



**Dr. Leslie LaVergne** is the Emphasis Area Director of Wellness Programs at the Institute for Disability Studies housed within The University of Southern Mississippi. In this role, she oversees projects related to physical, mental and overall wellness of children and families with special health care needs. Further, she provides families with health education and in obtaining services and resources for children from state and private agencies.

As Mississippi's Ambassador to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Learn the Signs. Act Early Program, Dr. LaVergne provides trainings statewide to increase awareness and education in early identification of children at-risk for developmental delays.

Dr. LaVergne received a Master of Science in Counseling and Art Therapy from Eastern Virginia Medical School and a Ph.D. in Special Education from The University of Southern Mississippi. She is the co-author of numerous professional publications and continues to conduct research related to family support.