



MPPI 2019 Advocacy Conference Schedule

Friday, September 27th

4:00-6:00 PM – Registration

2:00 PM -5:00 PM – Preconference Session **Advocacy 101** (Preconference registration 1:45-2:00 PM)

Dinner on your own

Saturday, September 28th

Breakfast in the hotel dining room (for Hyatt Lodge Guests only)

7:30-9:00 AM – Registration

8:30-9:45 AM – General Session – **Our Goal is Policy Change, Our Work is Building Relationships**

Relationships are at the center of advocacy work, but what does it mean to build relationships to successfully effect policy change? We'll explore the many avenues you have available to cultivate connections with decision makers and help them see you as a team player.

9:45-10:15 AM – Break

10:15-11:45 AM – **Keynote “Evolving the Cosmos: The Promise of a National Learner-Centered Movement”**, Dr. Ulcca Joshi Hansen, Vice President of Partnerships and Research Education Reimagined

11:45-1:15 AM – Lunch Together

1:15 AM-2:45 PM – General Session – **Guest Panel on Racial Equity** with Dr. Jamilah Jor'dan, Deputy Director of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development in Illinois and Dr. Micere Keels, Associate Professor in the Department of Comparative Human Development at the University of Chicago's Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture

How do we keep racial equity at the center of our work as Montessori educators and advocates? We'll engage our panelists in a conversation about the relationship between policy and racial equity and how we in the Montessori community can more fully serve racially diverse populations.

2:45-3:00 PM – Break

3:00-4:15 PM - Breakout Session 1

1A) State Montessori Verification Programs – A User Guide – with MPPI Staff and Martha Teien, Board President, Colorado Montessori Association.

Are you thinking about developing a Verification process in your state or curious about what it is and how it can benefit schools in your state? Come learn about the various steps in developing a Verification program, considerations as you create the process, and critical relationships to cultivate. Explore when you might need to adapt your process to accommodate the landscape in your state.

1B) Building a Revenue Stream to Support Your State Advocacy Organization – with Tom Bartlett and Sara Gibson, 20 Degrees, Debbie Senoff-Langford, AMS Board member and former AIMS Board President

Building a stable state organization that is prepared to tackle advocacy work can require financial resources. Get started or increase your current revenue with tips from Tom Bartlett and Sara Gibson of 20 Degrees and hear from MPPI advocate Debby Senoff-Langford who solidified a revenue streams for the Association of Illinois Montessori Schools.

4:25-5:30 PM – Breakout Session 2

2A) What is the Next Generation of QRIS and What Does it Mean for Montessori? – with MPPI staff and Tom Layman, ExceleRate Policy Director in the Illinois Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development

QRIS programs throughout the country are on the cusp of evaluating and reconfiguring their existing QRIS systems. The Montessori community largely missed the opportunity to shape initial QRIS programs but in many states, we’ll have a second chance to give stakeholder input. MPPI welcomes Tom Layman, ExceleRate Policy Director in the Illinois Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development for a conversation about how states are looking at the effectiveness of their QRIS programs and how they can be transformed to meet goals around bringing the highest quality early childhood experiences to the families with the least access.

2B) Leveraging Research for Policy and Advocacy - Dr. Angela Murray, Director of the Center for Montessori Research at the University of Kansas and Dr. Paige Bray, Director of Montessori Studies and Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education at the University of Hartford

Research can provide critical supports for policy and advocacy work. Come learn about recent studies that demonstrate the effectiveness of Montessori education and how to leverage and communicate research in your conversations with policy makers.

5:30-7:00 PM - Reception

Dinner on your own

Sunday, September 29th

Hyatt Lodge Guest Breakfast in the Hotel Dining Room

9:00-9:30 AM – General Session

9:30-10:45 AM – Breakout Session 3

3A) Montessori Teacher Credential Recognition – A User Guide – with MPPI Staff

Recognition of the Montessori Teacher Credential can be the leverage point for necessary state policy change regarding Montessori education. Properly prepared teachers are imperative to ensuring quality classroom experiences for children, and the recognition of the rigor and quality of Montessori teacher training is a change whose time has come. MPPI staff will walk attendees through the types of recognition and the strategies state Montessori advocacy groups can use to achieve them. Current information about what is happening with the teacher pipeline, including in early childhood, and how to raise and support this issue with your state regulators and legislators will be shared. Join us for this deep dive into the MPPI Montessori Teacher Credential Recognition Playbook.

3B) Federal Funding Streams: Opportunities and Obstacles – Wendy Shenk-Evans, MPPI Executive Director, Rita Nolan, Principal, The Montessori School of Englewood, Alyssa Schwartz, Head of School, Cornerstone Montessori

Head Start, CCDBG, and other federal funding initiatives can help both public and private schools make Montessori education accessible to children from low-income households. Come learn the ins and outs of these funding streams and how Montessori schools can participate to increase access to Montessori education.

10:45-11:00 – Break

11:00 AM-12:00 PM – General Session - Closing

Safe Travels!