



The goal of PCTE is to support adult learners all the way through their training, from start to finish and that takes a team, working in sync. The following individuals are ready to support you on your journey to becoming a Montessori teacher or administrator.

Faculty and Staff



Lori Evans, B.S.

Lori Evans received a Bachelor of Science degree from King's College and holds American Montessori Society Infant/Toddler and Early Childhood credentials through Princeton Center for Teacher Education (PCTE). She currently serves as a primary and kindergarten teacher in Pennsylvania. Lori serves as an instructor and field consultant for PCTE at the IT and EC Level.



Christine Frost, M.A.

Christine Frost is an AMS certified Montessori teacher for the infant and toddler level and the early childhood level. Christine is a former Stepping Stones teacher at The Albrook School in Basking Ridge, NJ. She brings a varied background to her adult learners because of her many years of experience in both the primary and the toddler classroom and her world travels. Christine is an instructor in the PCTE Early Childhood and Infant/Toddler courses, and instructs at other AMS training centers.



Amy Gerstacker, M.A.

Amy received a BA in Psychology from Rutgers University, NJ and a Master of Arts in Teaching through The College of New Jersey, and holds an American Montessori Early Childhood credential through the Princeton Center for Teacher Education (PCTE), NJ. She is also a field consultant for PCTE.



Eliza Hammer, B.A.

Eliza Hammer received a B.A. in Architecture and Anthropology from Hampshire College in Amherst Mass. She holds an American Montessori Society Elementary I Childhood credential through Princeton Center Teacher Education. Eliza is a certified Yoga teacher through Kripalu and a certified Tai Chi instructor through The Tai Chi for Health Institute and Dr. Lam.

At Princeton Montessori school she has taught in the fitness program, Afterschool program, Lower Elementary, as well as, ecology in Upper Elementary and Middle School programs.



Teresa Hartmann, M.A.

Teresa Hartmann holds a BA in Psychology and Communications from Rutgers University, NJ, an MA in Psychology from the New School for Social Research, NY, and an American Montessori Society Early Childhood credential through Princeton Center Teacher Education. She has worked in the corporate, psychology and medical fields. She is an active PCTE Early Childhood Instructor.



Huma Kazmi, B.A.

Huma Kazmi received a BS degree in Chemistry with honors from the University of London, England. Prior to education, she worked in Business Development and Marketing. She earned an American Montessori Society credential in Elementary III and is an instructor, Elementary level coordinator and field consultant with Princeton Center Teacher Education. She has experience in both Lower and Upper Elementary classrooms.



Amy Krupa, B.S.

Amy received a BS in Business Administration from Rider University, NJ. She holds a level 1 & 2 1B Middle Years Program certification for Physical and Health Education and an American Montessori Society credential in Elementary 1 through the Princeton Center for Teacher Education. Amy is an active field consultant with PCTE.



Judy Laidlaw, B.A.

Judy Laidlaw is a certified AMS early childhood teacher. She recently retired from teaching at the Albrook School in the Early Childhood program. Judy has many years experience teaching in both public and private school settings in reading and the humanities. Judy teaches language, observation and art in the PCTE Early Childhood course.



Lyudmila Land, M.S, M.A.

Lyudmila received a Master of Science in Montessori Education from Barry University. She also has a Master of Language Arts from the Pedagogical University in Cheboksary, Russia. She is a certified AMS 6-12 Elementary teacher with over 25 yrs of teaching experience in public and private schools. Lyudmila is a Math instructor for the PCTE Elementary 6-9 course



Heidi Larson, M.Ed

Heidi received her Masters of Education from Xavier University. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Child Psychology from the University of Minnesota. Heidi holds an AMS Elementary 6-9 Credential. She currently teaches at Mercy Montessori Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. Heidi teaches Elementary 6-9 Language Arts for PCTE and is an active field consultant.



Judy Luman, M.Ed, Ed S

Judy holds an MS in Early Childhood Education from Barry University, Miami, Florida and a BS from Barry University in Business Management. She holds American Montessori Society credentials in EC and EL 6-12. Judy is the Director of Duhovka Montessori Teacher Education Program in Prague. Judy joins PCTE as an EL 6-9 Classroom Leadership and Child Development instructor.



Lisa L. Meisenbacher, B.A.

Lisa Meisenbacher received a BA in Italian Literature from Rutgers University, NJ, and holds an American Montessori Society credential in Infant/Toddler through the Princeton Center for Teacher Education (PCTE). She has twelve years experience as a toddler classroom guide at Princeton Montessori School. Lisa is the PCTE Programs

Coordinator, I/T Level Coordinator and Practicum Supervisor. Lisa is also an active field consultant and instructor for Princeton Center for Teacher Education.



Darla Ferris Miller, Ph.D.

Darla received a doctorate from University of Houston and holds American Montessori Society early childhood and infant and toddler credential(s) through Houston Montessori Center. She currently serves as a consultant, author, and instructor from Upland, California, USA, and enjoys painting, sculpting, and drawing. Darla joins PCTE as an Instructor for Child Development at the infant and toddler level.



Alex Mitnick, B.A.

Alex Mitnick graduated with honors with a BA in Jazz Guitar from The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA. He enjoys creating school musicals with the Elementary and Middle School students, composing songs in keeping with the annual school theme, and producing CD's with his Kaleidoscope Band. He presents to schools and teachers, and is an instructor for the Princeton Center for Teacher Education (PCTE).



Michelle Nowacky, M.S.

Michelle received a Master of Science degree from University of Pennsylvania. She completed her Infant-Toddler teacher training at PCTE and holds an AMS I-T credential. Michelle currently teaches at Greene Towne Montessori in Philadelphia. Michelle has been a valued field consultant for PCTE for many years. She has recently taken on the role of instructor for the Infant-Toddler Observation class.



Andrea O'Brian, B.F.A.

Andrea O'Brian is the HOS at Princeton Montessori School. Prior to joining Princeton Montessori in 2006, she spent several years working for an international management consultancy, and then founded her own graphic design company. Andrea has served on several reaccreditation teams and is the current Vice President of the New Jersey Montessori Association Corporation (NJMAC). Andrea holds a BFA in Graphic Design from The College of New Jersey, NJ and an American Montessori Society Administrator credential. She is a frequent presenter at local and national conferences and served as the Level Coordinator for the PCTE Administrator Course.



Dorothy Paul, M.Ed, Ed S

Dorothy received an Education Specialist (EdS) degree with a major in (Montessori) Early Childhood Education, and a Masters of Science with a major in (Montessori) Elementary Education, both from Barry University in Miami, Florida, and a BS in Nutrition from the University of Rhode Island. She holds American Montessori Society (AMS) Early Childhood credentials, from the Seton Institute (1990), an AMS Early Childhood Credential (2007) and an AMS Elementary I-II Credential (2005) both from Barry University. She holds a Professional Educator's Certificate from the State of Florida Department of Education for Pre-Kindergarten/Primary education, Elementary education and ESOL. Dorothy is the Director of PCTE as well as an Early Childhood course instructor and field consultant.



Sundari Rao, M.Ed

Sundari Rao received her Master of Education in Montessori from Xavier University, Ohio. Additionally, Sundari holds multiple credentials, including one with the American Montessori Society (Early Childhood) through the Princeton Center for Teacher Education and another with the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education through the North American Montessori Center. Sundari's dedication to education led her to establish the Union Village Montessori School in Berkeley Heights, NJ, where she currently serves as the Academic Director and Teacher for the Early Childhood program. Sundari has recently joined the Princeton Center for Teacher Education as a field consultant and instructor for the Early Childhood Practical Life training program.



Sue Saad, B.S.

Sue received a BS in Business Administration from Alexandria University, El-Shaatby, Egypt, and holds an American Montessori Society credential in Infant/Toddler through the Princeton Center for Teacher Education. She leads a toddler classroom at Princeton Montessori School and is a frequent parent workshop presenter. Prior to her work with Infants and Toddlers she was a teacher's aide for special needs children. Sue is an active field consultant and instructor for the PCTE Infant-Toddler training program



Jennifer Varbanov, M.Ed

Jennifer received a M.Ed in Montessori Integrated education from The Institute for Educational Studies at Endicott College and holds an American Montessori Society Early Childhood credential through Northeast Montessori Institute. She currently serves as the Academic Director of Bambini Montessori Barneha in Hamar, Norway. She enjoys hiking and the study of peace education. Jen joins PCTE as an Instructor for Practical Life and Cosmic Education at the Early Childhood level.



Yohko Yamawaki, M.Ed

Yohko received her Master of Education in Bilingual and Multicultural Education from Northern Arizona University and a BA in Graphic Design from Tama Art University in Tokyo, Japan. She completed her 3-6 Montessori Training at PCTE and holds an AMS Early Childhood Credential. Yohko is a former lead teacher at Albrook School in Basking Ridge, NJ. She also has years of experience teaching bilingual and multicultural education in public schools. Yohko divides her time between the US and Japan. She joins PCTE as a field consultant and instructor for EC Sensorial and Practical Life.