Yes, We Care!
The Paragould School of the 21st Century was the first site implementing the Zigler model in August 1992. Start up funds was initially provided by Paragould businesses to renovate an older elementary campus. The district has grown from the Elmwood campus of seven classrooms infants – four year olds to opening the Oakwood building housing 5 additional classrooms. S21C is an integral part of the Paragould School District. By August, 2013, seven preschool classrooms will join kindergarten and first grade students at the new Paragould Primary building located on Country Club Road. The Paragould School District was successful in passing a millage to build this site and a middle school.

The funding has been successfully braided together since 1996 using funds from the Parents as Teachers program, Even Start, Arkansas Better Chance, DHS vouchers, 21st Century Community Learning Center grants, Title I funds, NSLA, and now the new THRIVE grant from Arkansas Child Abuse and Neglect. The Paragould School District sponsors the special needs program which also reaches out to any child at a childcare center or Head Start needing services.

Approximately 210 children from infants up to kindergarten are served each year. In addition, eighteen families are served with home visits. Before/After school programs are located on the Baldwin Elementary, Woodrow Wilson Elementary, and Oak Grove Middle School serving as many as 275 children. These programs are funded by paid slots as well as funding from the 21st Community Learning Center Grants.

Dr. Tom W. Kimbrell is a lifelong Arkansas educator who was appointed to be Commissioner of Education for the State of Arkansas by Governor Mike Beebe and the Arkansas State Board of Education in September 2009.

About his role as Commissioner, Dr. Kimbrell says: “Since I began my career in public education 25 years ago, I have set as my personal and professional goal to make a difference for the greatest number of children in this state. As Commissioner, I can work with the Governor, the educational community and business leaders to positively impact educational opportunities for children.”

Kimbrell served as executive director of the Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators for four years prior to coming to the Arkansas Department of Education. Before that, he was superintendent for the North Little Rock and Paragould school districts. He has also worked as a director of fiscal services in the Paragould School District, as assistant principal in the Corning School District, and as a teacher and coach for the Paragould and Pocahontas school districts.

Kimbrell earned his doctorate in education and his Master of Science in Education both from Arkansas State University, and he earned his Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

He is married to Tina Kimbrell, and they live with their two children in Cabot.
# Conference at a Glance

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<tr>
<td><strong>6:30 am – 7:00 am</strong>&lt;br&gt;Yoga in Hobby Room</td>
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<td><strong>8:30 am – 8:45 am</strong>&lt;br&gt;Welcome Address&lt;br&gt;Matia Finn-Stevenson, Yale 21C&lt;br&gt;Deborah Swink, AR 21C&lt;br&gt;Lee Vent, AR 21C</td>
<td><strong>8:30 am – 9:45 am</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sesame Workshop – Everyday Moments: Fostering the Whole Child&lt;br&gt;Jeannette Betancourt, Senior Vice President, Outreach and Educational Practices, Sesame Workshop</td>
<td><strong>8:30 am – 9:30 am</strong>&lt;br&gt;Discover Your Inner Strength&lt;br&gt;Howie Knoff, Director, State Improvement Grant; State Personnel Development Grant; Arkansas Department of Education, Special Education Division</td>
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<td><strong>8:45 am – 9:15 am</strong>&lt;br&gt;First Annual Excellence In Education Award Presented to: Tom Kimbrell, Arkansas Commissioner of Education</td>
<td><strong>9:45 am – 10:30 am</strong>&lt;br&gt;Using Resources and Solutions to Build Respectful Relationships&lt;br&gt;John Murphy, Professor of Psychology and Counseling, University of Central Arkansas</td>
<td><strong>9:30 am – 10:15 am</strong>&lt;br&gt;Making a Difference in Arkansas&lt;br&gt;Cory Anderson, Vice President, Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation</td>
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<td><strong>9:15 am – 10:00 am</strong>&lt;br&gt;Healthy Students in School-Based Wellness Centers: What’s Next?&lt;br&gt;Jared Cleveland, Assistant Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education</td>
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<td><strong>10:15 am – 10:30 am</strong>&lt;br&gt;Break</td>
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<td><strong>10:30 am – 11:15 am</strong>&lt;br&gt;Why Normal Isn’t Healthy&lt;br&gt;Bowen White, Motivational Speaker</td>
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<td><strong>10:30 am – 11:15 am</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Mutt-i-grees® Movement: What Is It? How Did It Begin? What Are Its Implications for Education?</td>
<td><strong>11:00 am – 11:30 am</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Value of School as Community&lt;br&gt;Jim Hinson, Superintendent, Independence Public Schools, Independence, MO</td>
<td><strong>11:15 am – 11:30 am</strong>&lt;br&gt;2012 Pioneer Award Presentation</td>
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<td><strong>11:15 am – 11:40 am</strong>&lt;br&gt;Mutt-i-grees® Student Showcase: Peace, Love, Mutts!</td>
<td><strong>11:30 am – 11:45 am</strong>&lt;br&gt;Mutt-i-grees® Student Showcase: Puppies and Poodle Skirts: A Tribute to the King!!</td>
<td><strong>11:30 am – 12:15 pm</strong>&lt;br&gt;Doggy Bag Event</td>
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<td><strong>11:45 am – 12:45 pm</strong>&lt;br&gt;Lunch in Atrium</td>
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<td>Please visit our website for details on next year’s conference: <a href="http://www.yale.edu/21c">www.yale.edu/21c</a></td>
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<td><strong>12:00 pm – 1:50 pm</strong>&lt;br&gt;Concurrent Workshops I</td>
<td><strong>12:45 pm – 1:50 pm</strong>&lt;br&gt;Mini-Plenary Sessions</td>
<td>Visit the North Shore Animal League America Mobile Adoption Unit: Wed. – 9:00 am – 5:00 pm&lt;br&gt;Thurs. – 12:00 am – 6:30 pm&lt;br&gt;Location: Back parking lot directly behind KittyHawk Ballroom</td>
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<td><strong>2:00 pm – 3:00 pm</strong>&lt;br&gt;Concurrent Workshops II</td>
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<td><strong>5:30 pm – 7:30 pm</strong>&lt;br&gt;Governor’s Mansion Reception&lt;br&gt;Join us to honor the Paragould School of the 21st Century for 20 years of excellence in education and present Mutt-i-grees® Student Advocate Awards (pre-registration required – limited seating)</td>
<td><strong>4:30 pm – 6:30 pm</strong>&lt;br&gt;Special Event: AR 21C Celebration&lt;br&gt;Beat the heat and the traffic! Join AR 21C in the Atrium for a fabulous reception with friends, food, photos and fun! Yes, we will have a photo booth! You can get a snapshot with your favorite friend - human or furry! Visit with our exhibitors, network with colleagues, and relax. Door prizes too!</td>
<td><strong>4:30 pm – 6:30 pm</strong>&lt;br&gt;Special Event: AR 21C Celebration&lt;br&gt;Beat the heat and the traffic! Join AR 21C in the Atrium for a fabulous reception with friends, food, photos and fun! Yes, we will have a photo booth! You can get a snapshot with your favorite friend - human or furry! Visit with our exhibitors, network with colleagues, and relax. Door prizes too!</td>
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The Arkansas School of the 21st Century<br>In collaboration with<br>Yale University - School of the 21st Century
AR21C/Clinton School District<br>683 Poplar St, Clinton, AR 72031<br>501-745-6058 (ph) • 501-745-6611 (fax)<br>email: ar21c@clinton.k12.ar.us<br>www.yale.edu/21c/current_conference.html

**EXHIBITOR HOURS:**<br>Wed.: 8:00 am- 5:00 pm; Thurs.: 8:00 am- 7:00 pm; & Fri.: 8:00 am- noon.
Warm Greetings:

Welcome to the School of the 21st Century National Conference at The Holiday Inn Airport Conference Center! AR 21C and Yale 21C are pleased to co-host “Yes, We Care”, a forum for educators working with children and families around the country.

The 21C National Conference has traditionally been held at Yale University. The growth of the 21C initiative across the country in communities like Independence, MO, Rockland, NY, Ashland, KY, and many of our school communities in Arkansas allows Yale 21C to showcase exemplary 21C schools by co-hosting the conference in our home sites. The AR 21C Leadership Council is honored to co-host the conference in 2012, the 20th anniversary of Paragould’s School of the 21st Century!

Paragould School District adopted the 21C model in 1992 under the leadership and direction of Superintendent Lee Vent, current President of the AR 21C Leadership Council. It is with excitement and great pride that we join Paragould to celebrate their many milestones as a 21C model site. The past 20 years is marked by Paragould’s excellence in early childhood education, the provision of resources and supports for families, quality before-school, after-school and summer programs for students, and increased health and wellness for students and staff. We celebrate the success of Paragould at this year’s conference with a program that provides you with the opportunity to explore cutting edge educational practices and skills which are hallmarks of success in 21C sites.

The opportunity to host the 21C National Conference in 2012 also allows AR 21C to showcase an ongoing collaboration with the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation (WRF). WRF continues to invest in AR 21C, allowing the Network to work towards our goals of adding more schools to AR 21C, as well as providing training and support to existing AR 21C sites. We look forward to joining WRF to provide leadership for their initiative Arkansas Campaign for Grade Level Reading. The AR 21C Network is an example of the excellence which can be achieved when a philanthropic foundation such as WRF invests in a statewide initiative!

The future of 21C in Arkansas is a bright spot on the educational horizon. The Network has ongoing support from the Arkansas Department of Education under the leadership of Commissioner Tom Kimbrell. We have selected Dr. Kimbrell to receive the First Annual Excellence in Education Award for his many contributions to the School of the 21st Century and public education in Arkansas.

We are pleased that you are joining us at this conference and hope that you will use this opportunity to expand your understanding of 21C and gain professional development to advance your learning communities. Also, we are very excited to have Yale 21C and North Shore Animal League America join us in presenting the Multi-i-grees® Curriculum. We very much appreciate all their support.

Respectfully yours,

Deb Swink
Co-Chair, “Yes, We Care”

Vicki Shelby
Co-Chair, “Yes, We Care”
Dear Friends:

It is with a great deal of pleasure that the Yale School of the 21st Century (21C) joins Arkansas School of the 21st Century (AR21C) in welcoming you to the 2012 National Conference, Yes We Care!

Twenty years ago, one school district in Arkansas approached Yale 21C asking to implement the program and its superintendent had a vision that the 21C program would become a model for other schools in the state. At the launching ceremony for that first AR 21C program in Paragould, Superintendent Lee Vent invited Yale, the business community, and local and state legislative leaders. Soon after a few other schools followed Paragould’s example and began implementing 21C.

The schools, although relatively few in number, caught the attention of the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, which in 2001 invested in a multi-year grant to support not only the implementation of more 21C schools in the state, but also the establishment of an infrastructure to ensure the continued growth of the program, which has become known as the AR21C State Initiative.

Today, there are close to 200 Schools of the 21st Century in Arkansas. In addition, educators and others established the Leadership Council to govern the Arkansas School of the 21st Century, Inc., a non-profit organization providing coordination and helping grow 21C throughout the state.

This year’s National Conference is made possible by the work of the Leadership Council and board members of the Arkansas School of the 21st Century.

We are pleased to join the effort and bring with us one of our partners, North Shore Animal League America, which is working with us and with many schools in Arkansas as we develop a social and emotional learning program known as the Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum.

I want to thank them for joining us. I also extend special thanks to all of you and, particularly, the AR21C Leadership Council for inviting us to co-sponsor this conference and celebrate with you a remarkable 20 years of service to Arkansas students and their families.

Our collaboration on this conference represents a milestone in our work together and signals the continuation of other joint ventures. We are honored to be here.

Sincerely,

Matia Finn-Stevenson
Director, The School of the 21st Century
Dear Governor and Mrs. Beebe, Conference Participants, and Honored Guests,

We are excited to be here with you to celebrate the conference, as well as host the reception at the Governor's Mansion. We have had a very productive association with schools in Arkansas implementing the Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum. As many of you may know, the Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum is an initiative of the Pet Savers Foundation, the program and policy arm of North Shore Animal League America. We are developing it with Yale School of the 21st Century (Yale 21C) and Dog Whisperer Cesar Millan and the Millan Foundation.

A Mutt-i-grees® is a relatively new term designed to promote the desirability of shelter pets. The Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum teaches children social and emotional skills using Mutt-i-grees® - shelter dogs – or stories and activities about dogs. Many school districts in Arkansas have worked with us and Yale 21C in field-testing and piloting the Curriculum and have implemented it in all classrooms, Pre-K to High School. Just last month, we honored one of your own top educators – Deb Swink, along with Norma Meek, for their work on the Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum and their dedication to schools and the League.

The Curriculum is very new, but already it has been implemented in hundreds of schools in the United States and Canada. We have not yet started an organized dissemination or promotion, but word is out about its effectiveness in engaging and motivating students and improving their learning and behavior.

In addition to teaching social and emotional skills, the Curriculum offers opportunities for students to collaborate with one another and reach out to and work within their communities. It has also promoted the establishment of collaborations among schools and local animal shelters. These collaborations are key in helping to save the lives of homeless animals across the country, and at the same time, give the students a rewarding experience that can help shape the direction of their lives. We are pleased to see many of the animal shelters in Arkansas represented at this conference and know that you have benefited from the enthusiasm and support of the students who participated in the Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum.

It is a great pleasure for me personally, as well as for the Animal League, to be here to recognize and honor some of these students whose extraordinary activities help promote the cause of shelter pets in the state.

This conference includes many presentations on various aspects of the Curriculum and its impact on schools and students. In addition to presentations from Mutt-i-grees® schools in Arkansas, California, Kentucky, and Connecticut, several groups of high school students from Arkansas will be showcasing their efforts. These high school students are the first in the nation to participate in the Curriculum. I know all of you will enjoy these and other presentations.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John Stevenson
President

16 Lewyt Street • Port Washington, NY 11050 • 516.883.7900 • www.AnimalLeague.org
6:30 am – 7:00 am ............................................................................................................ Yoga
HOBBY

7:30 am - 8:30 am ............................................................................................................ Breakfast and Registration
ATRIUM

8:30 am – 8:45 am ............................................................................................................ Welcome Address
KITTYHAWK BALLROOM
Matia Finn-Stevenson, Director, Yale School of the 21st Century, Research Scientist and Associate Director, Zigler Center, Yale University, New Haven, CT
Deborah Swink, Arkansas School of the 21st Century (AR 21C) Leadership Council, Senior Associate, Zigler Center, Yale University, New Haven, and Special Education Supervisor, Clinton School District, Clinton, AR
Lee Vent, Chair, Arkansas School of the 21st Century (AR 21C) Leadership Council and Superintendent, Clarendon Public School District, Clarendon, AR

8:45 am – 9:15 am ....................first annual excellence in education award Presented to:
KITTYHAWK BALLROOM
Tom Kimbrell, Arkansas Commissioner of Education
The 21C Annual Excellence in Education Award program recognizes educators who have made outstanding contributions in classrooms, schools, and communities in Arkansas as they continually seek to improve the quality of public education. The 2012 Award winner is Tom Kimbrell, a Commissioner of Education and a former member of the AR 21C Leadership Council and Superintendent of Schools of the 21st Century.

9:15 am – 10:00 am ....Healthy students in school-based Wellness centers: What’s Next?
KITTYHAWK BALLROOM
Jared Cleveland, Assistant Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education, Division of Fiscal and Administrative Services, Little Rock, AR

10:00 am – 10:30 am ................................................................. Exhibitor Break
SOLARIUM
10:30 am – 11:15 am ..............The Mutt-i-grees® Movement: What Is It? How Did It Begin? What Are Its Implications for Education?

**KITTYHAWK BALLROOM**

Matia Finn-Stevenson, Director, Yale School of the 21st Century, Research Scientist and Associate Director, Zigler Center, Yale University, New Haven, CT

Norma Meek, Senior Associate, Zigler Center, Yale University, New Haven, CT; Curriculum Event Coordinator, District Reading Coach, Director of Parent Involvement, and Director of Summer Math/Reading Program, Boyd County, KY

Deborah Swink, Arkansas School of the 21st Century (AR 21C) Leadership Council, Senior Associate, Zigler Center, Yale University, New Haven, and Special Education Supervisor, Clinton School District, Clinton, AR

Joanne Yohannan, Senior Vice President, North Shore Animal League America, Port Washington, NY

11:15 am – 11:40 am .......................Mutt-i-grees® Student Showcase: Peace, Love, Mutts!

**KITTYHAWK BALLROOM**

11:45 am – 12:45 pm ....................................................................................................... Lunch

**ATRIUM**

12:50 pm – 1:50 pm ...........................................................................Concurrent Workshops I

**KITTYHAWK NORTH**

Mutt-i-grees® for Junior High and High School

Learn how you can integrate the Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum into your content area to create a calm, confident, and caring learning environment while leading future change-makers. Valerie and Natalie will discuss the implementation of the Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum in Junior and Senior High classrooms. They will also discuss how M.U.T.T.S. Clubs were started and describe the service learning component of the Curriculum.

Valerie Lawson, Teacher and Case Manager, School-Based Mental Health Case Manager, Van Buren County, AR

Natalie Horton, Lead Mutt-i-grees® Teacher, School-Based Mental Health Counselor, Van Buren County, AR

**KITTYHAWK SOUTH**

Hats Off To You!

Have Fun! Talk! Enjoy your colleagues! Learn the latest hat making techniques for your childrens’ programs. Mutt-i-gree® hats, Kentucky derby hats, and fashion at its finest! The entire workshop is hands on and will conclude with a runway fashion show of participants’ creations (participation in fashion show is optional).

Stephanie Mullins, Teacher, Ponderosa Elementary, Catlettsburg, KY

**KENNEDY**

Evaluating the Effectiveness of Rural School-Based Mental Health Programs

Van Buren County Schools have been delivering school-based mental health services to students and families for several years. Presenters will provide an overview of the services delivered, funding mechanisms, and show student outcomes based on the services delivered. Participants will learn about the different types of service delivery and evaluative tools used and staff from Van Buren County Schools will share lessons learned.

Tony Boaz, Director, Arkansas Medicaid In The Schools, Little Rock, AR

Deborah Swink, Arkansas School of the 21st Century (AR 21C) Leadership Council, Senior Associate, Zigler Center, Yale University, New Haven, and Special Education Supervisor, Clinton School District, Clinton, AR
LINDBERG

Parent Involvement Changes Children’s Lives: A Prescription for Excellence

This presentation will discuss the importance of parent involvement, proven ways to get parents involved, what a successful parent involvement center in the local school looks like, how to work with parents of poverty level children, how to host events to get parents involved, and how to implement a “Prescription for Excellence” program that works.
Fritzi Ketcher Montgomery, Author and former Parent Involvement Coordinator, Life Changing Ketuvim Institute, Dennard, AR

ENTERPRISE

Building a Community of Respect
Using a Reggio-Inspired Approach to Teaching and Learning

In 2002, the North Little Rock School District began a journey to incorporate a Reggio-Inspired Approach to teaching and learning. Over the past 10 years, not only have there been extensive changes in materials, environment, and all aspects of curriculum, there has been a significant change in the overall culture of the program. What we see today is an educational community grounded in respect where teachers and children are noticeably more engaged, more focused, calmer, and happier.

Anne Lindsay, Professor of Early Childhood, University of Arkansas Little Rock, AR
Jody Veit-Edrington, Coordinator of Early Childhood Programs, North Little Rock School District, AR

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm .................................................................Concurrent Workshops II

KITTYHAWK NORTH

Budd-i-grees:
Using the Buddy System with the Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum

Building on an existing buddy system that provides teaching opportunities for upper grade students, the faculty at Fenton Charter Public Schools near Los Angeles, California, implemented the Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum. They began teaching fourth and fifth graders about self-awareness, understanding emotions, empathy, and other social and emotional skills. These older students became teaching buddies, helping teachers implement the Curriculum in the lower grades while developing their own capacity to be calm, confident, caring kids. An extension of the “buddy” approach is allowing students to “buddy up” with a real Fenton Mutt-i-gree®, Jeter. Come hear about this extraordinary dog and learn the benefits of this unique program while gaining insights into its application during a fun, informative, hands-on presentation of sample lessons, creative media, and extension activities to transform your school.

Barbara Aragon, Lead Mutt-i-grees® Teacher, Fenton Charter Public Schools, Lake View Terrace, CA
Crystle Carpenter, Teacher, Fenton Charter Public Schools, Lake View Terrace, CA
Toni Frear, School Counselor, Fenton Charter Public Schools, Lake View Terrace, CA
**Creating Your Own Hedgehog Team**

The Hedgehog Team was conceptualized through the combination of the works of Jim Collins (Good To Great) and Ruby Payne (Under-Resourced Learners). The purpose of the team is to identify at-risk students and develop a plan to meet their needs. The model, which has been implemented for two years, has resulted in success for students.

Roger Ried, High School Principal, Southside High School, Batesville, AR

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**How to Build Collaboration with Your Staff and Local Providers**

This presentation is designed to show you how to work closely with your local early childhood providers and build collaborative communities for children’s success. We will show you ideas and effective ways to build rapport and leadership.

Rana Hilton, Preschool Teacher and Media Specialist, Southside Preschool, Batesville, AR

Dawn Jeffrey, Early Childhood Director, Southside School, Batesville, AR

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**Middle School Mutt-i-grees® - a 21st Century Approach**

Jim Messina will discuss how his 5th and 6th grade students have participated in the North Shore Animal League America internship as a way to launch their participation in the Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum. Jim has integrated technology into the Curriculum by having students create a paperless “Mutt-i-grees® Manuscript” and having his 6th graders use “the cloud” to complete their assignments as Google Docs. Jim will explain how to create, share, and work collaboratively with students to build their knowledge of Social Emotional Learning. Bring your tablets and laptops!

Jim Messina, Teacher, Saint Martin de Porres Academy, New Haven, CT

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**Children Success with Learnercise - Moving While Learning**

Gain knowledge of methods to enhance student success while bringing an element of fun into their learning. Children will be smiling and laughing. They jump, balance, and move around on colorful mats with numbers and letters on them. The latest brain research was used in the development of Learnercise and you can learn how to develop the whole child using different learning styles.

Donna Altenburger, Regional Manager, GeoMotion Group, Orlando, FL

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3:00 pm – 3:30 pm .............................................................. Exhibitor Break

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm .............................................................. Concurrent Workshops III

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**Teaching to the WOW!**

Participants will learn about a phenomenal summer program that can be implemented throughout the school year that is perfect for 21CCLC programs. This program finished in the top ten in the nation for summer learning and incorporates STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), while providing a unique setting for an exciting environment for everyone to learn. This concept captures the love of learning.

Norma Meek, Senior Associate, Zigler Center, Yale University, New Haven, CT; Curriculum Event Coordinator, District Reading Coach, Director of Parent Involvement, and Director of Summer Math/Reading Program, Boyd County, KY
Strategic Parenting:
Teaching Parents How to Give Their Child An Academic Edge
While most parents want their children to be happy, productive, and successful, few parents know the exact parenting strategies that help give children an academic edge. This session will help preschool educators provide strategies to parents to help them cultivate a home environment that fosters high academic achievement.
Charlotte R. Green, Elementary Principal, Conway Public Schools Woodrow Cummins Elementary, Conway, AR; Executive Director and Founder: Life Long Learners, Inc., Conway, AR

School Health Programs:
Implementation and Funding Strategies
In this session, Tracy from Medicaid in the Schools will review new and improved health programs being provided in school districts across Arkansas and ways to fund them. Participants will learn about the various health programs, implementation, funding, and resources for districts.
Tracy Starks, Registered Nurse, Student Health Resource Officer, Medicaid in The Schools, Little Rock, AR

$1.5 Billion for Early Childhood Home Visitation Programs:
How Your School Can Participate
The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act established the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Visitation (MIECHV) program, providing $1.5 billion for early childhood home visitation programs over the next five years. As a result, home visiting will be a part of every state’s early childhood system. This workshop will enable practitioners to understand the new federal home visiting program and how the School of the 21st Century might collaborate in that effort.
Barbara Gilkey, Director, Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY), Little Rock, AR
Lia Lent, Director, National Executive Director, Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY), Little Rock, AR

Move It...Learn It –
Integrated Learning through Meaningful Movement
Get moving, stay fit, and have fun with the hottest meaningful movement and integrated learning moves: Hip hop, Latin dancing, kickboxing, dancing through the food groups, and children games; there’s something for all ages with the Move It...Learn It session.
Donna Altenburger, Regional Manager, GeoMotion Group, Orlando, FL

Governor’s Mansion Reception
Join us to honor the Paragould School of the 21st Century as they celebrate 20 years of excellence in education and present Mutt-i-grees® Student Advocate Awards. Pre-registered guests only.
6:30 am – 7:00 am ................................................................. Yoga
HOBBY

7:30 am – 8:30 am ............................................................. Breakfast and Registration
ATRIUM

8:30 am – 9:45 am ............................................................... Sesame Workshop –
KITTYHAWK BALLROOM

Everyday Moments: Fostering the Whole Child
Jeanette Betancourt, Senior Vice President, Outreach and Educational Practices Sesame
Workshop, New York, NY

9:45 am – 10:30 am ..........Using Resources and Solutions to Build Respectful Relationships
KITTYHAWK BALLROOM

John J. Murphy, Professor of Psychology and Counseling, University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR

10:30 am – 11:00 am ............................................................. Exhibitor Break
SOLARIUM

11:00 am – 11:30 am ......................................................... The Value of School as Community
KITTYHAWK BALLROOM

Jim Hinson, Superintendent, Independence Public Schools, Independence, MO

11:30 am – 11:45 am ......................................................... Mutt-i-grees® Student Showcase:
KITTYHAWK BALLROOM

Puppies and Poodle Skirts: A Tribute to the King!
Students from Clinton and South Side Bee Branch Mutt-i-grees® Programs

11:45 pm – 12:45 pm ............................................................. Lunch
ATRIUM
12:45 pm – 1:50 pm ........................................................................................................Mini-Plenary Sessions

KITTENHAWK NORTH

Mutt-i-grees® National Panel: It Works for Everyone!
The Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum is a Pre-K through Grade 12 social and emotional learning program designed to be easily implemented in various settings. Since its initial pilot in 2010, it has inspired hundreds of educators and students. Learn from a panel of educators from around the country about the various ways they have adapted the Curriculum and what it has meant to students, families, and schools.

Moderator: Deborah Swink, Arkansas School of the 21st Century (AR 21C) Leadership Council, Senior Associate, Zigler Center, Yale University, New Haven, and Special Education Supervisor, Clinton School District, Clinton, AR
Crystle Carpenter, Teacher, Fenton Charter Public Schools, Lake View Terrace, CA
Natalie Horton, Lead Mutt-i-grees® Teacher, School-Based Mental Health Counselor, Van Buren County, AR
Norma Meek, Senior Associate, Zigler Center, Yale University, New Haven, CT; Curriculum Event Coordinator, District Reading Coach, Director of Parent Involvement, and Director of Summer Math/Reading Program, Boyd County, KY
Jim Messina, Teacher, Saint Martin de Porres Academy, New Haven, CT

KITTENHAWK SOUTH

Arkansas Early Childhood Panel: Why We Care About Early Care
The panel will discuss current trends in early care in Arkansas and the impact on the provision of quality child care in the state. The diverse panel of administrators will share their experiences in establishing programs at the local and state levels. Success stories of children receiving early intervention services will be highlighted. The tracking and collection of longitudinal data will be reviewed, reflecting the outcomes of children in preschool programs and the relevance in K-12 programs. A superintendent will discuss strategies of using community wide resources within a school system and participants will learn how to make it happen in their district. The practical suggestions and tips from ‘lessons learned’ will prepare the audience to embrace quality services for ALL children.

Sarah Argue, Early Childhood Education Project Director, Arkansas Research Center, Conway, AR
Judy Clay, Early Childhood Coordinator, Arch Ford Co-op, Plumerville, AR
Jared Cleveland, Assistant Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education, Division of Fiscal and Administrative Services, Little Rock, AR
Tonya Russell, Director Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, Little Rock, AR

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm .................................................................Concurrent Workshops IV

KITTENHAWK NORTH

Virtual Connections: How the Animal League Supports Implementation of the Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum
The North Shore Animal League America developed several strategies and tools to help schools implement the Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum and “bring” dogs to classrooms around the country. Several of these – the Puppy Cam, the Mutt-i-grees® education website, virtual internships, and field visits will be discussed showing their use in service learning and other opportunities.

Kay Hammerson, Mutt-i-grees® Program Manager, North Shore Animal League America, Port Washington, NY
Byron Logan, Director, Corporate and National Shelter Outreach, North Shore Animal League America, Port Washington, NY
Joanne Yohannan, Senior Vice President, North Shore Animal League America, Port Washington, NY
**Kittyhawk South**

**Supporting Effective Transitions from Early Childhood to Kindergarten for Improved Educational Outcomes**

Supporting Transitions from Early-education to Public School (STEPS) is United Way of New York City’s 5-year demonstration pilot program that integrates early care and elementary school developmental strategies. The goal is to significantly improve educational outcomes of the NYC public school system through systems reform.

Raysa S. Rodriguez, Associate Vice President, Education, United Way of NYC, New York, NY

Teija Sudol, Program Manager, Early Education, United Way of NYC, New York, NY

**Lindberg**

**Summer Book Tour – An Intervention That Works**

Southside Elementary School’s Summer Book Tour has successfully raised student achievement, enhanced school culture, and created meaningful parent involvement. It targets children in poverty and answers the question, “What can we do to keep these students from regressing during the summer?” This session will provide all the information you need to implement a successful book tour.

Glenda Mueller, Elementary Principal, Southside Elementary School, Batesville, AR

**Enterprise**

**20 Tips to Create a Natural and Creative Classroom**

Using hands-on materials Karla and Stephanie will show teachers how to use natural and recyclable materials in the classroom. We will give tips to increase parent involvement and promote student creativity, discuss the importance of getting the community involved in learning activities, and explain the importance of exploring the school’s neighborhoods.

Karla Brasher, Preschool Teacher, The School of the 21st Century, Paragould, AR

Stephanie Hancock, Preschool Teacher, The School of the 21st Century, Paragould, AR

**Adams**

**MOVE to Read**

Miriam Everette is a community educator and trainer working with beginning literacy, parent education, physical fitness, and English as a second language. Observing students struggling to acquire a kinesthetic skill for physical fitness or a literacy skill for language has motivated her to write a curriculum guide/CD/DVD from which this workshop is entitled. This multi-sensory method was designed to help understand the value of teaching beginning literacy skills by using physical movement techniques, which in turn will help students to master lifelong learning skills. Visualization, pattern recognition, imitating imagery, spatial navigation, recalling a sequence, coordinating motor skills, and categorizing similarities all facilitate something many of us take for granted…how to learn to learn!

Miriam Everette, Educator, MOVE to Read, Diamond Bar, CA

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm ............................................................................................ Exhibitor Break

**Solarium**

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm ........................................................................... Concurrent Workshops V

**Kittyhawk North**

**Successful Schools in the Age of Testing**

Today school administrators wrestle with universal questions: How do we address student needs while meeting academic standards? How can we sustain the program and find financing, year after year? How do we ensure continuity in the face of staff and leadership changes? In this session, Superintendent Jim Hinson and Jennifer Walker will highlight and challenge participants to consider educational components necessary for success.

Jim Hinson, Superintendent, Independence Public Schools, Independence, MO

Jennifer Walker, Youth & Resource Development, Independence Public Schools, Independence, MO
LINDBERG

The Stepping Stones Museum and Mutt-i-grees®

Stepping Stones Museum for Children in Norwalk, Connecticut, is a community anchor institution that provides shared experiences through interactive programs and exhibits. The Stepping Stones adaptation of the Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum uses the unique characteristics of Mutt-i-grees®, or shelter dogs, while teaching social and emotional skills simultaneously to children and their parents. Learn about their unique approach to outreach to parents with young children.

Hyla Crane, Director of Education, Stepping Stones Museum for Children, Norwalk, CT

ENTERPRISE

Surviving School Violence

School violence continues to be of concern to early childhood professionals, parents, teachers, administrators, and the public at large. Teaching early learners to resolve small conflicts, listen to each other, communicate in an effective manner, and work cooperatively are definitely useful social skills they need. Violence prevention is an ongoing process that requires reinforcement of positive behaviors.

Natalie Johnson-Leslie, Associate Professor, Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, AR
H. Steve Leslie, Adjunct Instructor/Academic Technology Specialist, Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, AR

KENNEDY

School-Based Health Centers in Arkansas

This interactive presentation will encourage the participant to use the coordinated school health model to bring local health services to campus. By working as a team with multiple stakeholders, willing communities can close the access to care gap by offering quality health and mental health services on school campus. This presentation will demonstrate how Arkansas is doing just that in 12 communities.

Tamara Baker, School-Based Mental Health Advisor, Arkansas Department of Health, Murfreesboro, AR
Betsy Kindall, School-Based Mental Health Advisor, Arkansas Department of Education, Murfreesboro, AR
Mutt-i-grees® After-School Programs

Want to learn how you can incorporate the Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum into after-school programs? Valerie, Natalie, and Shelly will show how easily Mutt-i-grees® Clubs have been implemented and describe what service learning projects their students completed.

Shelly Hink, Teacher and Case Manager, School-Based Mental Health, Van Buren County, AR
Natalie Horton, Lead Mutt-i-grees® Teacher, School-Based Mental Health Counselor, Van Buren County, AR
Valerie Lawson, Teacher and Case Manager, School-Based Mental Health, Van Buren County, AR

4:30 pm – 6:30 pm .................................................................Special Events: AR 21C Celebration
Atrium
Beat the heat and the traffic! Join AR 21C in the Atrium for a fabulous reception with friends, food, photos, and fun! Yes, we will have a photo booth! You can get a snapshot with your favorite friend - human or furry! Visit with our exhibitors, network with colleagues, and relax. Door prizes too!

Enjoy an excursion to River Market in downtown Little Rock. The River Market district offers an eclectic mix of shopping, cuisine, live music, and art along the banks of the beautiful Arkansas River. Take a stroll down President Clinton Avenue, designated as one of “10 Great Streets for 2009.” Places of interest include the Clinton Presidential Center and Park, Junction Bridge, Museum of Discovery, Riverfront Park, and Witts Stephens Jr Central Arkansas Nature Center. Many of Little Rock’s finest restaurants are located in the district, including Juanita’s Cantina Ballroom, The Capital Grill, Boscos, Sonny Williams Steakhouse, Flying Fish of Little Rock, and many others!
**Friday, July 27, 2012**

**HOBBY**

7:30 am – 8:30 am ................................................................. Breakfast and Registration

**ATRIUM**

8:30 am – 9:30 am ................................................................. Discover Your Inner Strength

**KITTYHAWK BALLROOM**

Howie Knoff, Director, State Improvement Grant; State Personnel Development Grant, Arkansas Department of Education, Special Education Division, Little Rock, AR

9:30 am – 10:15 am ............................................................... Making a Difference in Arkansas

**KITTYHAWK BALLROOM**

Cory Anderson, Vice President, Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, Little Rock, AR

10:15 am – 10:30 am ........................................................................................................ Break

10:30 am – 11:15 am ............................................................... Why Normal Isn’t Healthy

**KITTYHAWK BALLROOM**

Bowen F. White, Motivational Speaker and Consultant, Overland Park, KS

11:15 am – 11:30 pm ............................................................... Presentation of the 2012 AR 21C Pioneer Award to Paragould School District

**KITTYHAWK BALLROOM**

Matia Finn-Stevenson, Director, Yale School of the 21st Century, Research Scientist and Associate Director, Zigler Center, Yale University, New Haven, CT

11:30 am – 12:15 pm ............................................................... Doggy Bag Event: What’s Ahead

**KITTYHAWK BALLROOM**

Stick around for a raffle drawing and learn about upcoming initiatives, learn helpful hints for developing your school’s PSA, and pick up your doggie bag with surprises and goodies for the trip back home.

Devera Lynn, Vice President of Communications, North Shore Animal League America, Port Washington, NY

Matia Finn-Stevenson, Director, Yale School of the 21st Century, Research Scientist and Associate Director, Zigler Center, Yale University, New Haven, CT
**Biographies**

**Donna Altenburger**

As the GeoMotion Group’s Southeast Regional Manager, Donna educates and trains clients in the Southeastern region of the U.S. The focus of the trainings is movement based learning in conjunction with physical activity and physical fitness. Donna recently presented at the National Beyond School Hours convention in Atlanta, Georgia, and the Georgia Middle School Association convention in Savannah, Georgia.

Donna holds a bachelor of science in broadcast media from Appalachian State University. While at Appalachian State University, she was a four-year member of the varsity tennis team.

**Cory S. Anderson**

Cory S. Anderson is WRF’s vice president responsible for managing the Foundation’s program team and leading the Foundation’s grant-making efforts in the areas of community and economic development. Cory came to the Rockefeller Foundation in 2008 after seven years with the Annie E. Casey Foundation in Baltimore, Maryland, where he worked to support state-level child advocacy organizations.

A variety of job experiences prepared Cory for his work with the Foundation. As a reporter with the Arkansas Gazette, he researched and reported on issues related to school, children, and higher education. His roles as a juvenile probation officer, as a program coordinator for a direct service program that provided an array of services to families and children, and as a state program specialist with the Corporation for National Service with responsibility for 25 AmeriCorps VISTA projects add valuable knowledge and skills. Cory also served as an intervention specialist and later as a program specialist with New Futures for Youth, where he helped develop a model gang intervention program and then worked on youth employability issues.

In addition to working for the Casey Foundation during his time away from Arkansas, Cory was also manager of partner development at the Forum for Youth Investment in Washington, D.C., engaging national organizations in partnerships designed to strengthen youth work. Cory currently serves on the board of directors for Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees, the advisory board for College Ready Now, and formerly served on the Health Policy Board of the Arkansas Center for Health Improvement.

Cory, who is married to Dr. Phillis Nichols-Anderson, vice president of a national charter school management organization, is currently pursuing a master’s degree in theology from Anderson University. The Andersons have two sons still at home, a third son who works and lives in New York City, a daughter who recently graduated from law school, and one granddaughter.

**Barbara Aragon**

Barbara Aragon is currently teaching fourth and fifth grade at Fenton Avenue Charter School in Lake View Terrace, California. She has been teaching in the elementary school setting for 18 years and holds a bachelor of science in health education, a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential and National Board Certification in the area of Literacy: Reading-Language Arts. She has been a grade level chair, served as a mentor teacher, and
conducted staff development sessions in the areas of language arts, English language development, and technology integration.

Barbara is currently the Lead Mutt-i-grees® teacher for Fenton Charter Public Schools and oversees the full implementation of the Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum.

Sarah Argue

Sarah has a diverse background in education. After graduating from Wellesley College and receiving her teaching credentials, she taught fourth and fifth graders in the Boston Public Schools. There she experienced first hand with her students the importance of a strong early childhood foundation in learning. She returned to Arkansas to attend the Clinton School of Public Service, where she continued focusing on early childhood education (ECE) by working with Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families on their achievement gap report and designing an evaluation model for the South Africa Environment and Education Project Early Childhood Development program. Upon graduating from the Clinton School, Sarah worked with The Colon Club, a small non-profit dedicated to education and awareness of colorectal cancer for people younger than 40, and then joined the team at the EAST initiative, an education non-profit pairing service and technology to engage students. At ARC, Sarah continues to live out her commitment to high quality education for all.

Sarah grew up in Little Rock, attending Little Rock Public Schools throughout her primary and secondary education. Her family is also in Little Rock and she recently enthusiastically welcomed a niece into the family. Her children are the four-footed, furry variety--a dog named Sienna and two cats, Harry and Milly. In her down time, she likes to garden and read murder mysteries.

Tamara Baker

Tamara Baker, RN, BSN, MPH is currently employed by the Arkansas Department of Health and serves as school-based health center advisor. She graduated from the Henderson State University nursing program in 1992. She has been employed by the Arkansas Department of Health for more than 19 years. Tamara has held positions in home health, local public health clinic, regional educational cooperative, and as a coordinated school health program director. After completing the Arkansas Leadership Academy in 2002, she served as community health nurse specialist. She received a master’s in public health from the Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health, UAMS [Do we know name of school?] in 2006. Tamara completed the South Central Public Health Leadership Institute from Tulane University in 2009.

Tony Boaz

Tony Boaz, LCSW has 15 years experience working in the field of mental health. He currently serves as the Director of Medicaid in The Schools (MITS) in Arkansas. This group is responsible for program oversight of all Medicaid reimbursable services provided within the public education system in the state of Arkansas, which includes School-Based Mental Health. Tony’s education background includes bachelor’s degrees in English and Psychology and a Master’s degree in Social Work.

Jeannette Betancourt

Dr. Jeanette Betancourt is the senior vice president for Outreach and Educational Practices at Sesame Workshop. She directs the development of Sesame Workshop domestic
outreach initiatives designed to reach children and families in most need along with the educators and service providers who make a difference in their lives. She designs these research-based initiatives to be highly effective in facilitating children’s school readiness, health, and social and emotional well-being. She also maintains a key network of advisors and national organizations that enable the development, integration, and delivery of these projects. Prior to joining Sesame Workshop, Dr. Betancourt was the director for Project Visiones, a bilingual training program for Latino child care professionals at the Institute for Urban and Minority Education, Teachers College, Columbia University. She is a licensed bilingual speech and language pathologist and educational therapist. Dr. Betancourt has served on several national boards aimed at impacting at-risk children and families. She is also on the Board of Trustees Chairperson for Our World Neighborhood Charter School. Dr. Betancourt has a bachelor of arts and a master of arts in speech and Language Pathology; an a master of science in bilingual reading/special education, and an Ed.D. in special education.

Karla Brasher
Karla Brasher is a preschool teacher at the School of the 21st Century in Paragould. She has been teaching for seven years. Karla has a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education and a master’s degree in the theory and practice of education. She enjoys teaching young children and seeing how much they have learned before Kindergarten.

Crystle Carpenter
Crystle Carpenter is currently teaching first grade at Fenton Primary Center in Lakeview Terrace, California. She has been teaching full-time for six years. Prior to her current teaching position, Crystle worked as a substitute teacher for LAUSD. In addition, Crystle worked as a clinician for Lindamood Bell Learning Center and as a tutor/clinician at The Bay Area Alliance for Youth and Family Services.

Crystle has a bachelor of arts in sociology with an emphasis in social psychology. She also holds a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential and has a masters in primary education. She is currently enrolled in a graduate program and will receive her second asters in reading, a Reading Consulting Certificate, and a Reading Specialist Credential. Crystle enjoys spending her free time as a volunteer at the Golden Eagle Reading Clinic at Cal-State University Los Angeles.

Judy Clay
Judy Clay is the Early Childhood Special Education Director for Arch Ford Education Service Cooperative in Plumerville, Arkansas. Judy is responsible for the overall operations of the Early Childhood Program which provides special education services to children with disabilities age three to five on behalf of 27 public school districts in seven counties. The areas served include both urban and rural communities.

Judy helped organize and incorporate the Arkansas Special Education Early Childhood Professionals in which she served as President. She currently serves on the Board of the Arkansas Association of Special Education Administrators and has actively been involved and served on the Board of the Arkansas Council of Exceptional Children, the Arkansas Division of Early Childhood, Arkansas Mental Health Education Association, Innovative Solutions for Educational Partnerships and the Board of Directors for Life Long Learners. In 1997, Judy was awarded the American Council on Rural Special Education (ACRES) Exemplary Program Award in recognition of professional excellence and outstanding contributions to rural special education. She received the CEC Donna Reed Award for Administrators. She also serves as a trainer for the Mutt-i-grees® Social Emotional Curriculum.
As Early Childhood Coordinator, she has worked closely with local agencies and universities to promote the development of best practices for teachers and the students they serve. She emphasizes the importance of providing quality preschool services in an effort to prepare children for future school success.

**Jared Cleveland**

Mr. Cleveland is currently superintendent of Lavaca Public School District. He will complete his sixth year at Lavaca this spring. Prior to his tenure at Lavaca, he had been superintendent at Magazine School District for two years.

He has effectively led both the Magazine and the Lavaca School Districts in addressing the eight components of the Coordinated School Health Initiative. Under his tenure at Lavaca, academic scores have improved, early childhood programming expanded, and the school attained Quality Approval Status. Also during this time, before- and after-school programming (21CCLC program) was begun--the Lavaca program has been recognized by the Arkansas Department of Education as a Promising Best Practice. He is currently in the process of developing a Wellness Center in the middle school to provide whole-child health care for students. The school district staff and community also use the clinic portion of the Wellness Center, which opened to the public in January 2011, ensuring health care for the students and patrons of the community.

In the spring of 2009, the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission recognized Mr. Cleveland as an Arkansas Outstanding Early Childhood Professional. In the fall of 2009, he was appointed to the Arkansas ACT Council by the Commissioner of the Arkansas Department of Education. During the 2007-2008 school year, he was appointed to serve on the Academic Facilities/Maintenance PM Committee. In 2005, he was appointed as a Commissioner to the Education Commission of the States by Governor Huckabee.

A graduate of Arkansas Tech University with a B.A. in History/Political Science ’93, Mr. Cleveland also holds both a M.A. ’03 and an Educational Specialist Ed.S. ’06 from Harding University. Currently, Mr. Cleveland is completing the requirements for Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership (P-20) (Ed.D.) at Harding University. He expects to complete the dissertation process this year.

He and his wife Cristi have three boys – Crason, Callen, and Camden. Mr. Cleveland believes the mission for schools should be building minds that think, hearts that care, and hands that serve. He strives to facilitate that process daily.

**Hyla Crane**

Hyla Crane is the director of education at Stepping Stones Museum for Children. Prior to working at the museum, Ms. Crane ran education departments at the following theatres: Westport Country Playhouse, Westport, CT (Artistic Director- Joanne Woodward); Yale Repertory Theatre, New Haven, CT; and Long Wharf Theatre, New Haven, CT.

Ms. Crane has designed and implemented various programs and events for children and their families. Ms. Crane works with a heightened awareness of the importance of creating diverse education projects to match different learning styles. She develops hands-on programs that make learning possible and uses innovative practices as powerful tools to promote critical thinking skills. Previously a member of both the Connecticut and New York State Bar Associations, Ms. Crane serves on the Norwalk Early Childhood Council, The Norwalk Collaborative for Youth Success, and the Norwalk Arts Council.
Miriam Everette

Miriam has been teaching, consulting, and training for more than 25 years in several community settings with all ethnicities and ability levels. The majority of her work for the past 15 years has been working in Southern California with Hispanic families/students developing English skills, as well as parenting skills. She has worked extensively with senior citizens and has an M.A. in Gerontology and Environmental Design. Miriam has taught adult educators credentialing classes in the area of health and also worked as an independent contractor for Lakeshore Learning presenting MOVE to Read as staff development in Mississippi and Florida, as well as California.

Toni Frear

Toni Frear has spent more than 25 years in the field of education. She is the school counselor for Fenton Charter Public Schools and bases her comprehensive school-counseling program on current social-emotional research. Toni is a member of one of the initial Mutt-i-grees® teams in California and has a trained Therapy Dog, Jeter, who helps with the Tail Waggin’ Tutors Program at her schools.

Prior to earning a master’s of science degree in school counseling, Toni was a classroom teacher for grades 1 through 8 throughout Southern California. She has been a Mentor Teacher, sat as a leader on school governing bodies, and has lead in-services on various school issues. She remains committed to all fields related to the well being of our children.

Matia Finn-Stevenson

Matia Finn-Stevenson is a research scientist at Yale University, Child Study Center, where she is also associate director of The Edward Zigler Center in Child Development and Social Policy and the director of the School of the 21st Century. She developed the social and emotional learning model that is the basis for the Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum, conceptualized by the Pet Savers Foundation, and the integration of Mutt-i-grees® to teach social-emotional skills. Dr. Finn-Stevenson is also directing Yale’s efforts in the study of pets in the lives of children. Her previous work focused on research in child development and school-work-family life issues, including studies on the impact of demographic and other changes on schools and the involvement of schools in childcare, family support, and other interventions.

Dr. Finn-Stevenson is the author and co-author of numerous publications, the most recent of which are related to school reform, evaluation of school-based support services, and program development social policy. Among her publications are books entitled Children in the Changing World; The School of the 21st Century: Linking Child Care and Education; Child Development and Social Policy; and The First Three Years and Beyond: Brain Development and Social Policy. She has been an advisor on domestic policy issues to the staff of the White House Office of Policy Development and a consultant to the Connecticut legislature’s Committee on Work and Family, the Committee on Education and Labor, the U. S. House of Representatives, and the U. S. Senate Subcommittee on Children, Youth, Families, Alcohol, and Drug Abuse. She regularly advises school districts and state departments of education on programs and services for children and serves as a consultant to state and federal policymakers and foundations. Dr. Finn-Stevenson earned her doctorate from Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.
Barbara Gilkey

Barbara Gilkey is the Director of Arkansas State HIPPY and has served in this capacity for the past 12 years. Barbara holds a master of arts in early childhood education, a bachelor of arts in social work, and is a certified trainer for the state of Arkansas. Barbara previously served as coordinator for the North Little Rock School District HIPPY program. Her background includes experience in social work, foster parent recruiting, and training for Arkansas HIPPY, HIPPY USA and Pre-K ELLA. Barbara co-authored, “The Impact of the Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) on Social Performance in 3rd and 6th Grades.” (Early Education & Development, Volume 13, Number 3, July 2002).

Charlotte R. Green

Charlotte Rainey Green, the 13th of 15 children, is from Cleveland, Arkansas. She received her BSE in elementary and special education. She continued her learning with a MSE in gifted curriculum instruction and completed her education with an EDD in education leadership. She has been in education for 15 years, during which she served as a first grade teacher, fifth grade teacher, gifted education teacher, homebound instructor, and assistant principal. She is currently an elementary principal at Woodrow Cummins Elementary of the Conway Public School District.

Dr. Green assisted with the development of Behavior-onics, Inc., and is the founder of the non-profit organization Life Long Learners, Inc. She also consults with schools across the state in the development of stronger parental involvement programs. Charlotte is an author of two books--Because I Said So: A Discussion on Parenting Styles and Achievement Gaps and Parent Bailout: The Bailout that is Really Crippling America.

Kay Hammerson

Kay is the Mutt-i-grees® Program Manager and Librarian for the Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum. She currently works as a liaison between North Shore Animal League America and the School of the 21st Century to develop, promote, and disseminate the Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum.

Stephanie Hancock

Stephanie Hancock is a preschool teacher at the School of the 21st Century in Paragould. She has been teaching for six years. She has a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education and a master’s degree in theory and practice of education. Stephanie enjoys doing the Reggio Inspired Approach in the classroom and learning more about it, as well.

Rana Hilton

Rana Hilton holds a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education. She is currently working on her master’s in educational leadership. She is a preschool teacher in a four-year-old room. She is a Ruby Payne Trainer for teachers who work with children in poverty. Rana is a member of the Arkansas Early Childhood Association and the Southern Early Childhood Association.

Shelly Hink

Shelly Hink is a case manager at School-Based Mental Health in Clinton and South Side Bee Branch Schools in Arkansas. She also serves as the Coordinated School Health, Coordinator at Clinton School. She has taught the Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum in grades
7-12 as well as sponsors the MUTTS Club chapter at South Side Bee Branch School. She also teaches ATOD Prevention to Clinton and South Side Bee Branch Schools.

**Jim Hinson**

Dr. Jim Hinson, Superintendent of the Independence School District (ISD), was chosen to lead ISD in 2002 after being hired in 2001 as deputy superintendent. When he took the job, ISD was entering the most challenging period in its history, impacted by academic performance issues, state budget cuts for education, and, in 2002, the launch of ISD’s Comprehensive School Improvement Plan. Under Hinson’s direction, this plan renewed the district’s vision, mission, and values. It would “improve quality of life through education,” work to ensure that “every student gains skills and self-confidence to be successful,” and provide more than 11,000 K-12 students with “safe, orderly, and caring environments.” Hinson worked his way through Missouri Southern University to earn a bachelor’s degree; then earned a master’s and an educational specialist degree from Southwest Missouri State University. He was a teacher and principal in Carthage schools, served as superintendent in two small Missouri districts, and earned his Ed.D. from Saint Louis University. Hinson favors the neighborhood school concept model endorsed by the national Coalition for Community Schools and led efforts to expand the Schools of the 21st Century program introduced at ISD in 1988. In 2008, he was named “Independence Citizen of the Year.”

**Natalie Horton**

Natalie received her bachelor of science in 2001 from Arkansas Tech University in the area of elementary education with an additional certification in secondary English education and her M.Ed. from Texas A&M University in 2004 in the area of educational psychology with an emphasis in school counseling. Natalie has taught at the elementary and the secondary level and has been working with Van Buren County SBMH since 2004 as a parent educator and case manager. Natalie has been facilitating the Mutt-i-grees® curricula for social emotional learning in the South Side elementary and high schools.

**Dawn Jeffrey**

Dawn Jeffrey holds a bachelor’s degree in speech therapy and a master’s degree in early childhood special education. She has been working with children and families for the past 27 years. She is the treasurer for the Arkansas Early Childhood Association and a member of Arkansas Advocates Invest Early Coalition. She is also a member of Arkansas Association of Educational Administrators and Special Educational Administrators. Dawn is the Early Childhood Director at Southside School District. In the last 8 years while at Southside School their program has grown from 6 children to 150! Southside Preschool program has children enrolled from 18 months to 5 years of age.

**Natalie Johnson-Leslie**

Dr. Natalie A. Johnson-Leslie is an associate professor of teacher education at Arkansas State University (ASU). She received her doctoral degrees from Iowa State University in the areas of educational leadership and policy studies, as well as curriculum and instructional technology. She joined the faculty at ASU in the fall of 2004. She teaches courses inclusive of educational technology; assessing and evaluating student behavior; and field based courses to early childhood, mid-level, and secondary pre-service teachers. In addition, she supervises student interns that require her to be actively engaged in the classroom of many schools in Arkansas Delta. Her main research interests lie in the field
of school violence, educational leadership, and technology integration in the curriculum, as well as assessing and evaluating student behavior. Her work has been published nationally and internationally. She also serves as a reviewer for the Journal of Technology in Teacher Education.

Fritzi Ketcher Montgomery

Ms. Fritzi helped establish parent involvement centers in the Conway School District, in Conway, AR, establishing the parent involvement center for the Florence Mattison International (FMI) School in Conway, AR, and worked as the parent involvement coordinator for FMI for six years. She has presented at national conferences in Hot Springs, AR, Little Rock, AR, and Charlotte, NC. She is the author of four books, Parent Involvement, Yada, Yada, Yada or Action, Earthly Stories With Heavenly Meaning Vol 1, Earthly Stories With Heavenly Meaning Vol. 2, and Daisy. Currently Ms. Fritzi is president of Life Changing Ketuvim Institute, which is devoted to inspiring people of all ages to read and live a life that changes others. She is a fun speaker who keeps the audience’s attention.

Betsy Kindall

Betsy Kindall has served her years in education addressing the needs of at-risk youth. As a teacher, school counselor, behavior specialist, school-based mental health coordinator, and ALE program advisor, Dr. Kindall has developed programs to create opportunities for children. Dr. Kindall currently serves as the School-Based Mental Health Service Advisor for the Arkansas Department of Education. Her main focus is assisting districts in their development and maintenance of school-based mental health programs. Along with the state team, Betsy works closely with schools implementing the ever expanding school-based health center initiative in Arkansas. Dr. Kindall also collaborates with a number of online universities to enhance their graduate education programs. Betsy holds a bachelor’s degree in secondary education, M.Ed in counseling and leadership, and an Ed.D. in educational leadership.

Howie Knoff

Dr. Howie Knoff, Ph.D. is a national presenter, author, and consultant; the director of Project ACHIEVE, a comprehensive, evidence-based national school improvement program; and the director of the Arkansas Department of Education’s State Improvement Development Grant (SIG/SPDG) that is funding the statewide implementation of Project ACHIEVE. Previously, he was a full professor at the University of South Florida for 20 years and the director of its School Psychology Program for 12 years.

Dr. Knoff has authored or co-authored 17 books, published more than 75 articles and book chapters, delivered more than 500 papers and workshops nationally, and helped to implement Project ACHIEVE components in more than 1,500 schools or districts nationwide. He is the author of the Stop and Think Social Skills Programs for school and home/parents, as well as a new book from Corwin Press (2012), Classroom Discipline, Behavior Management, and Student Self-Management: Implementing School-wide Positive Behavioral Support Systems that Work. Dr. Knoff is a licensed psychologist and he was the 21st president of the National Association of School Psychologists. Frequently interviewed in all areas of the media, he has been on the NBC Nightly News and was highlighted on an ABC News’ 20/20 program on “Being Teased, Taunted, and Bullied.”
Valerie Lawson is a case manager at School-Based Mental Health in Clinton, Arkansas. She received a bachelor and master degree in health and behavioral sciences from the University of Central Arkansas. She has taught the Mutt-i-grees® curriculum in grades Pre-K - 12. She teaches in the after-school program at Clinton Junior High, as well as sponsors the MUTTS Club chapters at Clinton and Shirley Public Schools.

Lia Lent has served as national director of HIPPY USA for two years. She is a licensed certified social worker and has been the director of several family service agencies, including a domestic violence shelter, parenting classes, and a Montessori preschool center. Before coming to HIPPY, she was a consultant for Arkansas Nonprofit Resources providing technical assistance for strategic planning and resource development to community-based organizations.

H. Steve Leslie is an adjunct instructor in the communication studies department and an academic technology specialist at Arkansas State University (ASU). His professional background is in education, banking and financial systems, sales and service management, as an integrator, trainer and financial analyst. He has a teaching diploma in math and science, an M.B.A. in finance and banking, a M.A. in communication studies and an M.S. in information systems. Prior to joining the staff at ASU, Steve worked as Regional Sales Director and trainer for a commercial bank in Jamaica. Over the past 4 years at ASU he has been teaching speech communication to freshmen and sophomores. His research interests include international business communication, intercultural communication, organizational communication, and educational software and technology.

Anne C. Lindsay is associate professor of early childhood education at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She has worked closely with the Pre-K programs in the North Little Rock School District for 12 years as well as with other Pre-K Programs in the state.

Byron builds relationships with existing corporate partners and accomplishes outreach to potential partners. Byron works closely with the Animal League’s roster of more than 2,000 animal shelter and rescue group partners across the United State and in 19 other countries. Byron helps plan and implement the Animal League’s major adoption and sponsor tours. Prior to joining the Animal League, Byron managed sponsor relations and major accounts for Zagat Survey.

Devera Lynn is Senior Vice President of Communications and Special Fundraising for North Shore Animal League America, the world’s largest no-kill animal rescue and adoption organization. In this critical role, she leads the communications team in the development and execution of awareness campaigns, messaging its life-saving initiatives. She also helps secure funding through national partnerships and special events in support the organization’s mission to rescue, nurture and adopt homeless pets.
Norma Meek

Norma Meek, senior associate, at the Zigler Center provides training and technical assistance to schools implementing 21C and the Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum. She is also curriculum event coordinator, district reading coach, director of parent involvement, and director of the summer math/reading program for the Boyd County (KY) School System. She is currently serving as the Interim CEO for the Ashland Area YMCA.

She served for eight years as co-chair for a Leadership Forum for Directors of Child Care programs throughout the state at Asbury College each summer. Norma is a past president of the Kentucky Coalition for Family Resource Youth Services Centers and a past president of the Kentucky School-Age Care Coalition. She has also served on the Kentucky Prevention Child Abuse Board and has been a member of the Governor’s Child Care Advisory Council.

Norma chaired a Kentucky Child 2000 Initiative and also chaired a Kentucky Work Group on the Governor’s Early Childhood Initiative. Norma’s Family Resource Center received the first Harry J. Cowherd Award for Excellence and in 1997 received the Kentucky Coalition’s Ruth Lerman Fitzpatrick Award. In 2001, she received the YWCA Twin Award for Education. Throughout her career she was named Teacher of the Year twice. In 2010 Norma received Kentucky’s Champion Hall of Fame award for the Out-of-School Alliance. Her most recent honor has been a nominee for the Morehead University Woman Minority Advocate of the Year.

Currently Norma is active in her community serving on numerous boards. She has served as a director of United Way, past president of Pathways Mental Health Board for 10 counties, president of the Paramount Arts Center Board of Directors, and commissioner and member of CASA (Court Appointed Student Advocate). She recently became a member of the National Early Literacy Advisory Council. She is on the KY State Business Committee for the Prichard Committee, dedicated to improving education in the state of Kentucky. She has made numerous national presentations on behalf of children and families.

Jim Messina

Jim Messina has taught at Saint Martin de Porres Academy (SPMA) since it opened in 2005. SMPA is a tuition-free Catholic middle school where all 56 students are awarded a full scholarship. Students must come from low-income families to qualify for admission. Jim is presently the director of spiritual development, where he teaches fifth to eighth grade religion and oversees the peer ministry leadership program. In 2010, Saint Martin de Porres Academy was chosen as a pilot site for the Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum as it was being developed for students in grades four to six. The Curriculum was an excellent match for Jim’s school with its emphasis on humane and compassionate education with a focus on social-emotional learning. Saint Martin de Porres is the patron saint of social justice and was also known for his loving care of animals in need. Jim’s school was chosen to pilot the North Shore Animal League Internship experience with the fifth grade. A third group of students completed their week-long experience at the League on July 9th-13th.

Glenda Mueller

Glenda Mueller, MSE, has 38 years of experience in public schools, including serving as an elementary teacher, elementary counselor, elementary vice-principal, HIPPY Coordinator, curriculum coordinator, and elementary principal. She is currently the elementary principal at Southside Elementary, a Kindergarten through fourth grade school outside of Batesville,
Arkansas. During her 12 years at Southside Elementary there has been at least a 20 percent gain in students scoring “proficient/advanced” on the State Benchmark Exam. On the most recent State School Report Card, Southside Elementary was rated a “school of excellence” both on performance gains and for overall performance status. Southside Elementary also ranks 10th in math achievement and 15th in literacy achievement among the 288 high-poverty schools in Arkansas. Mrs. Mueller attributes this success to an exemplary faculty that lives the belief that all children can and will learn: It is up to us to create the conditions under which learning takes place.

Stephanie Mullins

Stephanie Mullins is in her thirteenth year of teaching at Ponderosa Elementary School in Boyd County Kentucky. During that time, she has taught students at every elementary grade level from kindergarten through fifth grade. She currently teaches in a second grade inclusion classroom. She has certifications in elementary education, moderate to severe disabilities, learning and behavior disorders, and received her Rank I through the continuing education option with a focus on mathematics. She is currently enrolled in Morehead State University’s Instructional Leadership program. Mrs. Mullins is also a K-Tip trained resource teacher and active mentor teacher for Morehead State University’s teacher preparation program. In addition, she is a member of the Kentucky Math Content Leadership Network and the Kentucky Math Alliance and is a professional development coordinator for mathematics training and presenter in her own district. She has also written and received several area grants to fund various math initiatives at her school.

John J. Murphy

John J. Murphy is a professor of psychology and counseling at the University of Central Arkansas and an author and trainer in positive approaches with children, adolescents, and school problems. He taught high school before receiving a Ph.D. in school psychology from the University of Cincinnati and completed post-doctoral training in family therapy with Dr. Barry Duncan. Dr. Murphy spent 13 years as a full time school psychologist in Covington (KY) Public Schools and continues to work regularly with students, teachers, parents, and school administrators. He was named by the National Association of School Psychologists as one of the top five school psychologists in the United States in 1993 and received the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) 1998 Writer of the Year Award for his book, Solution-Focused Counseling in Middle and High Schools (which has been recently expanded to include preschool and elementary students in the new 2008 edition, Solution-Focused Counseling in Schools, American Counseling Association, 800-422-2648, www.counseling.org). He also authored (with Barry L. Duncan) Brief Intervention for School Problems, 2nd ed. (2007, Guilford Press, 800-365-7006, www.guilford.com), and his work is featured in the videotape series, Child Therapy with the Experts. Dr. Murphy is currently working completing a book on interviewing children and adolescents about school problems to be published by Merrill/Prentice Hall. Dr. Murphy has provided training and consultation to various school districts and agencies throughout the country and overseas. He is a frequent workshop presenter at state association meetings of school counselors, psychologists, social workers, and teachers.

Raysa S. Rodriguez

Raysa S. Rodriguez serves as United Way of New York City’s associate vice president for Education and oversees initiatives that span the continuum from early childhood through the K-12 system. Prior to this position, she served as senior advisor on children’s issues to the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, Linda Gibbs. In this capacity, Ms. Rodriguez served as a catalyst for macro-level change and played an instrumental role in strengthening the City of New York’s early care and education policy agenda. She
also contributed to the design, implementation, and management of Opportunity NYC, a demonstration project of the Mayor’s Center for Economic Opportunity that tests the impact of incentive-based strategies on poverty reduction.

Ms. Rodriguez has also worked in the field of child advocacy at Citizens’ Committee for Children of New York, Inc., where she evaluated the conditions of New York City’s children and developed policy solutions based on fieldwork and empirical evidence. She has also directed special education services for preschoolers with special needs, and taught Kindergarten for three years where she was born and raised--Bronx, NY.

Ms. Rodriguez holds a bachelor of science in human development and family studies from Cornell University and a masters in social work from Columbia University School of Social Work.

**Tonya Russell**

Tonya Russell became director of the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education at the AR Department of Human Services in June, 2004. The Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education is responsible for administering the following programs: child care licensing, federal child care development block grant, child nutrition programs from the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Arkansas Better Chance (state pre-k) program, as well as providing training and technical assistance opportunities to early childhood professionals to support quality in early childhood education. She served as Head Start Director for the Community Action Program for Central Arkansas and the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences campus from 2001-2004. Prior to that, she served as the first Head Start Collaboration Director for Arkansas. Additionally, she has served as a coordinator for a local Even Start Family Literacy project and the Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters at Child Development, Inc. She holds a bachelor of arts in English/communications and has served in a variety of early childhood roles at both the state and local level.

**Tracy Starks**

Tracy Starks, RN is employed as the student health resource officer with Medicaid in The Schools, 620 West 3rd, Suite 303, Little Rock, AR 72201, (501)375-6487, tracy@armits.org. In addition to her licensing as a RN, she holds a BSE in Kinesiology and English. She worked for three years in the public education system before receiving her RN license. Before she came to work with MITS, she worked for eight years as a nurse in the areas of pediatrics and home health. In working as the student health resource officer, Tracy works with districts to maximize their Medicaid reimbursements and the implementation of health programs. She also works with Arkansas Department of Education Coordinated School Health and Arkansas School-Based Health Centers.

**Teija Sudol**

Teija Sudol serves as program manager for early education at United Way of New York City. In this role, she is responsible for the coordination with partners and integration of programmatic components, including tracking of program activities, contract oversight, as well as research and information gathering to ensure alignment with best practices. Prior to this position, Ms. Sudol worked as corporate relations manager at UWWNYC, managing a diverse portfolio of $13 million.

Before joining UWWNYC, Ms. Sudol worked as information specialist at the National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections (a Service of the Children’s
Bureau) where she focused on research and analysis of child welfare policies and best practices. Her professional experience also includes New York State Office of Children and Family Services, Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, McGraw-Hill Education, and Bain & Company.

Ms. Sudol holds a bachelor of arts in corporate communications from Baruch College and a masters in social work from Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College.

Deborah Swink

Deborah Swink received her B.S.E. in 1976 from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in the area of special education and her M.S.E. in 1988 from the University of Central Arkansas in special education, mild to moderate disabilities. She completed her administrative certification in the area of special education administration while attending Northern Arizona University in 1993. Ms. Swink has 30 years experience in public school education including, 15 years teaching in special education classrooms, and 15 years of special education administration in Arkansas. Swink currently works as the LEA supervisor for three school districts in Van Buren County, Arkansas, and oversees all aspects of the special education programs and school-based mental health programs in the districts. Deborah has been a member of CEC since 1987 and has served on the executive board of the Arkansas Federation of CEC (AR-CEC) from 1998 - 2004 in the offices of CAN Coordinator, Vice President, President-elect, President, and Past President. Ms. Swink currently serves as an appointed member of the Arkansas Advisory Council for the Special Education Unit of the ADE, President of the Arkansas Mental Health in Education (ARMEA) organization, member of Yale University-The School of the 21st Century Leadership Council, and was appointed by Governor Beebe in 2009 to the Arkansas Developmental Disabilities Council.

Jody Veit-Edrington

Jody Veit-Edrington is coordinator of early childhood programs for the North Little Rock School District. After teaching kindergarten for eight years, she opened the first ABC Pre-K classroom in 1991. She currently oversees the district’s 28 pre-k classrooms and 2 infant and toddler classrooms, serving a total of 528 children. She also coordinates the district’s School of the 21st Century Program.

Lee Vent

Lee Vent officially joined the Yale 21C Staff as a senior associate on October 1, 2009. Vent is the superintendent in Clarendon, AR. A native of Arkansas, Vent began his educational career as a classroom teacher in Missouri. He soon returned to his home state in a number of administrative capacities, including assistant high school principal, middle school principal, and superintendent at the Clarendon School District. He also worked as director of career development for Phillips County Community College. In 1990, he moved to Paragould where, as superintendent, he initiated the first 21C program in the state in 1992. He brought 21C to Forrest City when he was superintendent beginning in 1996. Vent, who has more than 40 years of experience in public education in the delta region of Arkansas and Missouri, has always been a strong advocate for preschool education, citing the need for upstream solutions to downstream problems related to both public education in America and society as a whole. He is a founding member of the AR21C Leadership Council.
Jennifer Walker

Jennifer Walker, M.Ed., director of youth development for the Independence School District, earned a M.Ed. in curriculum and instruction from Lesley University and a B.S. from Central Missouri State University. Walker has more than 21 years of experience in the field of education and youth development. At ISD, she directs 16 youth learning centers that offer both elementary and middle school before- and after-school services. In addition, she directs multiple research projects, including a multi-year study of the district’s after-school/21CCLC programs conducted by Schools of the 21st Century. Walker also directs the district’s Nutrition Detectives™ and ABC for Fitness™ project, and a secondary long-term evaluation now in its sixth year conducted by the Yale-Griffin Prevention Research Center. She has conducted or made presentations at more than 200 professional development sessions focusing on early childhood and school-age care and education in forums at Yale University, the National School-Age Care Alliance, the Missouri Superintendent’s Forum, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and many others.

Bowen F. White

Bowen F. White, M.D. combines the talents and expertise of a medical doctor, teacher, consultant, and author. He travels the world conducting seminars and consulting and speaking to public and private organizations.

In 1983, Dr. White founded the Department of Preventive & Stress Medicine for Baptist Medical Center in Kansas City, Missouri and the Department of Wellness and Health Promotion before leaving to pursue a private practice and a career as a consultant and teacher. He has given hundreds of keynote addresses for organizations, including Georgetown University Law School, Ohio State University’s National Academy for Superintendents, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and Hallmark Cards. He served three years as corporate medical consultant to the Hazelden Foundation and lectures at Stanford University’s Graduate School on design thinking, creativity, and innovation. Dr. White is often interviewed by radio, newspaper, and magazine journalists. He has appeared on the front page of the Wall Street Journal and in the PBS series, The Promise of Play.

With a practice in organizational medicine, he is interested in how we relate to and learn from each other. His programs provide tools and inspiration for individuals to take responsibility for their own health and well being as he helps organizations create suspiciously healthy learning environments.

Dr. White is married with four daughters. He contributes his time to The Gesundheit! Institute and serves on the board for the National Institute for Play. He is the author of two books: Why Normal Isn’t Healthy and, with John MacDougal, A Clinician’s Guide to Spirituality.

Joanne Yohannan

Joanne Yohannan is Sr. Vice President of Operations at the North Shore Animal League America. She is responsible for all of the program operations including the rescue and adoption of about 20,000 homeless pets each year from the League’s adoption center in New York. Joanne is a leader in the humane field with extensive experience in issues pertaining to pet adoption, rescue and humane education. In addition to chairing operations at the Animal League, Joanne is responsible for several national initiatives, including world-wide Pet Adoptathon, Tour For Life, Route 66, Humane Relocation Programs including Mill Dog Rescues and the Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum and it’s outreach and dissemination.
The Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum

The Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum, a social and emotional learning program for children in pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12, focuses on teaching empathy and related social and emotional skills. Developed in collaboration with the Pet Savers Foundation (the program development arm of the North Shore Animal League America), Yale 21C, and the Millan Foundation, the Curriculum aims to enhance children’s self- and social-awareness, relationship skills, and ability to make ethical decisions that benefit people, animals and the environment.

The Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum, currently available for students in Pre-K through Grade 8, is unique because it builds on children's interest in animals and the research on the benefits of human-animal interactions. Its flexible use and the fact that it promotes academic achievement makes it popular with educators, who report its use in several different settings, including mainstream and special education classrooms and childcare and after-school programs.

The Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum is part of a national initiative that highlights the unique attributes and desirability of Mutt-i-grees®, or shelter pets. The Curriculum Kit is available upon request. While supplies last, each school may receive one complementary kit and order additional ones at minimal cost. To request the Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum, please visit http://education.muttigrees.org/signup.

If you are interested in learning about the latest research, new funding opportunities, and evaluation findings to support your school-based, school-linked child care and family support programs, join the 21C Network! Members receive relevant information via the 21C listserv and mailings. In addition, members can contract with Yale University to take advantage of consultation and training and share successful strategies with other practitioners throughout the country. If you are interested in free general membership or need assistance in implementing 21C in your district, please contact us at: yale21C@yale.edu.
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Mutt-i-grees® Poster Sessions:
- Fenton Avenue Charter School, Lake View Terrace, CA
- Ponderosa Elementary School, Ashland, NY
- Van Buren County Mutt-i-grees® Program, Van Buren, AR
A very special thank you to the 2012 21C National Conference Committee members: Vicki Shelby, Jaime Freeman, Judy Clay, Dawn Jeffrey, Adam Eppes, Morgan Roberson, Shelly Hink, and Deb Swink.

A heartfelt shout-out to Valerie Vergato Zielinski - We could not have done it without you!!

Our gratitude to the North Shore Animal League and the North Little Rock Animal Shelter for sharing the beautiful, adoptable animals with our conference participants.

Thanks to all of our exhibitors and presenters for your contributions to the program!

Thanks to the M.U.T.T.S. Club members!

Thank you Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation for the ongoing partnership and support of AR 21C.

POOCHAS GRACIAS
North Shore Animal League America

North Shore Animal League America, headquartered in Port Washington, N.Y., is the world’s largest no-kill animal rescue and adoption organization. The Animal League reaches across the country to rescue, nurture, and adopt an average of 20,000 pets into happy and loving homes every year.

Since 1944 North Shore Animal League America has saved and re-homed nearly 1 million lives, understanding that a rescue is not complete until each animal is placed into a loving home. Over the years, the Animal League developed several innovative programs, including the Mutt-i-grees® initiative, to provide education to reduce animal cruelty and advance standards in animal welfare.

The Animal League is home to the Alex Lewyt Veterinary Medical Center, which provides 24-hour care for pets and annually takes care of tens of thousands of outpatient visits. The Animal League’s National Cooperative Pet Rescue team and its mobile adoption program help local shelters around the country.

For more information on North Shore Animal League America visit AnimalLeague.org.

North Shore Animal League America’s Mobile Adoption Unit will be at the Holiday Inn Airport Conference Center on Wednesday, July 25 from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm and Thursday, July 26 from 12:00 am - 6:30 pm (Location: Back parking lot directly behind KittyHawk Ballroom). The climate-controlled Mobile Adoption Unit allows potential adopters to walk through and see a diverse group of dogs, puppies, cats, and kittens from the local shelter.

Stop by and visit the many pets waiting to be adopted!