



BCDI

Black Child Development Institute
ATLANTA

2020 State Conference

Mercer University-Atlanta Administration and Conference Center (AACC) Building
2930 Flowers Road South, Atlanta, Georgia 30341

Conference Schedule at a Glance

AGENDA for Friday, March 20, 2020

8:00-9:00 AM	Registration & Networking Breakfast
9:00-10:00 AM	Welcome & Opening
10:15-11:45 AM	Concurrent Sessions
12 Noon-1:00 PM	Lunch & Door Prizes
1:15-2:45 PM	Concurrent Sessions
3:00-4:30 PM	Concurrent Sessions
4:45-5:45 PM	General Session, Reflections
6:00-7:00 PM	Networking Reception in Exhibit Hall
7:30-9:30 PM	Community Leadership Awards Banquet

AGENDA for Saturday, March 21, 2020

8:00-9:00 AM	Registration & Networking Breakfast
9:00-10:00 AM	General Session
10:15-11:45 AM	Concurrent Sessions
12 Noon-1:00 PM	Lunch & Door Prizes
1:15-2:45 PM	Concurrent Sessions
3:00-4:00 PM	Closing, Reflections

*****Breakfast, Lunch & Afternoon Snacks served daily.*****



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Keynote, Brain Breaks & Featured Session



Angela Russ-Ayon

*Award-winning Children's Recording Artist,
Published Author, Early Childhood Trainer*

Keynote & Featured Session



Mark A. Gooden, PhD

*Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Professor of
Education Leadership
Teachers College, Columbia University*

Keynotes, Panels and Sessions in Six Focus Areas

**Early Care & Education, Family Engagement, Literacy,
Health & Wellness, Public Policy, Child Welfare**

Early Care & Education

“Equipping, Scaffolding, and Supporting Development in a Multicultural World”

Keynote Speaker: Angela Russ-Ayon, Abridge Club

Session Description: Develop the whole child through brain-based activities that reinforce the understanding of age-appropriate concepts using books, music, displays, and diverse materials. What children do not see around them, teaches them as much as they do see. Help them improve comprehension, stay motivated to learn, build a healthy foundation, and boost their retention.

“Educational and Cultural Excellence for Black Children”

Featured Speaker: Dr. Tonia Durden, Georgia State University

The focus of this session will explore how within teacher education and through professional development our workforce can enhance the educational and cultural excellence of Black children. Topics to be addressed (the what, so what, and now what) will include: Advancing and advocating for racial educational equity; Decolonizing teacher education and pd; and creating experiences (within and outside of schools) that builds upon Black children's academic and cultural excellence.



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“Black Child in the Woods”

Presenter: Ashley Jefferson, Play Pan Afrikan

Session Description: Long before downloadable apps, there was nature. And although technology has served its purpose in education, we've lost our connection to the very foundation on which we stand: earth. Join us for a fun workshop on the importance of getting our children out in the woods! Let's get outside!

“Fun Weird Science: STEAM Based Lesson Hooks”

Presenter: Ronnie Thomas, Fun Weird Science

Session Description: Science is something that students have to DO. Take part in this OPPORTUNITY to interact with Fun Weird Science strategies as we model engaging hands-on learning experiences guaranteed to keep your scholars hooked.

“From the Village to the Classroom: Advancing Equity through Culturally Sustaining Pedagogy”

Presenter: Dr. Tameka Ardey, Georgia Southern University

Session Description: This session will introduce early educators to an afro-centric framework of culturally inclusive strategies specifically designed to promote high quality early learning environments for African American children. Additionally, participants will explore the impact that their own cultural identities have on their ability to create equitable learning environments for all children.

Health & Wellness

“Successful Hands-on Cooking with Young Children”

Erin Croom, Small Bites Adventure Club

We all know that if children have the opportunity to prepare and taste new foods, they are more likely to eat them. What does research tell us about how to best introduce new foods and which healthy foods to focus on? Learn the top ten tips and tricks for getting kids to love their veggies.

“A Seat at the Table: using Nutrition Education to Improve Food Access”

Presenters: Lotus Chaney and JophyEL KhuELenne, Garden Glow Wellness

Session Description: In this session, you'll learn all about some basic nutrition education topics and how they can be used to help improve community nutrition and access to healthier food options. With this knowledge, participants should feel empowered to promote nutritious food and understand how it helps to level the playing field for underserved communities.

“A Delicious Approach To STEM: All about Food Science”

Presenters: Lotus Chaney and JophyEL KhuELenne, Garden Glow Wellness

Session Description: STEM education has become a buzz word around the world; with many careers, industries and schools adding science, technology, engineering, and math to their vocabulary. In this session, you'll learn how to use the magic of everyday food to teach your learners about these 4 diverse subjects. You can expect to walk away with tips on how these skills will align with GELDS, how they teach healthy habits and how they equip your learners with tools to thrive in an evolving economy.



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“Growing Healthy Eaters: Farm to Early Care and Education”

Presenters: Abbie Chaddick and Debbie Hillman, Farm to ECE Coalition

Session Description: In this dynamic workshop, an early care educator and a dietitian share how to engage early learners and the people that care for them in eating healthy, local foods and gardening. Attendees will learn how nutrition preferences form in the first few years of life and how early care providers can foster curiosity and enthusiasm for fruits and vegetables that equips kids with healthy eating skills for life.

“Understanding the Vaginal Microbiome”

Presenter: Dr. Gael Daniel, Emory University

Session Description: The presentation will explain the microbiome and focus specifically on the vaginal microbiome. The current research describes race-based differences in the vaginal microbiome, but this presentation seeks to clarify how race as a social construct potentially leads to the differences in the vaginal microbiome through behaviors and environmental exposures.

Child Welfare

Safe Spaces: Creating Trauma-Sensitive Environments For Learning

Presenter: Cheryl Smith Turner, Ed.S., Reach TLS, LLC

Session Description: Childhood trauma is an increasingly pervasive issue in early childhood education. Its profound effects on children’s growth, development and achievement greatly impact the learner communities we serve. We will examine this epidemic, discussing strategies for creating safe, responsive environments that provide learners with tools needed for resilience and school success.

“Connections Matter: Addressing Trauma through an Equity Lens”

Presenter: Virginia Baker-Jeffcoat, Sheltering Arms

Connections Matter is designed to engage community members in building caring connections to improve resilience. Strategies for addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) will be shared as well “the hope” of ACEs.

“Creating Community to Fortify the Family”

Presenter: Khye Tyson, Kuluntu Reproductive Justice Center

Session Description: In this session, attendees will examine the importance of community from an African Diasporan culture- and history-focused lens; integrate educational best practices, child development theory, cultural development theory, and other relevant psychological and sociological concepts; and practice learned concepts by planning community events.

“Leveling Up and Leaving A Legacy”

Presenters: Dr. Veidre Jackson and Tina Pelzer, Living Strong Consulting LLC

Session Description: Regardless of economic status, skin color, or street address - every child deserves access to educational principles from empowered adults who level up and show up in their lives in a way that will address the pervasive impact of ACEs, trauma and toxic stress that is sabotaging children's healthy development. This session provides practical approaches for reversing the effects of childhood adversity through internal and external resource building that promote equity and growth for all children.



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“Stress, Trauma, and The Responsive Teacher”

Presenters: Patrice Benton and Angela Washington, Better Brains for Babies

Session Description: During this session, participants will learn about the various types of stress and trauma that students may experience in their daily lives. We will explain how stress and trauma impacts brain development and function and how it affects student behaviors and impacts academic achievement. Participants will gain knowledge of supportive strategies that teachers can implement to create a positive environment.

Public Policy

“Equity-focused Leadership: Transforming the Educational Landscape”

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Mark A. Gooden, Teachers College, Columbia University

Explore Gooden's Anti-racist Leadership approach to becoming a more self-aware leader open to identifying and dismantling systemic inequities that routinely diminish learning opportunities of Black children.

“Say What? Black Scholars Navigating-unapologetically-academia and Scholarship”

Panel Moderator: Dr. Tonia Durden, Georgia State University

The focus of this panel discussion is to bring together emerging scholars to discuss the challenges and opportunities that exist when engaging in scholarship, teaching and outreach focused on racial equity for Black children, families and communities. Scholars will share successful strategies on navigating academic, educational, political and community spaces and also provide a call of action to emerging Black scholars and leaders.

“The 2020 Census: Stand Up and Be Counted”

Presenter: Jessica Woltjen, Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS)

The 2020 census could have big implications for young kids in Georgia. Each year, our state gets millions of federal dollars for programs like Head Start and the Child Care Development Block Grant that are determined by population numbers identified by the census. Yet, children under 5 are historically under counted. That means less money for important programs that infants and toddlers and their families rely on. We need you to help raise awareness among families about the importance of the census. This session will give you the tools you need to help!

“Legislative Update: What Happened Under the Gold Dome?”

Presenter: Mindy Binderman, GEEARS

Learn about issues affecting young children that were addressed in the 2020 Georgia Legislative Session and about what you can do in the legislature's final weeks to make a difference. This session will include policy updates and advocacy tips!

“Lead Effects on Brain Development”

Presenter: Jessica Woltjen, GEEARS

Lead poisoning presents a real risk to early childhood development, and, as recent events in Flint and Newark have shown, our environment poses risks. Could it happen here? What policies should we work to promote to ensure safety?



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Family Engagement

“The Importance of Fathers”

Presenter: Aisha Paraham, Department of Family & Children Services

Understanding the importance of Fatherhood is an important conversation. Statistics show that children do better when they have their fathers involved in their lives. Fathers can be more than just a financial provider for children. Fathers can comfort, inspire, teach and love. Children benefit and learn how to have help relationships when the Mother and Father can Co-parent and communicate with one another. If more parents can get past the broken relationship with one another and learn how to put the best interest of the child first, children can thrive.

“The Restoration of the Male Ego: The Key to Building Strong Men and Strong Communities”

Presenter: Tim Houston

Session Description:

- Ø Powerful insight: The powerful ripple effect created by a positive male ego
- Ø Proven techniques: Key steps and instructions on how to reach and reclaim today’s at-risk youth
- Ø Words that matter: How to engage men of all ages and keep them active in family and community

Literacy

“Let’s Get R.E.A.L. with Social Studies and Science: Reading and Exploring Informational Text”

Presenter: Jane Hyché, Georgia State University

This session will focus on using the R.E.A.L. strategy for introducing informational text to support Social Studies and Science instruction. The following topics will be discussed and explored through hands on activities: tiered vocabulary, higher order thinking questions, culture, diversity, geography, social history, the scientific method and skills. This session will provide educators with new ideas and activities for Social Studies and Science instruction. It will also push educators to be reflective upon whether they are advancing equity in classrooms through their current practice.

“Supporting Language and Literacy Development within a Day in a Life of All Toddlers”

Presenter: Britne McDuffie, Georgia Southern University Child Development Center

This interactive workshop will provide educators and families the resources needed to improve and promote language and literacy development in ALL toddlers in both a classroom and home setting. Participants will learn how to enhance toddlers’ language and literacy development through everyday interactions such as daily pick-ups and drop-offs, meal times, group times, learning centers, outside times, potty times, and transitions.

“Leveling up our Book Lists: Including Black American Children’s Books especially books about Black Boys in Our Libraries and Classrooms”

Presenters: Dr. Raynice Jean Sigur and Dr. Wendy Harris, Kennesaw State University

Session Description: The presenters will share information about Black children’s literature and effective methods for selecting diverse books in classrooms and libraries. Dr. Harris will present research on Children’s Literature and Black Boys. Participants will leave with booklist and with a rubric that will assist in determining black children’s literature.



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“The Marvel of Writing”

Presenter: Makia Thomas, Georgia State University

This session will include best practices for supporting a critical component of literacy and reading: the development of young children's early writing skills. Upon the completion of this session, educators will be able to use developmentally appropriate practices to create a learning environment that supports and encourages the development of early writing skills for Pre-K students. Educators will be equipped to provide high quality and equitable instruction for the children they serve.

“Word Up! Finding the Missing Link for Equity in American Education”

Presenters: Mark-Alan McNeil and Terrance Joffrion

Session Description: This session will address that founding principle of equity is the missing link in American education. And the outcomes of true equity in American education; contradictions of equity; benefits of equity, and the fallout of education without equity. And reading selected stories from *Word Up! To explore equity.*

*****This is not an all-inclusive list of sessions. Be on the lookout for the preliminary brochure.*****

Visit the conference website for additional information bcdiatlanta.org/conference.