

# Potomac Association of Cooperative Teachers Inc.



February 2021

Spring Newsletter

[www.PACTteachers.org](http://www.PACTteachers.org)

## Letter from the President

Dear PACT Members,

The 2020-2021 school year will certainly be remembered for the roller coaster of difficult change that it has been. We hope it will also be remembered as a year that the Early Childhood Educator community rallied to meet the demands of an uncertain and even risky landscape. We applaud the programs that are still trying to get back to work as well as those that have been able to reopen. Directors and teachers have rebuilt their programs in ways they probably never imagined, working within new sets of COVID-19 protocols and regulations, striving to reduce divisiveness in our communities and nation, handling concerns about the social-emotional health of our young students due to masked and restricted social interactions, and struggling with serious financial challenges.

Our PACT Board members recognize how hard you have been working and how much you deserve a community building event. We've planned our virtual Spring Professional Development Day as something that you and your teammates can use as a chance to reflect on what it means to be an early childhood professional as well as giving you tangible tools and inspiration to bring back to your kids and schools.

In recognition that the Covid-19 pandemic has hit the ECE community's budgets in a significant way, the PACT Board is pleased to be able to offer you a fantastic deal on 4 hours of continued education that also qualify as Core of Knowledge hours for our Maryland educators. For only \$20, you get your PACT membership and admission to two fantastic, 2 hour workshops. This year's presenters are Jacky Howell of [Azspire](#) and Emily Ederer from the [Silver Spring Day School Training Institute](#). The workshops will run simultaneously on March 17<sup>th</sup> at 2pm and again on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

While we can't see into the future and predict what the training landscape will look like next year, we do hope that you choose to continue your relationship with PACT, even if you can only make it to one of this year's workshops (still a great deal at \$20). And as the pandemic

continues to unfold, please know that PACT will remain committed to presenting quality continued education to its members, at the best value we can afford.

Scott Mitchell,  
President

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## Join the PACT Board!

The PACT Board is run by dedicated volunteer early childhood educators. We welcome Emily Ederer and Meredith Savage-Myers to our team this year. There are still some open positions, so we need members to step forward! Please check the list below and contact [Scott Mitchell](#) if you are interested in joining our team. Information about Board positions can be found in PACT's By-Laws on the website [www.PACTteachers.org](http://www.PACTteachers.org). The proposed slate of officers for 2021-22 will be presented for a vote of approval from members at the brief virtual business meeting March 17 and 18.

### Proposed 2021-22 Board Members

**President** - [Scott Mitchell](#) Silver Spring Nursery School, MD

**V.P. Program Co-Chairs** - [Bernadine Occhiuzzo](#) Cedar Lane Nursery School, MD

- [Doreen Bunten](#) Cedar Lane Nursery School, MD

**V.P. Membership** - [Ellen Griffin](#) Cedar Lane Nursery School, MD

**Secretary** - [Melissa Jordan](#) Rockville Presbyterian Cooperative Nursery School, MD

**Treasurer** - [Janise Allyn-Smith](#) Silver Spring Nursery School, MD

**Logistics & Hospitality - VA - OPEN**

- **MD** - [Rana Oriolo](#) Learning Center for Young Children, MD

**Professional Development Day Administration** - [Jessie Auten](#) Providence Nursery School, VA

**Exhibits/Resource Table - OPEN**

**Assessments and Evaluations** - [Emily Ederer](#) Silver Spring Day School, MD

**Legislative Contact** - **MD** - [Bernadine Occhiuzzo](#)

- **DC** - **OPEN**

- **VA** - [Nancy Renner](#) Fort Hunt Preschool, VA

**Listserv** - [Jennifer DeBernardis](#) MD

**Web Master** - [Meredith Savage-Myers](#) Ashton Christian Preschool, MD

**Newsletter Editor** - [Meredith Savage-Myers](#) Ashton Christian Preschool, MD

**Past Co-Presidents** - [Bernadine Occhiuzzo](#) Cedar Lane Nursery School, MD

- [Ellen Griffin](#) Cedar Lane Nursery School, MD

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## Membership Renewal

Join PACT (or renew your membership!) by completing the online form on our website at <https://pacteachers.org/membership>. Current members are eligible to attend one or both of the virtual Spring Professional Development Days on March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. The membership fee for Spring 2021 is \$20.

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## Professional Development Days - Wednesday, March 17 & Thursday, March 18

PACT is pleased to offer two virtual workshops this Spring: "Understanding and Counteracting Implicit Bias" and "How to Create Experiences *With* Young Children Rather Than Planning Activities *For* Them." The sessions will run from 2-4 PM on Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, and 7-9 PM on Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. Members may sign up for one or both; both are included in your registration fee.

PACT's MSDE Approval Training number is CKO-157568

### Presenters

*Jacky Howell - "How to create experiences WITH young children rather than planning activities FOR them"*

&

*Emily Ederer – "Understanding & Counteracting Implicit Bias"*

MSDE Training Approval # CKO-157568

## Content Descriptions

How to create experiences *WITH* children rather than planning activities *FOR* them:

In the field of early childhood education, the focus has often been on planning an activity *FOR* children that is focused on coming up with a product or focused on information. This session presented by author, consultant, and DAP expert, Jacky Howell, will help you and your staff members experience a shift in thinking about creating experiences that are meaningful, engaging, and interactive.

Goals include:

- The reasons why creating experiences *WITH* children leads to meaningful play and learning.
- How to develop experiences that are dynamic and connective learning opportunities aligned with developmentally appropriate practice.
- How experiences can promote development, align with practice, and engage children in higher order thinking.

### Understanding and Counteracting Implicit Bias:

Even with our awareness of stereotyping and our genuine attempts to avoid bias, our hidden assumptions about other people can affect the way we treat them. Recent studies that explore the concept of implicit bias help explain why this may happen. Through a mix of short presentations about social science research, as well as activities and discussions, we will explore some harmful side effects of how our brains naturally perceive, categorize, and draw inferences about other people. We will also examine when this kind of bias is most likely to influence our actions and decisions, and begin to understand how young children develop biases. We will discuss practical steps to try to counter the negative effects of implicit bias in early childhood classrooms, child care settings, and organizations.

### **Brief Biography of Presenters**

**Jacky Howell, MA**, has over 45 years' experience as an early childhood teacher, consultant, coach, and administrator. In addition, she has over 30 years' experience as a course instructor and presenter on topics related to early childhood development and curriculum. She is a published author with her book, *Rituals and Traditions: Fostering a Sense of Community in Preschool*. She has published many articles in early education journals. She received her Master's degree in Human Development from Pacific Oaks College and is a certified OSSE trainer. Currently she is a consultant and presenter with her own business, [Azspire](#) and works with a variety of programs in the DC Metro Area as well as across the country. She has done webinars, and workshops and presentations locally and nationally. Jacky believes strongly that all children deserve the highest quality early childhood experience and strives to work with others in creating places worthy of young children, families, and staff.

**Emily Ederer, MA**, founded the [Silver Spring Day School Training Institute](#) to provide innovative, Maryland approved, Core of Knowledge training for early childhood educators. Calling on years of experience as a Pre-K teacher and research into the most current ideas in child development, she offers active, innovative workshops that give providers new ways of looking at their work and practical techniques they can use in their workplaces immediately. In addition, she offers coaching for area teachers for Maryland's new Children Study Their World Curriculum through the University of Maryland. In her role as Director of Training and

Administration at SSDS, she coordinates staff development and offers activities that enrich the experience of students, families and staff.



## Credit Hours and Core of Knowledge Area

Attendance at one of the two-hour virtual presentations on March 17<sup>th</sup> and/or 18<sup>th</sup> will earn members 2 Core of Knowledge credit hours. Attendance at both sessions will earn 4 COK hours. “Implicit Bias” is in the COK area of Professionalism, and “How to create experiences...” is in the areas of Curriculum (1 hour) and Child Development (1 hour). In accordance with MSDE regulations, members must attend the full 2-hour virtual presentation, and complete a content assessment and presenter evaluation before receiving their certificate. Requirements by MSDE also stipulate that members from MD must pass the assessment with a score of 70% or higher. Further details about completing the assessment will be covered at the pre-PDD business meeting. Personalized certificates will be available at the conclusion of the Professional Development Days, also in compliance with MSDE regulations.

## Registration

Registration for the Spring virtual training course is online via SignUpGenius. Click on the [link](#) and complete the form. Please sign up individually to ensure your email is recorded. Note also that there are two time slots to choose from - Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 PM; and Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 PM.

Registration should be submitted by **Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**. Don't forget to renew your PACT membership before signing up for the workshops!

## How to log on for the virtual course

A Zoom link will be e-mailed to registered members 24 hours prior to each session. Please click the link to your session at least 15 minutes early to check audio/video, sign in, and hear announcements from PACT. To earn a certificate for attendance, you must join the session by the start time, sign your name in the chat box, and follow the links to the assessment and feedback forms provided at the end of the presentation. Once signed in, participants' names will appear in the chat box. Registrants may be required to sign-in periodically to demonstrate their continuous participation. If a member leaves the session for a brief break, they will need to sign in again.

## Assessments and Evaluations

Participants will be asked to complete a content assessment and presenter evaluation of the virtual course via a Google form. A link to the survey will be provided on the Zoom chat room at the conclusion of the course. The link will also be e-mailed to participants following the

PDD, and should be completed within 24 hours. MSDE requirements stipulate that members from Maryland must pass the assessment with a score of 70% or higher.

## Certificates

Participants who attend the entire virtual course and who have completed the Google docs form for assessments and evaluations will be e-mailed their personalized certificate in PDF form.

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## Award for Devoted Service in Early Childhood Education

Due to the disruptions caused by COVID-19, the award for devoted service in Early Childhood Education has been deferred for the 2020-21 school year. The Board hopes to re-instate the award during the 2021-22 school year, so members are encouraged to keep possible candidates in mind!

## Hall of Fame

The PACT Board established a *PACT Hall of Fame* in 2016 to recognize members who have given exemplary service in the field of Early Childhood Education. Following are the members who have been inducted to date:

**Janise Allyn-Smith** - Teacher/Director, Silver Spring N.S., PACT Board member (2017)

**Jennifer DeBernardis** - Teacher, Silver Spring N.S., PACT Board member (2018)

**Annette Fitzpatrick** - Director (retired), CCUMC Preschool, PACT Board member (2018)

**Edie Mossberg** – Director, Glenbrook N.S., Board member, ECE Consultant (2019)

**Bernadine Occhiuzzo** - Director/Teacher, Cedar Lane N.S. (2019)

**Nancy Renner** – Director, Fort Hunt Preschool (2020)

**Helene Segal-Turner** - Director, Kensington N.S., PACT Board member (2018)

**Cindy Walsh** - Director (retired) CCPC Weekday N.S., PACT Board member (2018)

**Fran Warthen** - Director, Suburban N.S. (2018)

**Angie Zeidenberg** - Teacher, Bannockburn N.S. (2019)

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## DVD Collection

PACT maintains a collection of educational DVDs that current PACT members may borrow free of charge. Schools that have at least one PACT member on staff may borrow DVDs for training purposes. The borrower must pay postage costs both ways, or pick up and return in person. See loan form and instructions on our web site <https://pacteachers.org/resources> .

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## Job Postings

Looking for a new teaching position in the Washington, DC area? PACT posts job openings on the website – so check it out at <https://pacteachers.org/resources> . Directors wishing to post job openings should e-mail details to [VPMembershipPACT@gmail.com](mailto:VPMembershipPACT@gmail.com).

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## Listserv

PACT members' listserv: Take a moment to join the PACT members' listserv to stay up-to date on PACT information. The listserv is open to current PACT members. To join, send an e-mail to [4pact-members@googlegroups.com](mailto:4pact-members@googlegroups.com).

Directors' listserv: Share resources, ideas and training opportunities by joining the PACT Directors listserv. PACT membership is not required. To join, send a message to [pact-directors@googlegroups.com](mailto:pact-directors@googlegroups.com).

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