

Jeffrey L. Leffler
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Meridian, MS 39307
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EDUCATION:

2017 **Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum & Instruction**
Minor: Community College Leadership
Mississippi State University
Mississippi State, Mississippi

2010 **Educational Specialist in Elementary Education**
Mississippi State University
Meridian, Mississippi

2001 **Master of Science in Early Intervention**
The University of Southern Mississippi
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

2000 **Bachelor of Science in Child and Family Studies**
The University of Southern Mississippi
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

1998 **Associate of Liberal Arts**
Jones County Junior College
Ellisville, Mississippi

EXPERIENCE:

2016 to present **Assistant Professor of Elementary Education and**
Graduate Coordinator (2017 to present)
Meridian Division of Education
Mississippi State University
My teaching responsibilities include teaching undergraduate and graduate level courses:

EDE 3123 – Early Childhood Education
EDE 3443 – Creative Arts Elementary/Middle Level
EDE 4113 – Teaching Elementary/Middle Level Science
EDE 4143 – Teaching Elementary/Middle Level Social Studies
EDE 8313 – Theory and Development of Early Childhood Education
EDE 8443 – Seminar in Elementary Education
EDE 8473 – Elementary Social Studies Curriculum

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EDE 8513 – Curriculum and Program Development for Early Childhood
EDE 8533 – Behavioral Experiences in Early Childhood Education
EDE 8623 – Content Area and Disciplinary Literacy Instruction
EDX 4413 – Working with Families of Students with Disabilities
EDX 8173 – Special Education in the Regular Classroom
HDFS 2813 – Child Development
RDG 3513 – Reading Strategies for Secondary School
RDG 4133 – Integrating Language Arts Instruction in the Content Areas

My responsibilities also include supervising students during field placements, and advising undergraduate and graduate students. Additionally, I coordinate the graduate programs in community college education, counselor education, education administration, elementary education, and secondary education for the division. Other responsibilities include pursuing an active program of research, publication, and service as well as collaborating with faculty in the division to achieve common goals.

**2012 to
2016**

**Executive Director, Center for Child Development
Visiting Assistant Professor, Child & Family Studies
The University of Southern Mississippi**

I served as executive director for the Center for Child Development and as a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Child and Family Studies. My responsibilities included teaching two or more child development courses each semester:

CD 350 - Child Development
CD 351 - Advanced Child Development
CD 352 - Behavior and Guidance
CD 450 – Administration of Child and Family Programs
CD 452 - Methods and Materials
CD 453 - Curriculum Activities for Young Children
CD 455 – Supervised Participation
CD 654 – Seminar in Child Development

My responsibilities also included leadership for the Hattiesburg and Gulf Coast (founding director) centers, securing and managing externally funded projects, and contributing to the research mission of programs in the Department of Child and Family Studies.

**2009 to
2012**

**Coordinator
Early Childhood Institute
Mississippi State University**

I coordinated statewide early childhood initiatives including regional training conferences for early childhood professionals, a quality enhancement program that provided technical assistance to child care

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centers, and early childhood professional development programs. My responsibilities included staff training and supervision, program development, research, and delivery of direct services.

**2010 to
2011**

**Adjunct Instructor
Mississippi State University-Meridian**

I taught courses including:

EDE 3123 - Early Childhood Education
EDE 3343 - Teaching Adolescent Literature
RDG 3113 - Early Literacy I
RDG 3123 - Early Literacy II

**2001 to
2011**

**Adjunct Instructor
The University of Southern Mississippi**

I taught classes in the Department of Child and Family Studies including:

CD 350 - Child Development
CD 351 - Advanced Child Development
CD 352 - Behavior and Guidance
CD 452 - Methods and Materials
CD 453 - Creative Activities for Young Children
CD 455 - Supervised Participation

I also supervised interns in Special Education.

**2008 to
2009**

**Classroom Environment Evaluator/Monitor
Early Childhood Institute
Mississippi State University**

I evaluated and monitored child care centers in the southern half of Mississippi participating in the *Mississippi Child Care Quality Step System*.

**2004 to
2008**

**Elementary Teacher and Principal
School of Excellence**

I served as a fifth and sixth grade language arts and social studies teacher and principal of the private elementary school. A key component of the school's philosophy was a focus on the arts with students participating in visual, music, and theater arts classes daily.

**2000 to
2002 &
2006 to 2008**

**Technical Assistant/Evaluator
Mississippi State University**

I served as a part-time consultant for the Early Childhood Institute at MSU providing evaluation and technical assistance to improve the quality of Mississippi's child care centers.

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1997 to 2008 **Children’s Pastor**
River of Life Church
My responsibilities included leading all aspects of the church’s ministry to children from birth to junior high including outreach ministries and the founding of an early education program in 2000 of which I served as a preschool teacher and administrator.

2004 to 2007 **CDA Trainer**
The University of Southern Mississippi
I participated in a program offered through the Child and Family Studies Department and the Mississippi Department of Human Services to provide training for early childhood teachers seeking the Child Development Associate credential from The Council for Professional Recognition.

2004 **Adjunct Instructor**
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
I taught the child care administration course for one semester.

2000 to 2004 **R.E.A.L. Learning Specialist**
Group Publishing, Inc.
I provided training for churches using Group’s children’s ministry curricular resources including *Hands On Bible*, *Faithweaver*, and Group VBS in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.

2000 to 2001 **Graduate Assistant**
The University of Southern Mississippi
I provided support to the director of the USM Center for Child Development including scheduling and supervision of students participating in laboratory courses.

1999 to 2000 **Assistant Teacher**
USM Center for Child Development
I worked part-time as a toddler and preschool assistant teacher.

CREDENTIALS:

2011 to 2024 **Class AAAA Teacher’s License**
211 Special Education Birth-Kindergarten
192 Social Studies (7-12)
322 Home Economics (7-12)
State of Mississippi

2001 **Ordination for Gospel Ministry**
River of Life Church
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

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PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

**2018 to
present**

**Liaison
Any Given Child Meridian**

The primary goal of the Kennedy Center's *Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child* program is to assist communities in developing and implementing a plan for expanded arts education in their schools, ensuring access and equity for all students in grades K-8. I serve as the liaison to the Kennedy Center for this initiative in Meridian, MS.

**2018 to
present**

**Reviewer
Journal of Human Sciences and Extension**

I review manuscripts for this peer-reviewed professional journal.

**2018 to
present**

**P16 Strategic Advancement Committee
Meridian Public School District**

I serve on this committee of stakeholders that support the district's strategic initiatives.

**2018 to
2019**

**Interim Executive Director
Southern Early Childhood Association**

I provided strategic direction for the Southern Early Childhood Association and assist with operational oversight.

**2017 to
present**

**Graduate Coordinator
Meridian Division of Education**

I coordinate the graduate programs in community college education, counselor education, education administration, elementary education, and secondary education for the division.

**2017 to
present**

**Elementary Coordinator
Meridian Division of Education**

I lead the elementary faculty in curriculum planning, student advisement, course scheduling, and recruitment activities.

**2016 to
present**

**PANTA Initiative Coordinator
Meridian Division of Education**

I coordinate the Professional Assistance Network for Teacher Assistants (PANTA) initiative that makes the teacher education program at MSU Meridian more accessible to teacher assistants and other school personnel.

**2016 to
present**

**Advisory Council
Mississippi Early Childhood Association**

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I serve in an advisory capacity for the president for the association.

**2014 to
present**

**Member-at-Large
Southern Early Childhood Association Board of Directors**

I served as member-at-large. In this position, I am responsible for representing the diverse early educators of the South.

2018

**Curriculum Reviewer
West Virginia University**

I reviewed the third and fourth editions of a curriculum entitled *Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist* by Drs. Wade and Porter of West Virginia University Extension Service. It was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor and implemented through River Valley Child Development Services.

**2017 to
2018**

**Editorial Committee Chair
*Dimensions of Early Childhood***

I chaired the committee that provides direction for the Southern Early Childhood Association's publications including the nationally recognized, peer-reviewed professional journal, *Dimensions of Early Childhood*.

2017

**Curriculum Reviewer
West Virginia University**

I reviewed the first and second editions of a curriculum entitled *Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist* by Drs. Wade and Porter of West Virginia University Extension Service. It was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor and implemented through River Valley Child Development Services.

2017

**State Policy Learning Table Member
Build Initiative and Mississippi Department of Education**

I participated in this workgroup that supports states to shift policy to have a deeper focus on teaching and learning in early childhood that results in improved outcomes for children, especially those at risk.

2017

**Professional Development Commission Chair
Southern Early Childhood Association**

I served as chair of a commission that guides the professional development initiatives of the Southern Early Childhood Association.

**2016 to
2017**

**Research Agenda Advisory Committee
Mississippi Department of Education**

I served on a committee that serves in an advisory role to assist with the research efforts of the agency.

2015 to

Leadership Commission Chair

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I served as a site evaluator for this comprehensive statewide arts education program that uses the arts as a vehicle for promoting high-quality instruction and learning for students in all disciplines.

**2012 to
2013**

**President
Mississippi Early Childhood Association**

I served as the president of the association. In this position, I was responsible for implementing all programs of the association.

**2011 to
2013**

**Editorial Committee
Southern Early Childhood Association**

I served on the committee that provides direction for the association's publications including the peer-reviewed professional journal, *Dimensions of Early Childhood*.

**2012 to
2013**

Early Learning Guidelines Revision Task Force

I served on a task force for the Mississippi Department of Education to revise current Early Learning Guidelines and write Early Learning Standards in the area of creative expression.

**2002 & 2008 to
2012**

**Executive Board Member
Mississippi Early Childhood Association**

I have served as president-elect, 1st vice president, and child care licensure chair. I also assisted in the planning and implementation of regional education conferences.

2012

**Early Childhood Focus Group: Pre-Kindergarten Legislative
Funding Request**

I served on a focus group for the Mississippi Department of Education to assist in the design of a request for proposals for grant programs for school districts in Mississippi to implement pre-kindergarten programs.

2011

Race to the Top Professional Development Committee

I served on this committee making recommendations to improve the State's early childhood professional development system as part of the Race to the Top grant application.

**2010 to
2011**

**Conference Chair
Mississippi Early Childhood Association**

I served the association by leading the development and implementation of the Imagine conference, the association's annual conference.

**2008 to
2010**

**Conference Program Chair
Mississippi Early Childhood Association**

I served the association by developing the program for the association's annual conference.

UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE, AND DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES:

2018 to present	MSU – Meridian Division of Education Search Committee for Clinical Assistant Professor in Education Leadership
2018 to present	MSU College of Education Research Committee
2017 to present	MSU College of Education Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) Committee
2017 to present	MSU College of Education Graduate Coordinators Advisory Council
2017 to present	MSU College of Education Assessment Committee
2017 to present	MSU College of Education Teacher Education Council
2018	Mississippi State University University Committee on Courses and Curricula
2017 to 2018	MSU – Meridian Division of Education Search Committee for Division Head
2016 to present	MSU College of Education Office of Clinical/Field-Based Instruction, Licensure, and Outreach (OCFBI) Advisory Committee
2017	MSU – Meridian Campus Search Committee for Physician Assistant Program Director
2012 to 2016	USM Department of Child and Family Studies Child Development Emphasis Workgroup
2013 to 2014	USM College of Education and Psychology College Recruitment, Retention and Public Relations Committee
2012 to 2013	USM Department of Child and Family Studies Search Committee for Assistant Professor

CURRENT RESEARCH:

Innovative Approach to Meet the Needs of Working Professionals Through Blended Learning

Blended learning is an emerging approach to distance education that has gained increasing acceptance by faculty in higher education institutions. This study evaluates innovative twist on blended learning that empowers students to choose how they can best interact with instruction in a course utilizing technology in creative ways.

GRANTS SUBMITTED:

None at this time.

GRANTS FUNDED:

Mississippi Teacher Residency (2019). Mississippi Department of Education. Co-Principal Investigator with Brandi Sumrall. \$589,389.

Stand By You (2018). Women's Foundation of Mississippi. Co-principal Investigator with Dr. Ksenia Zhbanova. \$30,000.

Graduate Recruitment Assistance Grant (2016). Mississippi State University. Submitted by: Dr. Kimberly R. Hall, Counselor Education; Dr. Lindon Ratliff, Secondary Education; Dr. Mark Fincher, Community College Education; Jeffrey Leffler, Elementary Education. \$10,000.

Increasing Retention and Graduation Rates through the Provision of Child Care Services to Low-Income University Students (2016). United States Department of Education. Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Angel Herring. \$288,840.

Playground Enhancement at the Center for Child Development (2015). The University of Southern Mississippi Foundation. Principal Investigator. \$10,000.

Increasing Retention and Graduation Rates through the Provision of Child Care Services to Low-Income University Students (2015). United States Department of Education. Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Angel Herring. \$288,840.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (2015). United States Department of Agriculture. Principal Investigator. \$45,000.

Increasing Retention and Graduation Rates through the Provision of Child Care Services to Low-Income University Students (2014). United States Department of Education. Co-Principal Investigator with Angel Herring. \$288,840.

EYN Early Childhood Conferences (2014). Mississippi Department of Human Services. Principal Investigator. \$78,118.

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EYN TTA Credential (2014). Mississippi Department of Human Services. Principal Investigator. \$52,874.

Early Intervention for First Steps at the Center for Child Development (2014). Mississippi State Department of Health, First Steps Early Intervention. Principal Investigator. \$10,000.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (2014). United States Department of Agriculture. Principal Investigator. \$38,000.

Early Years Network Partnership (2014). Mississippi Department of Human Services. Principal Investigator. \$108,091.

Early Intervention for First Steps at the Center for Child Development (2013). Mississippi State Department of Health, First Steps Early Intervention. Principal Investigator. \$17,000.

Increasing Retention and Graduation Rates through the Provision of Child Care Services to Low-Income University Students (2013). United States Department of Education. Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Angel Herring. \$288,840.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (2013). United States Department of Agriculture. Principal Investigator. \$47,000.

Early Childhood Conferences (2013). Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Early Childhood Care and Development. Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Gail Lindsey of Mississippi State University. \$217,375 (\$33,845 subcontracted to the University of Southern Mississippi).

Proposal Development Grant (2013). University of Southern Mississippi. Co-Investigator with Dr. Angel Herring. \$2,000.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (2012). United States Department of Agriculture. Principal Investigator. \$28,500.

Child Care Access Means Parents in School (2012). United States Department of Education. Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Angel Herring. \$155,720.

Early Childhood Conferences (2012). Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Early Childhood Care and Development. Co-Principal Investigator with Lynn Darling of Mississippi State University. \$205,746 (\$25,202 subcontract to the University of Southern Mississippi).

Child Care Access Means Parents in School (2011). United States Department of Education. Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Angel Herring. \$155,740.

Child and Adult Care Food Program (2011). United States Department of Agriculture. Principal Investigator. \$38,000.

Early Childhood Conferences (2011). Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Early Childhood Care and Development. Principal Investigator. \$175,304.

Bridges to Quality: The Mississippi Early Childhood Professional Development Project (2010). United States Department of Education. Co-Investigator with Elizabeth F. Shores (proposal written by Elizabeth F. Shores). \$750,000.

CDA as a First Step (2010). Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Early Childhood Care and Development. Co-Investigator with Monnie Vail. \$150,000.

CDA as a First Step (2009). Mississippi Department of Human Services, Office of Children and Youth. Co-Investigator with Monnie Vail. \$250,000.

Sanctuary Construction (2005). Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund. Principal Investigator. \$40,000.

GRANTS NOT FUNDED:

Graduate Recruitment Assistance Grant (2017). Mississippi State University. Submitted by: Dr. Kimberly R. Hall, Interim Division Head; Dr. Jeffrey Leffler, Elementary Education; Dr. Lindon Ratliff, Secondary Education; Dr. Mark Fincher, Community College Education; Dr. Penny Wallin, Educational Leadership. \$10,000.

21st Century Learning Center Grant (2017). Mississippi Department of Education. Submitted by: Dr. Jeffrey Leffler and Dr. Ksenia Zhbanova. \$700,000.

Planning Our Path to Success (2015). United States Department of Health and Human Services. Co-Principal Investigator with Angel Herring and Amanda Williams. \$4,903,687.

Jump Start (2015). United Way of South Mississippi. Co-Principal Investigator with Angel Herring. \$100,000.

Center Based Training and Technical Assistance (2013). United Way of South Mississippi. Co-Principal Investigator with Angel Herring. \$144,002.

Professional Development Programs (2012). Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Early Childhood Care and Development. \$892,569.

On-Site Technical Assistance Programs (2012). Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Early Childhood Care and Development. \$446,882.

Professional Development Programs (2011). Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Early Childhood Care and Development. \$890,000.

Chapel Construction (2005). Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund. \$200,000.

REFEREED PUBLICATION:

August 2019

- Leffler, J., Suddeath, E., Cruse, T. D., & Hall, K. R. (Book chapter manuscript under revision for the *Handbook of Research on Adult Learning*). Working professionals and blended learning.
- Leffler, J., & Zhbanova, K., Sibley, B., Floyd, A., & Brown, T. (Manuscript under revision for the *Journal of Research Initiatives*). Changing kindergarten readiness perspectives in the rural South.
- Young, K. C., & Leffler, J. (Manuscript submitted to *Dimensions of Early Childhood*). Will personal engagement in play affect the perceived stress scores of early educators?
- Herring, A., Parker, J.C., & Leffler, J. (Manuscript in Progress). Determining the best quality initiative to pursue for your program.
- Leffler, J., & Zhbanova, K. (Manuscript in Progress). Impact of Common Core State Standards on kindergarten teachers' instructional practices.
- Leffler, J., & Brenner, D. (Manuscript in Progress). School readiness perceptions of parents, pre-kindergarten teachers, and kindergarten teachers.
- Zhbanova, K., Leffler, J. & Rule, A. C. (in press). Attitude analysis of child-constructed scenes depicting human interactions with unpopular nonhuman animals. *Society & Animals*.
- Parker, J.C., Herring, A., Leffler, J. & Hallberg, C. (2014). Creating a community classroom: Strategies to promote inclusion and reduce bullying- A focus on anti-bullying in early childhood. *Journal of Human Sciences and Extension*, 2(3), 79-86.
- Leffler, J. (2012). Extend these ideas with books: Connect story-reading strategies with a children's book [Review of the book *A Sick Day for Amos McGee*]. *Dimensions of Early Childhood*.
- Leffler, J.L. & Harper, S. L. (2011). The impact of teacher quality on preschoolers' mathematics and literacy achievement. *The Field Experience Journal*, 7, 15-32.
- Leffler, J. & Eddowes, E. A. (2010). Books for early childhood educators [Review of the book *Getting it right for young children of diverse backgrounds: Applying research to improve practice*]. *Dimensions of Early Childhood*, 38(3),39.

VIDEO:

- Shores, E.F. (Producer) & Leffler, J.L. (Associate Producer). (2011). *Quick peeks at good practice: Video visits to Mississippi early childhood classrooms* [Video series]. Mississippi State, MS: Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute.

BOOKS, REPORTS AND OTHER WRITING:

- Leffler, J. (2018). SECA moves forward with new strategic plan. *Dimensions of Early Childhood*, 46(3), 5.

- Whitener, C., Bush, K., & Leffler, J. (2018). *Arts integration for young children: A position statement of the Southern Early Childhood Association (2nd Ed.)*. Little Rock, AR: Southern Early Childhood Association.
- Leffler, J. (Ed.) (2018, August). *KIDS COUNT in the SECA states 2018*. Little Rock, AR: Southern Early Childhood Association.
- Leffler, J. (Ed.) (2016, July). *The leadership letter*, 10(4). Southern Early Childhood Association.
- Leffler, J. & Daily, A. (Eds.) (2016, May). *The leadership letter*, 10(3). Southern Early Childhood Association.
- Leffler, J., Lindsey, G. & Prince, D. (2014). *Early Childhood Conferences, 2012-2013: Final Report*. Mississippi State, MS: Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute.
- Leffler, J. (2011). *Quick peeks at good practice: Video visits to Mississippi early childhood classrooms; User's guide*. Mississippi State, MS: Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute.
- Shores, E.F., Deng, S., Leffler, J., Thomas, J. & Howard, E. (2011). *Partners for Quality Child Care: 2006-2011*. Mississippi State, MS: Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute.
- Leffler, J. L., & Shores, E. F. (2011). *Education options for early childhood careers in Mississippi* [Brochure]. Mississippi State, MS: Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute.
- Leffler, J. & Watson, J.C. (2011). *ERS data study*. Mississippi State, MS: Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute.
- Leffler, J. (2010, July). Quality Early Childhood Math & Literacy Instruction. *MSECA Connections*.
- Vail, M., Leffler, J., Shores, E.F. & Howard, E. (2010). *The Mississippi Child Development Associate Scholarship Program, 2008-2009: Final Report*. Mississippi State, MS: Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute.
- Vail, M., Leffler, J., Shores, E.F. & Howard, E. (2010). *The Mississippi Child Development Associate Scholarship Program, 2007-2008: Final Report*. Mississippi State, MS: Mississippi State University Early Childhood Institute.
- Leffler, J., Leffler, K., Gardner, R. & Breland, J. (2005). *Zoe Kids: A Children's Church Curriculum for Elementary Kids (Vol. 2)*. Hattiesburg, MS: Zoe Kids Ministries.
- Leffler, J., Leffler, K., Gardner, R. & Breland, J. (2004). *Zoe Kids: A Children's Church Curriculum for Elementary Kids (Vol. 1)*. Hattiesburg, MS: Zoe Kids Ministries.

Gardner, R. & Leffler, J. (2003). *Blessed Kingdom Kids: Giving Lessons for Children's Church (Vol. 3)*. Hattiesburg, MS: Zoe Kids Ministries.

Gardner, R. & Leffler, J. (2003). *Blessed Kingdom Kids: Giving Lessons for Children's Church (Vol. 2)*. Hattiesburg, MS: Zoe Kids Ministries.

Gardner, R. & Leffler, J. (2003). *Blessed Kingdom Kids: Giving Lessons for Children's Church (Vol. 1)*. Hattiesburg, MS: Zoe Kids Ministries.

Mauroner, C. & Leffler, J. (2003). *Beginning and Ending with a Bang: Games for Children's Ministry*. Hattiesburg, MS: Zoe Kids Ministries.

REFEREED AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS:

Leffler, J., Grace, C. & Simmons, G. (2019, February). SECA Leadership Forum. Invited presentation at the Southern Early Childhood Association Annual Conference. Orlando, Florida.

Leffler, J. (2018, April). Professional Advancement Network for Teacher Assistants. National Field Experience Conference. Greeley, Colorado.

Wolff, K., Bales, D., Leffler, J. & Cortez, M. (2018, March). Are You an Author? Invited workshop at the Southern Early Childhood Association Annual Conference. Lexington, Kentucky.

Melendez, W., Creech, F., Leffler, J. & Cortez, M. (2018, March). Reviewing for *Dimensions*. Invited workshop at the Southern Early Childhood Association Annual Conference. Lexington, Kentucky.

Leffler, J. (2018, March). SECA Leadership Forum. Invited presentation at the Southern Early Childhood Association Annual Conference. Lexington, Kentucky.

Leffler, J. (2018, January). Play-based Literacy Instruction. Invited workshop at the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools Preschool Seminar. Jackson, Mississippi.

Leffler, J. (2018, January). Play-based Literacy Instruction. Invited workshop at the Jackson Association for Children Under Six conference. Jackson, Mississippi.

Leffler, J. (2017, November). Defining Readiness: How Has the Standards Movement Impacted Perspectives on Kindergarten Readiness. Poster presentation at the National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference. Atlanta, Georgia.

Leffler, J., Harris, T., & Young, K. (2017, October). Play it Smart. Invited keynote presentation at the Imagine Conference. Jackson, Mississippi.

Leffler, J. (2017, October). MsECA Leadership Symposium. Invited pre-conference seminar at the Imagine Conference. Jackson, Mississippi.

- Leffler, J. (2017, June). Relationships: The Context for Learning. Invited workshop at the Mississippi Early Childhood Association Regional Conference. Oxford, Mississippi.
- Leffler, J. (2017, June). Understanding Children's Behaviors. Invited keynote presentation at the Mississippi Early Childhood Association Regional Conference. Oxford, Mississippi.
- Leffler, J. (2017, March). Leadership Summit. Presented at the Southern Early Childhood Association Conference. Biloxi, Mississippi.
- Leffler, J. (2017, March). Supporting Early Literacy Behaviors in the Early Childhood Classroom. Presented at the LiftEd Innovation in Literacy Conference. Jackson, Mississippi.
- Leffler, J. (2016, November). Are Your Children Ready? Featured session presented at the Jackson Association on Children Under Six Lunch and Learn. Jackson, Mississippi.
- Leffler, J. (2016, September). Jazzing Up Relationships. Featured session presented at the Georgia Association on Young Children Annual Conference. Lawrenceville, Georgia.
- Leffler, J. (2016, September). Getting Ready for Kindergarten. Georgia Association on Young Children Annual Conference. Lawrenceville, Georgia.
- Leffler, J. (2016, June). Supporting Emergent Literacy and Early Literacy Behaviors in the Preschool Classroom. NAEYC's National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development. Baltimore, Maryland.
- Leffler, J. & Herring, A. (2015, November). Early Childhood Education: Stakeholders' Perspectives about Kindergarten Readiness. National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference. Orlando, Florida.
- Leffler, J. (2015, June). Relationships: The Heart of Healthy Development. Invited keynote presented at the Blast Off Conference. Oxford, Mississippi.
- Leffler, J. (2014, January). Ten Essential Skills for Every Leader. Presented at the Southern Early Childhood Association Annual Conference. Williamsburg, Virginia.
- Leffler, J. & Darling, L. (2012, October). Early Learning Standards/ Common Core State Standards Overview. Presented for the Stone County Excel by 5 Coalition meeting. Perkinston, Mississippi.
- Herring, A., Leffler, J., Pegues, B., Burgess, A., & Brookes, S. (2012, June). The Tale of the Hercules Beetle. Paper presented at the National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development, Indianapolis, IN.
- Leffler, J. (2012, February). Inviting Parents and Children to the Literacy Club. Presented at the Southern Early Childhood Association Annual Conference. San Antonio, Texas.

Leffler, J. (2011, July). Inviting Parents and Children to the Literacy Club. Presented at the Rankin County Child Care Directors Association Annual Conference. Brandon, Mississippi.

Leffler, J. (2011, July). Seven Things Anyone Can Do to Improve Their Leadership. Presented at the Pine Belt Directors Association Annual Conference. Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Leffler, J. (2008, October). Physical Environment: Tips to Improve your ECERS-R Scores. Presented at the Mississippi Early Childhood Association Annual Conference. Jackson, Mississippi.

HONORS & AWARDS:

- 2017 Nomination to run for president of the Southern Early Childhood Association.
- 2017 Education Policy Fellow with the John C. Stennis Institute of Government. Participation in this Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP) was awarded through a competitive process.
- 2016 Hardin Scholar with the Graduate Center for the Study of Early Learning at the University of Mississippi. Participation in this three-year program for early childhood higher education faculty was awarded through a competitive process.
- 2014 MsECA Award by the Mississippi Early Childhood Association for the significant contributions to the education and welfare of young children. This is the state association's highest award.
- 2013 Quality Award by the College of Education and Psychology at the University of Southern Mississippi for leading the Center for Child Development in earning the 5-star (out of 5) rating with the Mississippi Child Care Quality Step System.
- 2010 Member of Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society by election of the chapter at Mississippi State University.
- 2010 Hannah Meadors Scholarship for graduate studies in early childhood education awarded by the Mississippi Early Childhood Association.
- 2009 ETS Recognition of Excellence, score on the *Praxis Series Principles of Learning and Teaching: Grades K-6* ranking within the top 15% of all test takers who took the assessment in previous years.
- 2000 Bertha M. Fritzsche Scholarship, for outstanding graduate student in early intervention.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

Mississippi Association of Educators

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Mississippi Early Childhood Association

Mississippi Professional Educators

National Art Education Association

National Education Association

National Association for the Education of Young Children

Southern Early Childhood Association

REFERENCES:

Dr. Terry Dale Cruse (current supervisor)
Administrative Director and Head of Campus
Mississippi State University - Meridian
601-484-0220
tdcruse@meridian.msstate.edu

Dr. Kimberly Hall (current supervisor)
Professor and Head
Meridian Division of Education
Mississippi State University
662-484-0189
khall@meridian.msstate.edu

Dr. Gail Lindsey (former supervisor/colleague)
Director, Early Childhood Institute (former)
Clinical Assistant Professor (current)
Mississippi State University
662-325-3747
glindsey@colled.msstate.edu

Cheryl Mueller (former instructor/former supervisor)
Retired
601-520-3282
cherylemueller@gmail.com

Dr. Kathy Chase Young (former instructor/colleague)
Director of Children's Ministries
First Presbyterian Church, Hattiesburg
601-270-0668
kyoung@fpcpca.net