

## **WECAN I.D.E.A Update**

Lynn Turner & Leslie Wetzonis Woolverton, WECAN I.D.E.A Coordinators

Greetings WECAN Community,

Our summer work has been overflowing! In June, on both of our behalf, Leslie attended and participated in the Birth to Three Conference in Dornach sponsored by the medical section (more to come in the Birth to Three E-News Update section). As WECAN began the process of an Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access self-audit, much was needed to review existing documents and systems. Leslie and I are delighted to share how grateful we are to all who responded to the survey request sent by Susan Howard. Your shared reflections are, and continue to be an important voice as we strive to identify essential areas to deepen our work together. We are also so grateful to work with our talented colleagues in Alma Partners, in this audit process.

Now as summer moves into fall, we find ourselves meeting the moment which shapes and forms a brand new school year. We carry the bounty and abundance of summer, reflecting on life at its fullest alongside our own inner renewal. By holding onto those moments, we gain strength and courage to prepare and guide us towards winter. We continue to do the potent work of centering inclusion, diversity, equity and access as we strive to build and create meaningful and compassionate communities together. This time for courage continues to echo and center our joy and commitment through every aspect of our Waldorf early childhood curriculum.

As part of our work this fall, Leslie and I are developing I.D.E.A. resources that will soon become available to HUB colleagues and educators. Our first zoom event this fall took place on September 27, 2022. The topic focused on fall festivals and all ways that celebrate cultures, festivals, welcoming nature and supporting colleagues eager to bring this work into their classrooms. There will be several upcoming virtual events before December, we hope many of you will be able to attend. Our next event will be on October 26th from 7:30 pm-8:30 pm EST. This event will be one of four that welcomes colleagues, administrators, and school DEI committee members centering this work for their schools and communities. All are welcome to attend these events.

It may be hard to believe but the February WECAN Conference planning is well under way! We are working in collaboration with many other WECAN colleagues in preparation for this in person event. It is so exciting to think we will be together, to see old friends and meet new friends after such a long time of being virtual and away. Save the dates have been sent and we hope many of you will be able to attend and begin to make travel plans. We are excited to hold our Post Listening Space in person on Sunday. Again, all are welcome to this planned final conference event.

We also are delighted in welcoming four new colleagues to the I.D.E.A Committee this fall. Leslie and I, alongside the committee members you have come to know, welcome Hellene Brodsky, Andrea Daney, Aimee de Ney, Chinyelu Kunz and Chimay Posavec. Their ongoing commitment, colleagueship, and dedication for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access and of WECAN will continue to strengthen our work. We are saddened to say goodbye to Gina Burger, Adrienne Doucette, Juliana Pinto McKeen and Jimena Salazar. We have worked steadfastly together and are very grateful for their insights and contributions to this work over the last two years. Always, they will carry the work forward.

Continue to check the WECAN Community HUB for additional resources, recordings and updates on many of our activities. Thank you to all those who have been able to attend and/or review the available recordings. Our future events will keep conversations open to this blossoming and growing initiative.

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We both look forward to continuing our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work into the 2022-2023 school year! Please email us both to connect with us further with topics you would like us to address and cover. May you find strength with the questions you continue to carry. Love to all and a joyful new school year!

Sincerely,

*Lynn & Leslie*

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