

WECAN TEACHER EDUCATION REPORT

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Many of our Early Childhood Teacher Education Institute leaders were present at the Goetheanum in April, when 1,175 Waldorf early childhood teachers, teacher trainers, and other professionals worldwide gathered to take up the topic of the teacher's inner life. This enriching conference, populated by colleagues of all ages and hosted by IASWECE (International Association for Steiner Waldorf Early Childhood Education), also emphasized welcoming the future into our current times.

At our last North American Teacher Education Institute online meeting in April, alongside a rich presentation on offerings for assistants, we shared reports from the conference and agreed to keep the ongoing question of how we continue to awaken our consciousness to what the future is asking of Waldorf teacher educators alive.

Also, many early childhood educator trainers have found support and encouragement in meeting the needs of today's students through conversations and presentations at the international ITEF (International Teacher Educators Forum) meetings and the IASWECE Teacher Trainers Network meetings. It is inspiring to consider the ways we can continue to support one another as a global community of practice.

The North American EC educator training institutes will continue to meet monthly from September to May next year to share knowledge and conversation, and WECAN's Teacher Education Committee meets regularly to support our institute membership. These are rhythmical, dedicated moments that keep us all awake to the changing face of teacher education.

Three site visits are planned for WECAN member teacher training institutes over the next three months. We extend our congratulations on the thorough self-studies currently underway and our deep gratitude for the skill and discernment of our WECAN site visitors.

In closing, it is important to say once again how deeply appreciative and admiring I am of the creativity and perseverance of our member institute's early childhood educators. They have risen to the challenges of recent years, working with dedication to offer their students the best possible training opportunities. They have also remained open to transforming their programs in response to the evolving needs of our time, as we all continue to meet what can be felt as "the winds of change."