

WECAN Teacher Education Report

Ruth Ker, WECAN Teacher Education Coordinator

Another successful summer of teacher training has happened for many of our institutes, as students from all over North America engage in studies in anthroposophy and Waldorf early childhood education. Each institute has its own unique way of offering its early childhood trainings, but all member institutes are striving to meet the minimum WECAN expectations of a 450-hour offering. For example, teacher educators will continue this fall as each institute finds the best way to meet the needs of their students with both online and in-person options.

Our Shared Principles provide guidelines for each of our 14 member EC institutes, while allowing for a variety of place-based and unique cultures. [WECAN Shared Principles for Early Childhood Teacher Education 2023](#)

This past summer, one of our WECAN institute site visitors, Andrea Gambardella, experienced this diversity that happens with our institutes when she visited Rudolf Steiner College Canada and Centro de Desarrollo Antroposofico in Mexico – two diverse cultures, one in Canada and the other in Mexico, each accomplishing remarkable things to address the needs of their particular clientele. In the year ahead, WECAN has plans to visit at least six of its members.

The past year has also seen some growth in the development of new initiatives. WECAN's Teacher Education Committee and I, as the Teacher Education Co-ordinator, have been accompanying these colleagues as they forge a path to membership, deepening their teacher training practices. These periods of self-study are essential opportunities for introspection, deepened conversations, and renewal for our institutes. I look forward to sharing more about the progress of these institutes as the year progresses.

In closing, I am full of gratitude and admiration for the creativity and perseverance of our member institute's early childhood educators. They have risen to the challenge of numerous obstacles over the past few years to provide their students with the best possible training alternatives. They are also in a position to transform their offerings to suit the modern impulses as we all embrace "the wings of change"

Warmly,
Ruth Ker