I have one hive of bees, but didn't have much knowledge of the operation so I would normally ask someone in the profession to help me harvest that honey and I would just give it away to friends and family. One particular year that one hive of bees gave me 21 quarts of honey, there and then I realize that this is not just a hobby but it can be a business, from then on, I got serious in the business and started to seek training.

St. Bess Golden Honey Drops, it is a small business own and operated by myself and my partner. Currently the business main function is sales of honey. This business is on the social media platforms including YouTube as the same. I am a proud mother of a son who is four years old, so as a young mother I always try to seek guidance on how to be a better parent. This led me to join the Middlesex parent place where I'm an active member. This where you go and gather training and helpful tips on how to care for your young child.

Mark Bryan



Mark Bryan

Mark Bryan is a professional footballer for the Cavalier Football Club having gained his experience from the Harbour View FC. He is a young father to one son who attends the Campden Basic School. He is jovial and believes a father should provide fun and stability in a child's life. He is from the Rollington Town community.



Keevie Miller

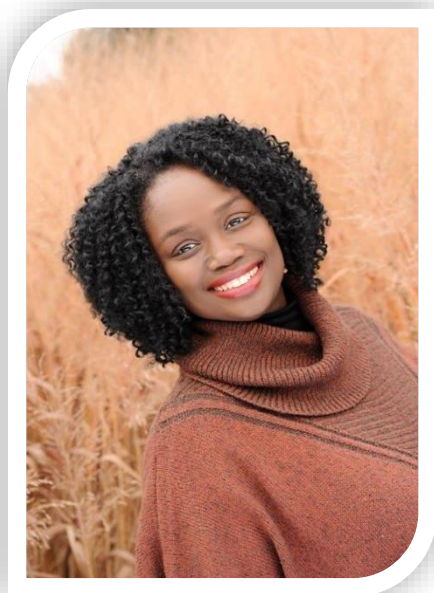
Mr Keevie Miller is from the Spicy Hill Community in Trelawny. He is a dedicated father and Police Officer. He is very passionate about serving his community and is currently serving as the PTA President of the Spicy Hill Basic School of which he is also a past student.



Shaunette Grant

Shaunette Grant is the Region 7, Community Interventions Officer with the Early Childhood Commission since 2018. Ms. Grant mentors' children under the Child Diversion Program under the Ministry of Justice. She is also a facilitator in training with the Restorative Justice Program.

Prior to being with ECC, Ms. Grant served as Coordinator for Clarendon Group for the Disabled, NGO that advocates for children with special needs. Her role there led to the assistance of over 200 children with special needs being integrated in both regular school as well as the special education schools.

**Rachel Barrett-Dolcine**

Rachel J. Barrett-Dolcine, CEO of Compass Consulting and Training Solutions is an award winning international motivational speaker, author, entrepreneur & mentor. She is an innovative strategist with extensive experience in training & development, curriculum development, nonprofit management and consulting for small business and Nonprofit start-ups.

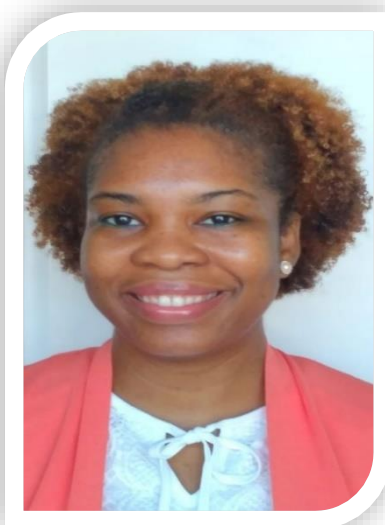
Rachel has been a Professional Development Facilitator, Trainer and Certified CPR/First Aid Instructor for 15 years. She spent 10 of those years as an Approved Trainer for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). As an Approved MSDE Trainer, Rachel provided professional development workshops for licensed childcare programs and early childhood education centers in Maryland. Rachel has written custom content for over 50 trainings, workshops and certification courses for clients such as Baltimore Reads Training Services,

Baltimore City Department of Health, Y in Central Maryland

and the National Association of Christian Women Entrepreneurs. She has also authored two books: *Conversations With My Son: Fun & Witty Inspiration for Mothers Raising Boys* and *Love Behind the Blue Line: Stories of Love, Courage, Hope & Legacy*.

**Mrs. Valmarie Smith**

Mrs. Valmarie Smith is the Acting Early Childhood Development Services Supervisor for Regions Six (6) and Seven (7) in the Early Childhood Commission." She is a dedicated member of Team ECC who is passionate about Early Childhood Development.

**Louri-Ann Robotham**

Louri-Ann Robotham has been in the early childhood field for over two decades. She's captivated by the open-eyed wonder, enthusiasm and love of children and is a strong proponent of social and emotional development in the early years. As an advocate for play based learning she's passionate about promoting developmentally appropriate programmes that offer quality experiences which creates the connection between children's imagination, curiosity to their learning and development. Currently, she serves at the Early Childhood Commission as Training & Development Officer. She's a proud mother of her treasured daughter.



Dr Suzette Kelly-Williams

Dr. Suzette Kelly-Williams is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Early Childhood Education at Shortwood Teachers' College. She is an experienced Instructor with a demonstrated history of working in the higher education industry. Her expertise lies in Early Childhood Education, Educational Technology, and English. She is a strong education professional with a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) focused in Curriculum and Instruction, Early Childhood Education from University of South Florida.



Rosalee Gage Grey

A Senior Executive with over 25 years' experience, she began her career in the Public Service in 1987 in the then Income Tax Department. After successfully completing the Revenue Agents scholarship programme, she was assigned to the Ministry of Finance in October 1989 and served in the Revenue Services and is one of the pioneers in the General Consumption Tax Department Audit. She served as Director Audit at the Taxpayer Audit and Assessment Department and Acting Technical Specialist.

Since 2003, she has held the position of Director of Human Resource and Administration at the Child Development Agency (CDA) now the Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA) where she has led

the Agency's island wide staff recruitment; developed and guided human resource policy, and provided oversight for operational matters. As a member of the Executive Management Team, she has been involved in spearheading the strategic restructuring of the children's services in Jamaica in keeping with the modernization plan and framework document.

In August 2013, Mrs. Gage-Grey was appointed Acting CEO and was appointed in March 2014. She has since been providing strategic leadership and direction to the Executive Management Team and the Agency's 600 staff members, and providing policy advice to Government on matters relating to child welfare and protection.



Theresa Hunter

Theresa Hunter is a proud graduate of College of the Bahamas and Barry University. She holds a Master's degree in Leadership and Learning with a Bachelor's degree in Teacher Education (Primary). Her research interest includes but is not limited to Transformational Leadership and Early Childhood Development. She is a passionate educator of 28 years, a former principal, master trainer, coach, teacher and mentor in the field of Early Childhood Development. She also serves as a motivational speaker for educators and women. Presently, she serves as an Education Officer.-Pre-primary, with responsibilities for supervision of the government preschool instructional programme, procurement, curriculum development and instruction.

She has facilitated numerous professional development sessions both nationally and internationally. Ms. Hunter serves as an internal moderator for teaching practice at the University of the Bahamas and is also employed as an adjunct faculty at the Bahamas Baptist College University. Through the years Ms. Hunter has demonstrated a heart of compassion for teachers and serves as an advocate for the development and execution of a high quality early childhood programme in the Bahamas.

Ms. Hunter's guiding quote is "Anything you do, do it with passion or not at all".

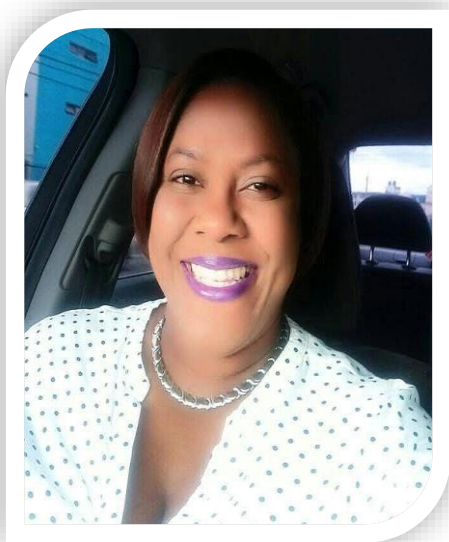


Yvette Edwards-Wilson

Yvette Edwards-Wilson is one of the field's top inspectors thanks to her years of experience, strong but loveable personality and unconditional love for the world of early childhood development. Mrs. Wilson has a Masters and Bachelors in Education from the University of the West Indies. She also has various accreditations from reputable institutions such as The Mico Teachers' College, now The Mico University College and St. Joseph's Teachers' College.

Mrs. Edwards-Wilson not only gained these accreditations through her infamous hard work and determination but has applied this education to various positions she has held, which range from being a Teacher at the Kensington Primary School to Principal of the Christian Gardens Basic School and now Senior

Inspector at the Early Childhood Commission.



Tanisha Miller

Tanisha has a dynamic, responsive personality, and has a penchant for customer service. She admires persons who care for children and try to ensure needs are met especially children with disabilities. She has worked with vulnerable groups and children most at risk. Over the years she has worked with Jamaica Association for the Deaf as Projects Coordinator and Manager Adult Services. She then went on to the Ministry of Health working as the Regional PLHIV Liaison Officer. Wearing that hat Ms. Miller also worked with HIV inmates in all the Penal institutions to ensure that they were taken care of and to administer social support as it relates to integrating them back into society upon release.

Ms. Miller later work for various other organizations;

Dichter and Neira Jamaica Market Research Company, Jamaica Library Service as Advocacy Specialist, Immigration UK as Immigration Consultant and Caseworker. She is now with the Early Childhood Commission as Manager for Community Relations. In this capacity she ensures that Early Childhood Institutions, Parents and Community all play apart in the development of the child.

Tanisha Miller has a Bachelor Degrees in Mass Communication with emphasis in Public Relations and Radio Broadcasting from the Northern Caribbean University and Law from University of Leicester. She has her Masters Degree in Communication for Social and Behaviour Change from the University of the West Indies.



Dr Sue Dale Tunnicliffe

Dr Sue Dale Tunnicliffe is an expert on children learning about animals and plants, Dr. Tunnicliffe has published widely. She has specialised in education, a qualified teacher, she has taught at all ages form the early years to university. She holds a PhD from King's College and is now a Senior academic, a Reader at the UCL Institute of Education. She supervises research degree students and does some teaching.

Dr. Tunnicliffe is often invited overseas to run early years' science courses. She sets up and ran an advisory team in primary science and technology for an Education authority in England, then was Head of Education at the Zoological Society of London. She worked part time in a historical museum as science adviser and as an education officer at the BBC. She has been an OFTSED school inspector and a primary school governor. She has worked as a

researcher and lecturer at Cambridge and Winchester Universities and has written widely, books for practitioners as well as academic papers.



Maureen Dwyer

Maureen Dwyer has been the head of the National Education Inspectorate (NEI) since September 2011. She has more than 31 years' experience of working at the tertiary and secondary levels of the education system. With this background, including stints in education planning, school supervision and school inspection, Mrs. Dwyer has a thorough knowledge of the Jamaican Education sector. Her knowledge of the various modes of school supervision and school inspection has served to advance the mandate of the National Education Inspectorate. She is an advocate for the children of Jamaica and for improved school performance.



Diahann Gordon-Harrison

For the past twenty (20) years since graduating from the Norman Manley Law School and having been called to the Bar in Jamaica, Mrs Gordon Harrison has practiced at the Public Bar. Her first experience was as a prosecutor in the Resident Magistrate's Court with specific assignment to the parish of Saint Ann. After completing her tenure of two and a half (2 ½) years in that position, she went on to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions where she started as Acting Crown Counsel and rose through the ranks to the level of Senior Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions.

As Counsel for the Crown, Mrs Gordon Harrison had the opportunity to prosecute all major offences in the several courts of Jamaica, both at the Magistracy and Supreme Court levels. In this capacity, she interfaced with many persons (including children) who were either the victims of, or witnesses to serious crimes (ranging from sexual abuse and physical assault to murder), as well as the alleged perpetrators of these offences. In January 2012, Mrs. Gordon Harrison was appointed by His Excellency Sir Patrick Allen, Governor-General of Jamaica, as Jamaica's second Children's Advocate and she now heads this Commission of Parliament. In March of 2015, Mrs. Gordon Harrison was also appointed by Jamaica's Cabinet as Jamaica's National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons making her the first such Rapporteur in the Latin American and Caribbean Region.



Professor Gail Hunter

Gail Hunter is a long time Professor and Coordinator in the School of Early Childhood Development at George Brown College. She holds an Honours degree in Social and Political Thought, an Early Childhood Education Diploma, as well she is certified in Psychology of Human Relations, and Teaching and Training Adults. Areas of specialization Play-based Curriculum, Working with Families, Educating Adults, and Creating Inclusive Environments with a focus on Anti Racism. On top of her teaching Gail played a pivotal role in establishing the George Brown and P.A.C.E. relationship. This relationship blossomed into the current joint Jamaica – George Brown affiliation. 21 years later Gail continues to be involved in the project through facilitating workshops in Jamaica on behalf of The Early Childhood Commission, The Dudley Grant Foundation, The

University of West Indies Early Childhood Development Centre and P.A.C.E.



Colette Kane

Colette Kane is a Registered Early Childhood Educator who is the Manager of two George Brown College Lab Schools where she's responsible for 21 ECEs and more than 200 children and Families. Specializes in Play-based Curriculum, Working with Families, Behaviour Guidance, and Creating Positive Learning Environments.

For the past 17 years Colette oversees the Early Childhood Education International Project. She organizes, prepares and supervises 2nd year E.C.E. students in their month-long teaching experience in

Jamaica's Basic and Infant Schools. Colette has facilitated workshops in Jamaica and continues to work closely with the Early Childhood Commission, The Dudley Grant Foundation, The University of West Indies Early Childhood Development Centre and P.A.C.E.



Dr. Ganesh Shetty

Dr. Ganesh Shetty, a naturalized Jamaican currently employed by KSA Health Dept, SERHA, Ministry of Health. He has worked at various Child Guidance Clinics in the region at Schools and Community and the University of Technology.

Also, he has his private practice at *Shekinah House, Seymour Park, Off Old Hope Road, Kingston-6. After Security Incursion of West Kingston in 2010, Dr. Shetty with his colleagues has helped over 175 children of those affected communities with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Presently, in collaboration with NGOs, Dr. Shetty and his team has trained and is supervising the delivery of trauma treatment by Youth Workers in inner-city communities of West Kingston and is now moving to assist traumatized children, parents and teachers of August Town. Recently, he also played significant role in starting of Saturday Clinic for Sexually Abused Children of Children's Home at Comprehensive Health Center.



Moses Omondi Abiero

Moses Omondi Abiero is a World Bank trained Early Childhood Development (ECD) Specialist with over 15 years work in public and private sector, contributing to the advancement of legal, policy, institutional, and programmatic reforms for better early childhood development outcomes in Kenya and across the African continent. Currently, Moses serves as the Programme Manager with Africa Early Childhood Network (AfECN), a Not-for-Profit organization that serves as a platform for championing excellence and collaboration in protecting children's rights, influencing policy and practice, strengthening partnerships, and sharing experiences and knowledge in ECD on the African continent.

Previously, Moses worked with World Bank as an Africa Early Years Fellow and Education consultant (2017-2021) based in Nairobi (Kenya), where he immensely contributed to the formulation and dissemination of the National Pre-primary policy (2017) and service standard guidelines (2018) to guide ECD service delivery across the 47 counties in Kenya.



Easton Williams

Easton Williams, is the Senior Director, Social Policy Planning and Research Division of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ). He has worked in the PIOJ for over 30 years and he has a wide experience in policy development and social research. Mr. Williams has headed Jamaica's technical delegations to the United Nations and other international organizations in the areas of population, international migration, sustainable development and related areas.



Shari Franklin

Shari Franklin grew up in Jamaica where she is proud of the formative education that she received. After graduating from high school, Ms. Franklin moved to the United States to attend college. With a master's degree in Special Education and a Certificate in Administration and Supervision, she has worked both as a teacher and as an administrator in the field.

Currently, she works in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirate, as a Special Education Coordinator in an International School.



Kendra Michael

Kendra Michael is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and Licensed Behavior Analyst (LBA) in Maryland. Kendra received her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and Mathematics from Virginia State University in 2015. Kendra began her career in ABA as a behavior therapist in 2016. She went on to complete an M.S. in ABA in December of 2018 from Georgia State University, then earned her BCBA certification in February 2019. Kendra is currently enrolled in a School Psychology Ph.D. program at Howard University. Kendra has worked within multiple settings, including clinic, home, and school. She has

experience conducting intensive toilet training and mild

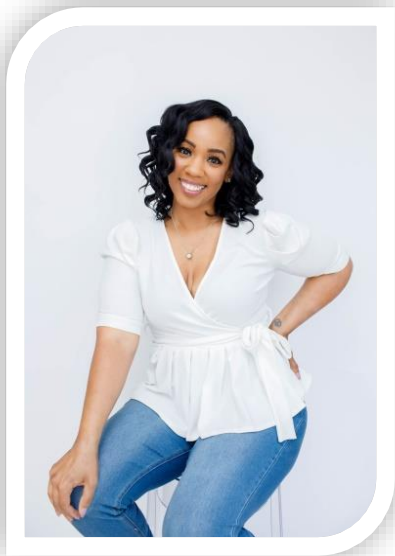
feeding programs. Her focus has been working with young learners in the classroom setting. She has a passion for bridging the gap for young learners to succeed within their communities. Kendra is passionate about advocating for her students' needs.



Angelica Brooks

Empowerment Coach Angelica Brooks who is also the President of Angelica Brooks Investigative Services and Founder of the Silent Voices Project brings her expertise in investigations human rights, human trafficking, coldcases. Her work is heavily in providing resources for victims of violent crimes. She also serves on the steering committee and is the Alabama Representative for Human Rights Education. Angelica also serves on the board of the Denny Social Welfare organization in Nigeria assisting human trafficking victims. Angelica has had a lengthy career in the realm of Criminal Justice working as CSI, to Investigations, to Forensic Pathology, followed by private investigation. Angelica's sole purpose is to impact the lives of others by being a voice to the voiceless. Angelica

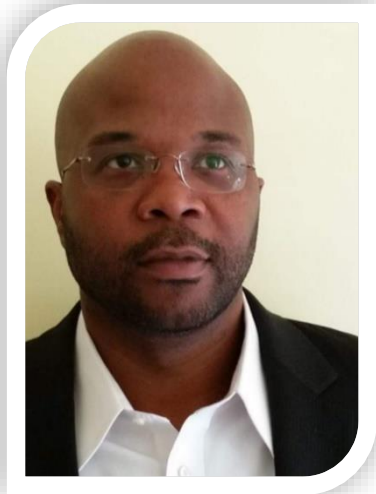
has been recognized by several media outlets and recognized in her community for the work she has done internationally in human trafficking and cold cases.



Dekeda Brown

In June 2015, Dekeda Brown launched her blog - Walk One Day In Our Shoes – as a way to reach and teach the online community about her daughter who lives with nonverbal autism. Seeing the need from the perspective of a Black-American mom, she offers encouragement, tips and lively discussions about relevant news within the autism / special needs community. As a local autism advocate, she works diligently to promote acceptance for the often forgotten population. Her online blogging quickly expanded to include community outreach and event planning. Years before her blogging and event planning journey started, Dekeda began offering special needs sensitivity training classes to local schools and businesses who wished to provide a welcoming environment for community members with autism / special needs. Her classes are interactive

and informational, and can be tailored to fit any audience. Dekeda presents dance party events, specifically for the autism / special needs community. At her events, local families can enjoy low lighting & music, food, games and entertainment in a judgment free environment! Dekeda funds the events and solicits food & monetary donations from local businesses and organizations. In 2021, The New York Times featured Dekeda in a project called “The Primal Scream: Three American Mothers on the Brink.” Dekeda spends her free time volunteering and serving the Special Needs community.



Dr. Gregory K. Reed

Dr. Reed received his doctorate in School Psychology from The University of Iowa in 2002. He completed his pre-doctoral internship in Behavioral Pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Iowa, and his post-doctoral fellowship at the Kennedy Krieger Institute and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Reed has over 20 years of clinical experience in the assessment and treatment of developmental disabilities and severe behavior disorders, including pediatric feeding problems.

Currently, Dr. Reed holds joint appointments as an Associate Professor of School Psychology and Associate Dean in Howard University's School of Education. He is a licensed School Psychologist, and provides behavioral and special education consultation for local schools in Washington D.C.

Dr. Reed's research interests include: the intersection between culture, language, and cognitive assessment; reinforcement- and choice-based interventions for food refusal/selectivity and other severe behavior problems; parent training/intervention; and bio-behavioral contributions to the development, occurrence, and treatment of feeding problems. Dr. Reed also serves as Associate Editor for the journal *Behavior Analysis in Practice*, and previously served on the Editorial Board for the *Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis*.



Melanie Baker

Wife of 17 ½ years, mother of 3 sons, of which her first son has been diagnosed as multiply differently-abled with autism and visual impairment; Melanie Baker, professional special educator, curriculum specialist, teacher, advocate, writer, editor; she uses her voice to spread the message of hope. She loves writing transformationally, focusing on parenting children through difficult circumstances, family dynamics around addiction and substance abuse, as well as overcoming emotional and mental challenges. She operates from a platform of cultural equivalence.

Her commitment to parent and teacher training and support in addition to developing specialized learning programs for learners facing different challenges that threaten to limit their potential, informs her pedagogical practice. She has been responsible for writing and developing Individualized Education Plans for students with special needs and co-chaired Committee on Special Education

meetings. She was tasked with the responsibility of re-building the entire Special Education program from the ground up for a state run juvenile detention center and went on to serve as interim Education Coordinator for that program, resulting in the marked reduction in violent incidents under her leadership. She remains primarily committed to the promotion of inclusive opportunities for children with special needs. Whether training teachers and parents locally or internationally, from her island home of Jamaica, presenting her workshop, Facing Autism Management with Expectations, or sharing nuggets from her uniquely designed curriculum program, 'PROPER Sons & Gals,' to promote positive identity formation, student motivation, leadership in a multicultural framework, she stands steadfast in her personal mission of creating safe spaces for students to thrive holistically.



Ingrid Peart-Wilmot

Mrs. Ingrid Peart-Wilmot, the winner of the 2017 Lasco Teacher of the year award has over 20 years in the teaching profession, she is dedicating her time to the transformation of education through the creation of a teacher mentorship programme.

Her goals include improving teaching performance, enhancing student achievement and increasing collegiality by employing the concept of each one teach one among our nation's teachers. Mrs. Ingrid Peart-Wilmot is Jamaica Teaching Council's (JTC) Chief Mentoring Officer.



Andre' Adman

Andre' Adman has been teaching music for over 20 years and is currently the acting Dean of the School of Music, Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, Jamaica. A graduate of the EMCVPA, he holds a Diploma in Music Education from the Joint Board of Teacher Education, a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education, Diploma in Piano Performance, ABRSM and he is currently pursuing a Master's of Art degree in Education at the UWI, Mona. He is a pianist, singer-songwriter, author and motivational speaker who has dedicated his efforts toward producing innovative, educational and inspirational resources for children. André recently released his first children's story book entitled Ooster's Night

Song, which is an exciting tale told in rhyming verse that introduces young readers ages to the importance of everyone doing their

job. His body of work also includes a collection of original children's songs entitled – "I Am Special."



Dr. Dwayne Dyce

Dr. Dwayne Dyce is committed to using his skills and education to support the educational community in Jamaica, the US and around the world. Born in Kingston Jamaica, he grew up with his twin brother in the hills of St. Ann, parish on their grandparents' farm. Equipped with strong faith in God and belief in the power of education, Dr. Dyce began his educational journey earning a B.Ed. in Education from the Catholic College of Mandeville.

He received both a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership and a Master of Education in Teaching and Learning from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota before earning his Doctorate of Education in Leadership and Management from St. Thomas University. Dr. Dyce was recently accepted into the renowned

Summer Principal Academy (SPA) program at Columbia University Teachers College where he will earn a New York State School Building Leadership (SBL) Certification and Master of Education in Public School Building Leadership in 2022. Dr. Dyce has over 15 years of professional experience teaching in K-6 classrooms and providing instructional training to teachers. At the onset of the pandemic, he conducted and facilitated over 25 virtual training attended by 20,000 teachers and administrators throughout the Jamaican Diaspora on topics including on-line platforms, instructional strategies, early childhood, differentiated instruction, on-line assessment tools as well as student and parent engagement. Dr. Dyce is a published author also hosts EduTalk and Virtual Story Time weekly on Facebook Live.



Jacqueline Elaine Chen

I am a passionate educator with over 25 years of experience at the early childhood, primary and tertiary levels of the education system. At the tertiary level, I have spent sixteen years as a lecturer in the Education Department, specializing in Early Childhood Education, at my Alma Mata, St. Joseph's Teachers' College. Since May 2019, I transitioned from role of facilitator, to that of senior administrator with responsibilities of student affairs.

Although I have transitioned from my direct role as lecturer, my zeal for the early stages of development has propelled me to continue advocacy for the very best quality care and education for children at the early childhood level. I strongly believe that together we can accomplish the desired transformation of our nation by ensuring our next generation gets the best start for a better and brighter future as it is this generation, that will sustain the 2030 vision to make Jamaica "the place of choice to live, work, raise families, and do business."



Kemesha Swaby

With a strong passion for Social Policy, Advocacy, Culture and Education, Mrs. Kemesha Swaby has deployed her skills and expertise in both the public and private sector. She is a board member of the Early Childhood Commission, Co-Director of CorpCare Social Impact Consultants Ltd., Assistant Lecturer in the department of Government at UWI Mona, consultant and former co-host at Nationwide Radio.

She has over 13 years of experience as a trained youth advocate, having worked with several organizations to implement youth-focused programmes. Having distinguished herself in youth development and leadership, she has been highly sought after to represent the country's youth on youth advocacy, participation and empowerment, and sexual and reproductive health. Mrs. Swaby is currently a PhD Candidate in Public Policy at the University of the West Indies, Mona and hopes to inspire others to step into their power and do their part to serve their wider community.



Leja Burrows

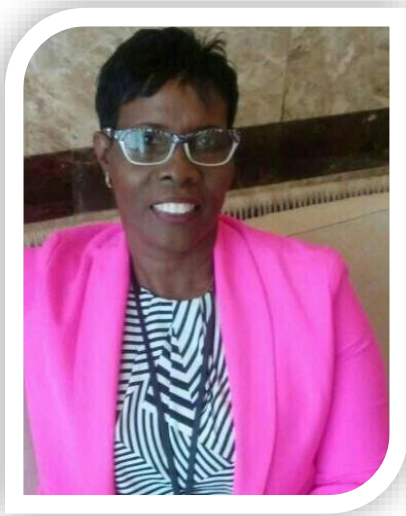
Leja Burrows is the Acting Assistant Director of Education with responsibility for early childhood education in the Department of Education. She is a graduate of Queen's College High School, College of the Bahamas, Concordia University and Florida International University. Mrs Burrows holds a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education with honours. A 29-year veteran in the field of Education as a Primary School Teacher, a Principal, Education Officer, Senior Education Officer and currently Assistant Director of Education in the Early Childhood Education Section. She is responsible for the management and supervision of Government Preschools, curriculum development and assessment, data collection, public relations and the Public Private Preschool Voucher Programme. Mrs

Burrows is an Early Childhood Trainer conducting workshops and Training Sessions for pre- service and in-service teachers.



Faithlyn Lyle

Ms. Faithlyn Lyle holds a Master's of Science Degree in Educational Leadership from Central Connecticut States University. She has worked as a classroom teacher for over fourteen years. Ms. Lyle is employed to the Early Childhood Commission as an inspector and is currently the Acting Senior Inspector for Region Four (Hanover, Westmoreland & St. James). In 2011 she was selected to represent the Early Childhood Commission on the International Visitors' Leadership Programme.



Dianne White

Mrs. Dianne White has been in the field of education for Thirty Nine (39) years; fifteen (15) years in Primary Education and Twenty Four (24) years in Early Childhood Education. She currently serves as Principal at the Glad Tidings Early Childhood Development Centre.

Mrs. White holds a Diploma in Primary Education from the Mico University College, a Diploma in Biblical and Pastoral Studies at the College of Theology and Interdisciplinary Studies and a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of the West Indies/Shortwood Teachers College.



Sibane Reid

Sibane Reid has been serving in the education sector for over twenty years, the last ten of which have been at the Early Childhood Commission. She is passionate about the holistic development of children and believes that investment in early childhood plays a critical role in nation building. Miss Reid is a trained educator and social worker who has completed studies at the University of the West Indies, Mona and the St. Joseph's Teachers' College. She currently serves as a Development Officer in Region 6. As a Christian, Miss Reid is an active member of the Brunswick Church of God of Prophecy.



Dr. Tracy-Ann McGhie-Sinclair

Dr. Tracy-Ann McGhie-Sinclair has been an educator for over nineteen years. She is currently a principal lecturer and the Acting Head of the School of Early Childhood, Primary and the Creative Arts at Church Teachers' College: Mandeville. She also serves as an Adjunct, Assistant Professor of Education at Temple University, Philadelphia. Dr. McGhie-Sinclair is a dynamic, multifaceted and learned educator who holds a Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership, a Master of Science Degree in Teaching and Learning, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood and Primary Education and a Diploma in Primary Education.



Heidi Echternacht

This is Heidi Echternacht and I am the CoFounder of Kinderchat, recent author of the new book, The Kinderchat Guide to the Classroom and a 25 year plus teacher of Young Children. Currently teaching 7 year olds.



Dr. Megel Barker

Dr Barker knows that critical thinking students are powerful learners. This is his 26th year in education, with an enviable track record in numerous leadership roles encompassing all aspects of secondary education both nationally (UK) and internationally (IB). His presentation style confronts participants' current thinking and ultimately transforms their conceptual understanding. He firmly believes that learning happens in a thinking culture.

Dr. Barker is a proud graduate of PGTC (now CASE) and UWI as well as SUNY and Wilkes University (US). He holds a doctorate in International Instructional Leadership where he investigated job satisfaction of middle leaders in

International schools. He is currently the Chairman for

the Jamaica Middle East Diaspora Education Taskforce (JMED), an ASCD Connected Community ambassador, a trustee for the Values & Visions Foundation a UK -based charity, a Fellow of the Association for the Advancement of International Education, A Fellow of the Institute of Mathematics (IMA – UK) and a sought after speaker on the conference circuit. Dr Barker is currently an Assistant Principal and MYP coordinator. Dr. Barker is Director of Embark Education Ltd, a consultancy focused on providing solutions to problems faced by educational institutions.



Professor Helen Baker-Henningham's

Helen Baker-Henningham is Professor of Child Development and Behaviour in the School of Psychology at Bangor University, UK and a Visiting Professor at the Caribbean Institute for Health Research (CAIHR), University of the West Indies (UWI), Jamaica. Helen's academic training is in early childhood education, special education, and child mental health. Helen's research focuses on early interventions for children who are at risk for learning and behaviour problems. She designs, implements and evaluates early childhood interventions for use in schools and primary health care settings which involve working with parents, teachers and health care staff to promote children's development. Helen leads the IRIE Classroom Toolbox team within CAIHR, UWI and is

a member of the Reach-Up and Learn team, also based at

CAIHR. Helen conducts research in Jamaica, Bangladesh and Colombia.

**Kevin Parker**

Kevin Parker is the Region 6, Community Interventions Officer with the Early Childhood Commission since January, 2021. Before joining the team at ECC, Mr. Parker has been serving as a Mentor and Youth Leader at different levels within the Central Jamaica Conference of Seventh Day Adventist; namely President of the Central St. Catherine Youth Federation. During his role as President a number of initiatives were created to impact children and youth alike. One initiative that was executed is by visiting primary and high schools conducting devotions and having motivational rap sessions prior to exams.

**Taneka Munroe-Baker**

Taneka Munroe-Baker is an Early Childhood Inspector with the Early Childhood Commission. She has held this post for the last 10 1/2 years in Region II, specifically in the parish of Saint Mary. Throughout her tenure she has conducted hundreds of inspections in all types of early childhood institutions across three parishes. These inspections were geared towards assessing each institution's compliance with national laws. Prior to this, she gained experience as a classroom teacher spanning Early Childhood to Secondary Education. Her experience was garnered in Jamaica as well as in the suburbs of London. Mrs. Baker also gained valuable customer service experience during her tenure as a Customer Service Representative with a Commercial Bank.

Mrs. Baker successfully read for a Master of Science Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Florida International University (FIU); a Bachelor of Science Degree in Communication Studies from Northern Caribbean University and a Diploma in Primary Education from the College of Agriculture Science and Education (CASE).



Dr. Jean Beaumont

Dr. Jean Beaumont is lifelong educator. She is a former classroom teacher, principal, school director, college president and university lecturer with a wealth of experience in education, use of technology in education, training and organizational leadership. Dr. Beaumont earned her doctorate degree in Advanced Educational Leadership and holds two Masters Degrees: a Master of Science in Educational Leadership and a Master of Arts in Education (Reading). She is also a certified Behavioural Coach and a licensed spiritual educator. Dr. Beaumont is a recipient of the 2014 Prime Minister's Medal of Appreciation for service in education. She is the Founder and CEO of EduConnectJA and, with her team, they provide educational and community services for sustainable development in Jamaica and in the Eastern Caribbean.



Sophia Harold

Sophia Harold is the Acting Programme Coordinator at the Garmex HEART Academy and gives oversight to the instructors in the Early Childhood Department. She has over twenty-three (23) years' experience in the field of education and has taught at all levels. She is an Early Childhood Assessor and Auditor and has worked at the HEART NSTA Trust for the past 16 years. She holds a diploma in Early Childhood Education from Shortwood Teacher's College and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of the Common Wealth. She is currently enrolled at the Mico University College where she will be pursuing an Executive Masters in Educational Management.



Karen Smith

Hola, hola everyone! My name is Kerensa Smith and I have been an educator for 10 years. Teaching is my absolute passion whilst sharing and making connections is my gift. I have a B. Ed. (hons) specializing in Early Childhood Education and I am currently pursuing a Masters degree in Educational Leadership. I regard myself as a 21st Century Teacher and a global educator having taught children in Jamaica, Colombia and the USA, as well as children from various regions of the world like Korea. I look forward to sharing and learning with and from you all.



Antonica Gunter-Gayle

Mrs. Gunter-Gayle has been working with the Early Stimulation Programme in the Ministry of Labour & Social Security for the past thirty two (32) years; she has worked in the capacity of Child Development Officer, (Teacher) Supervisor and presently as Director / Principal of the Early Stimulation Programme and Stimulation Plus Child Development Centre.

Mrs Gunter-Gayle is an advocate for children with disabilities and has been championing the cause for education and special intervention for the nation's children with special needs. She currently sits on a number of committees and boards and is a past member of the Early Childhood Commission. Mrs Gunter Gayle has done studies in Early Childhood Education, Early Intervention techniques for children with Developmental Disabilities, Community Based

Rehabilitation for children with Intellectual Impairment, Social Work, among others.

She presently holds a Degree in Guidance and Counselling and a Masters in Education. She is the recipient of a number of awards including an award for long and dedicated service in 2012, the Badge of Honour for Meritorious Service to the nation's children, by the Governor General in 2014 and was again awarded the Order of Distinction (OD) for excellent service to children with special needs in Jamaica in 2017.



Mrs. Taneisha Pascoe-Matthews

My current role is Assistant Head Teacher - Inclusion (SENCO and Pupil Premium lead). I have 18 years' experience in the Education Sector with my career starting in Jamaica as a Math and Computer Science teacher. Since moving to the UK in 2008 I have held other roles such as Math teacher, KS3 Coordinator (Math) and Deputy SENCO. I recently complete a MEd in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. I am passionate about the care and services available to autistic children and their families. I believe I should use my platform to advocate for the best future of all children especially those with special needs. I am a mother of two autistic boys. I have recently launched several social media platforms to continue my autism awareness campaign under the headings "Spotlight on Autism" and "One of Many Autism Voices."



Rochelle Williams

Miss Rochelle Williams is currently a Lecturer of Early Childhood Education and Development at Shortwood Teachers' College. She holds a Master's Degree in Curriculum Development (Distinction) and a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education (First Class Honours) both from the University of the West Indies, Mona. Miss Williams also holds a Diploma in Teaching (Early Childhood Education) from Shortwood Teachers' College.

Miss Williams has had ten years of experience working with young children, their parents as well as pre and in-service teachers. Miss Williams has worked with the Barita Education Foundation and the INSIGHTS in Jamaica Project housed at the University of the West Indies, Mona. She has also worked with the Early Interactions Project (EIP) which aims towards improving the quality care provided for infants and toddlers by their caregivers.

Miss Williams has delivered at several workshops and seminars focused on mentoring and coaching in-service practitioners and creating learning materials for young children using available resources. Her research interests include differentiated numeracy instruction as well as teachers' beliefs and its impacts on their pedagogical practices at the early childhood level.



Dr. Orville W. Taylor

Dr Orville W. Taylor is Senior Lecturer in Sociology and Head of the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Social Work, at the University of the West Indies, Mona, a member of the (American) Association of Black Sociologists, American Sociological Association, Caribbean Studies Association and Press Association of Jamaica (PAJ). He is a scholar of Black racial issues and labour studies and has presented more than 60 international and local conference papers in both English and Spanish. Locally, he has also done more than 200 keynote speeches, addresses and seminars.

An external collaborator with the International Labour Organization, this former Senior Industrial Relations Director in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, worked more than 18 years in the government service. For the

ILO he has produced studies, on **Regional Labour Standards,**

Contract Work and the baseline study on **Flexible Working**

Hours, the first of its kind in the developing world. His expertise in labour matters has been sought by other Caribbean nations and the European Union. Most recently, he contributed to the ***Rule of Law Index of the World Justice Project***.

He has published several book chapters and articles, two edited collections and an authored book. One of his book chapters was featured on Black Entertainment Television (BET) and he has been interviewed by *Essence Magazine* among others. His book ***Broken Promises, Hearts and Pockets: A Century of Betrayal of the Jamaican Working Class*** was published in 2014 and awarded as Best

Publication at the UWI's Research Days in 2016. A nationally exhibited and awarded artist, Dr Taylor is a provocative Jamaican media personality, writes a column in the ***Sunday Gleaner***, and used to write for the Black-Oriented British Newspaper, ***The Voice*** and is one of the hosts of the popular talk show, **Hot Line** on **RJR 94 FM**. In 2014 he achieved the prestigious **Morris Cargill Award**, for opinion journalism by the **PAJ** during its annual National Journalism Week celebrations.



Jennifer 'Jenny Jenny' Small

Jennifer 'Jenny Jenny' Small is known as the bubbly host of Hitz 92 FM early-morning Blast Off Show and popular emcee for live events.

For the past few years, she has operated 3 Small Treasures Child Care, at three different locations. She was inspired to open the centres by a young one close to home.

"The thought came about when I was pregnant with my daughter. I knew she had to go to daycare but I really didn't see an appropriate one. Jennifer Small is also the CEO of Jenny Jenny Productions and Globescope BPO.



Gwenette Cambridge

Mrs. Gwenette Cambridge is a retired Senior Education Officer (Early Childhood Education) from the Ministry of Education in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG). She has been a part of the Education system for over thirty (30) years having taught at both Primary and Secondary level in Guyana and St. Vincent where she resides. She holds a Teacher Certificate in Primary Education from the Cyril Potter College of Education (1980) Guyana as well as a Certificate in Management and Supervision from the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill (2002). Mrs. Cambridge further holds a

B.Ed. (First Class Honour) in Educational Administration from the University of the West Indies, Cave

Hill (2006) and a M.Sc. in Early Childhood Education from Southern Illinois University (SIU), USA (2009) having been awarded an OAS scholarship. At SIU, Mrs. Cambridge was inducted into the Golden Key International Honors Society. She has further obtained a Certificate in Counselling (UWI –Open Campus).

Mrs. Cambridge has a wealth of experience having worked as Principal for a Junior Secondary School and having taught students of grades ten and eleven in English Language and English Literature in preparation for writing regional external examinations as they transition into Community College.

Mrs. Cambridge not only moderated for UWI Examinations but has also moderated for the Commonwealth Best Practices in Early Childhood Competition.

2021 Awardees

Culture, Health, Arts, Sports and Education (CHASE) Fund

Jamaica Diaspora Taskforce Action Network (JDTAN)

One Jamaica Foundation

Jamaica Aluminium Company (JAMALCO)

Carlong Publishers

Caribbean Dreams

American Friends of Jamaica

National Baking Company

Kiwanis Club of Liguanea

John Goldsmith

Japanese Embassy

Caribbean Airlines

Reading Owls International

Tryall Fund

Edgechem

Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority

Kremi

Food for the Poor

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Sandals Foundation

Nutrition Products Limited

Lasco Distributors

United Way of Jamaica

Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF)

Digicel Jamaica Foundation

Gore Foundation

J. Wray and Nephew Foundation

Project for the Advancement of Childhood Education (P.A.C.E) Canada

George Brown College

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Union of Jamaican Alumni Associations (USA Inc.)
Sagicor Foundation
Rockhouse Foundation
Mobay City Run
Jamaica Public Service Company
Kiwanis Division 25
Kiwanis Club of North St. Andrew
Facey Commodity
Embassy of the United States
Barita Foundation
Bank of Nova Scotia, Jamaica
Dudley Grant Memorial Trust
Jamaica Diaspora Education Task Force
Usain Bolt Foundation
China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC)