

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

**L.E.A.D**

(LEADERSHIP, EQUITY, ADVOCACY, DIVERSITY)

MAY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2020  
DoubleTree Hotel  
Somerset, NJ



Empowering New Jersey's  
Early Childhood Community

An Affiliate  
of **naeyc**<sup>®</sup>

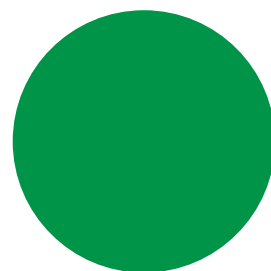
Leadership Institute

# L.E.A.D (Leadership, Equity, Advocacy, Diversity)

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## Schedule of Events

7:30 am–8:30 am	Registration/Exhibitors/Breakfast
8:30 am–8:45 am	Welcome
8:45 am–9:45 am	Keynote Presentation
9:45 am–10:00 am	Break
10:00 am–11:30 am	Session I Workshops
11:30 am–1:00 pm	Lunch/Business Meeting/Exhibits
1:15 pm–2:45 pm	Session II Workshops





## Keynote Speaker

# Zeynep Isik-Ercan

M.A., Ph.D. Professor of Early Childhood Education,  
Co-Director of Early Childhood Leadership Institute,  
Center for Access, Success, and Equity, Rowan University

Zeynep I. Ercan is a Professor of Early Childhood Education and the co-director of the Early Childhood Leadership Institute, a professional development and research institute at Rowan University, New Jersey. She teaches undergraduate early childhood education and doctoral qualitative research methods courses. Her research focuses on culturally and linguistically diverse children, teachers, families and communities, educational experiences of refugee and immigrant parents and children, best practices for culturally responsive teaching and intellectual development, professional development of educators and leaders. Zeynep is actively involved in local, national and global scale educational and social issues of our society by serving as a board member of CASA of NJ, and National Association for Early Childhood Teacher Educators, and as a volunteer of multiple non-profit, community and interfaith organizations. Zeynep's research has appeared in academic journals such as: *Young Children*, *Race, Ethnicity and Education*, *Childhood Education*, *International Journal of Science Education*, *Early Childhood Education Journal*, and *Diaspora, Indigenous and Minority Education Journal*. She is the recipient of 2014 The Indiana Early Care and Education Award, and 2017 Wall of Fame Award for Teaching/Advising at Rowan University.

### Keynote

#### *The Leader as the Advocate for Equity and Diversity in Early Childhood Systems.*

In this keynote speech, Dr. Ercan will introduce a framework and discuss action steps that leaders in early childhood programs and systems can integrate into their leadership to advocate for equity and diversity in early childhood programs, and systems.

## AM Workshops 10:00 am – 11:30 am

1. **Follow up with the keynote:** Take a deeper dive with Dr. Isik-Ercan into her topic of equity and diversity.

2. **Brave Conversations: Using Brené Brown's research as a framework to begin and continue conversations about culture, equity, diversity, and bias.** - Nagwa Elsamra, MSW, Senior Technical Assistance Specialist, Grow NJ Kids Technical Assistance Center-Northern Region; - Central Jersey Family Health Consortium; Lori Harrje, M.S. Ed, Technical Assistance Specialist/Project Lead, Grow NJ Kids Technical Assistance Center-Northern Region, Central Jersey Family Health Consortium

Join us to learn how colleagues at the Grow NJ Kids Technical Assistance Center - Northern Region are intentionally exploring ways to respectfully engage in brave conversations about differences, similarities, equity, and bias. Discover what we've learned and continue to learn as we process how easily words and actions can lead to unintended hurt and misunderstanding, how challenging it can feel to admit ignorance (lack of knowledge or information), and how important it is to practice cultural humility.

Explore how we continue to reflectively navigate this landscape in order to grow in our ability to have brave conversations, striving to communicate with both clarity and kindness. Learn how this deep work has changed us and allows us to assist other early childhood professionals to grow in their own understanding of the importance of brave conversations and helpful techniques to start dialogues.

3. **Preparing for Preschool Expansion in New Jersey:** Beth Gardiner, ECE Technical Assistance Specialist, Kate Hodges, Research Project Coordinator, National Institute for Early Education Research and Representative from the NJ Department of Education, Division of Early Childhood Education

This session will provide an overview of state preschool expansion efforts in New Jersey and review strategies to prepare for expansion in your community. We will highlight the benefits of this high-quality preschool program and the proven effectiveness of local collaborations to expand programs in additional high-need communities throughout New Jersey. Learn what you can do now to prepare for future preschool expansion opportunities.

4. **Advocacy 101: Finding Your Voice!** Hannah Korn-Heilner, MSW, Outreach Coordinator, Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ)

Child care providers provide an essential service to our children and families every day, but few lawmakers know and understand the daily challenges they face in providing that care. Their silence can lead to policies that are not in the best interest of their programs, their families, and of course, the children! This workshop will provide an overview of the Who, What, and How of advocacy. At the end, participants will have the skills to be more comfortable in advocating for themselves, their profession, and the children they serve.

## PM Workshops 1:15 pm – 2:45 pm

- 5. The courage to LEAD: The critical need for leadership, equity, advocacy and diversity in early childhood education.** - *Michael D. Hannon, PhD, LAC(NJ) Assistant Professor of Counseling at Montclair State University and co-founder of GETAC (Greater Expectations Teaching & Advocacy Center)*

Join us for this workshop to engage in courageous conversation, critical reflection and action planning to reaffirm our commitment to transformational leadership, the pursuit of equity, consistent advocacy, and valuing diversity for the youngest of our students!

- 6. Director's Roundtable** – *Meghan Tavormina, Director, The Learning Path, Chatham; President NJAEYC*

Join fellow Directors from around the state to share and discuss current issues effecting early childhood education. Hear ideas and tactics that centers are using and offer suggestions that you have implemented. This session is an opportunity to network and learn from Directors with a diverse background of experience and viewpoints. This information sharing session will be driven by the attendees. In addition topics such as Power to the Profession, New Jersey advocacy opportunities and Equity and Diversity may be introduced.

- 7. Advocacy 201: Making Room at the Table for Child Care** - *Hannah Korn-Heilner, MSW, Outreach Coordinator, Advocates for Children of New Jersey (ACNJ)*

Today, there are so many issues affecting child care providers - low wages, preschool expansion, the minimum wage increase, and the overall child care subsidy system, that are all impacting the day to day operations of this critical system of education and care of young children. When it comes to these issues, child care providers should be at the table, educating policymakers and recommending change. But, that doesn't happen often enough! This workshop will provide participants with the nuts-and-bolts of effective advocacy strategies including how to write testimony, invite your legislators to visit your center, and write a persuasive letter to policymakers so that they will be included at the table and their opinions heard!

- 8. ACES and Trauma Informed Care in Work with Young Children and Their Families** - *Dayna Zatina Egan, Psy.D., IMH-E® Infant Mental Health Mentor - Clinical Director, YCS Institute and Dr. Helen May Strauss Clinics YCS Institute for Infant and Preschool Mental Health*

The presentation will explore the following: What is stress and the difference between appropriate stress and toxic stress, what trauma is and its impact in young children, and lifelong health, and how all of this is exhibited in young children. The importance of being stress/trauma informed in our work with young children and their families will also be discussed.

# REGISTRATION

Registration Fee for registrations received by May 1st

After May 1st an additional \$25 will be charged

NJAEYC Members (Standard and Premium levels): \$99

NJAEYC Entry Level Members: \$119

Non-members: \$139

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Congressional District: \_\_\_\_\_

Don't know click here to find out <https://njaeyc.org/voter-voice/>

Workshop Choices:

AM 1st Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd choice \_\_\_\_\_

PM 1st Choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd choice \_\_\_\_\_

*Breakfast and lunch are included*

You can register and pay online at [www.njaeyc.org](http://www.njaeyc.org) or by mail to:

NJAEYC

PO Box 1024

Barnegat Light, NJ 08006

For more information, you can call 732-329-0033 or [mail@njaeyc.org](mailto:mail@njaeyc.org)



New Jersey Association for the  
Education of Young Children

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