



Erikson Institute

Commencement Ceremony

Monday, May 10, 2021

6-7:30 p.m.

Order of Exercises

Pre-event Slideshow of Graduates

Message from Alumni Affairs

Samantha Decker, Manager of Institutional Advancement

Welcome from the Erikson Board of Trustees

Elenne Song, Board Chair

Message from the Interim President

Patricia Lawson, Interim President and Chief Financial Officer

Message from Academic Leadership

Pamela Epley, PhD, Interim Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs
and Dean of Faculty

Commencement Keynote Address

Jamilah R. Jor'dan, PhD, Executive Director, Illinois Governor's Office of Early
Childhood Development

Student Commencement Speakers

Enid Hopkins, Master of Science in Early Childhood Education, '20
Marilyn Barnes, Master of Social Work, '21

Presentation of Candidates for the Graduate Degrees

Master of Science in Child Development

Amanda Moreno, PhD, Associate Professor and Director, Child Development Program

Master of Science in Early Childhood Education

Gillian McNamee, PhD, Professor and Director, Teacher Education Program
Samina Hadi-Tabassum, EdD, Clinical Associate Professor, Director, Online Early Childhood Education Program, and Director, Child Life Program

Master of Social Work

Cassandra McKay-Jackson, PhD, Associate Professor and Director, Social Work Program

Presentation of Doctoral Degree

Gillian McNamee, PhD, Professor and Director, Teacher Education Program and Dissertation Chair for Lauren Solarski

Conferral of Graduate Degrees and Congratulations

Pamela Epley, PhD, Interim Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty

Close

Erikson Institute Class of 2020

Master of Science in Child Development

Jennifer P. Baquedano
Lucy Pearl Behn
Molly Briody
Krislyn Lillie Brown
Cinthya Covarrubias
Kathryn Alice Culleeny
Brooke Davis
Tricia Lynn Figueroa
Sarah Catherine Gerali
Erin Marie Glueck
Tiffany Joy Gorman
Chelsea Gourley
Brianna Joann Hyde
Angela Christine Hyland
Gladys Ijelu
Abigail Wray Kordell
Lauren Timmins Lansdale
Gina Angeline Madonia
Stephanie Rae Marder
Sophie Irena Marwil
Carolyn Mathews
Mary Helen McQuillan
Janine Patricia Miehke
Andrea De Los Angeles Muniz
Anna Olin
Jennifer K. Owen
Samuel Quinn Passey
Hailey Patricia Plote
Jessica Mishiel Price
Olivia Saillen
Hille Jeann Sennott
Ellen Clarissa Vokes
Chelsea K. Weidner

Master of Science in Early Childhood Education

Anna E. Akers-Pecht
Norma Iris Amadeo-Hood
Yvette Melissa Atencio
Gabriela Benuto
Emily Bertrand
Randilyn Marjorie Bowling
Chrystal-Starr Brown
Victoria Rose Bynum
Rebecca Canastra
Shelley Diane Conover
Marlena Louise Constant
Amanda Amaris Cotto
Jennifer Janet Hughes Davies
Deeplaxmi Deshpande
Jolanta Dohrmann
Jessica Douglas
Anita Evans
Shannon Marie Faz
Evelyn Krupski Fisher
Margaret Fisher-Yellen
Julia Maria Flores
Ronald Anderson Grady
Jokotade A. Greenberg
Tasneem Griffin
Jheaniqua M. Harbin-Tate
Laverne Antionette Head
Adriana Hernandez
Sarah Nicole Hix
Enid Hopkins

Gabriela Jaime
Raymond Moses Jaramillo
Tammy Kresser
Nancy D. Lafreniere
Stephanie Michele Lawson
Jennifer Mary-Stoesz Lentz
Brynn E. McAndrew
Stephanie McShane
Olivia Joy Medlin
Joanna Crist Nummy
Meredyth Jaye Ohringer
Eva A. Paredes
Lauren Marie Peterson
Megan Sara Pritchard
Jessica Jordan Quinn
Vanessa Ramos
Jeanette Rodriguez
Rebecca Ruidl
Rachel Simon
Shavondra Stokes
Jillian Leigh Stolberg
Kathryn Suriano
Ashley Lauren Telman
Teresa Jean Waters
Emma Weitzel
Kiara Joy Williams
Susanne Wolter
Quiana N. Wooding
Janet Xue

Master of Social Work

Cristina Marie Ann Barkowski
Bridgitt Summer Buikema
Valerie Elizabeth Cifuentes
Lea Dugan
Katherine Ford
Miranda E. Gilligan
Alexandra Gonzalez
Amy Hagerstrom
Sabina Hanani
Erin Nicole Hurde
Melissa Anne Janisch
Elizabeth Keo
Katelyn Anne McCullough
Luecendia M. Reed
Laura Lee Rogalsky
Stefani Opal Scott
Lisa Trubow
Raven Marie Walker
Jessica Marie Werner
Samantha Wright

This program contains an unofficial list of the Erikson Institute Classes of 2020 and 2021. Erikson's official registry for conferral of degrees is the Registration and Student Records Office.

Erikson Institute Class of 2021

Master of Science in Child Development

Adrianna Genara Balmaseda
Jordan Rebecca Banks
Latoi Elizabeth Marie Bennett
Lanie Barbara Berk
Bailey Brandt
Kelsey Linn Browne
Rubi Carpio
Sarah Weintraub Diamond
Jesus Estrada
Leah N. Fotieo
Tessa Julianne Freedberg
Colin Funk
Cecilia Gonzalez
Mariah Symone Green
Dana Rachael Handler
Shanee LaFaye Hayes
Madeline Huekels
Janie Brie Kaess
Sydney Faith Martin
Erin McGrath
Erin Murphy
Johanna Grace Skoglund Nelson
Hanna Paradise
Olayemi Ponnle
Paulina Razo
Jacquelyn Reedy
Briana Anais Renteria
Raven Nicole Reyes
Alyssa Brynn Salzstein
Heidi K. Schauer
Kate Sharp
Carly Leah Silvers
Kristin L. Stewart
Jana Wagner
Hannah Elaine Wright

Master of Science in Early Childhood Education

Adejumoke Akinbusuyi
Heather Alton
Charlotte Deborah Anliker
Kaci Lillian Antkiewicz
Dalia R. Auerhahn
Renee August
Madeleine Baer
Audrey Barc
Karla Latrice Beard-Leroy
Melissa Lynn Brenner
Elizabeth Brodsky
Carolyn Carter
Genesis Imani Carter
Katherine Chambers
Ronald K. Cheng
Elizabeth Pearl Cohen
Josephine Gorman-Crockett
Sara Guadalupe Cruz
Bea Carmela Dalma-Gonzalez
Shameka Davis
BrookeLynne Dukes
Temisha Elliott
Carolyn A. Flowers
Latoria Franklin
Ashley Farrington Froman
Nicole Marie Gaa
Danielle Yvonne Galvan
Dani Glass
Erika Gray
Patrina Ann Gregory
Lisa Jane Guarnero
Shay Gurry
Shannon Elois Hall
Terek Darshon Hawkins

Jennifer Dee Hicks
Janet Holzman
Emily Hope
Jami Kai Huck
LaTanya D. Jackson
Lisa Janisch
Meghan Jensen
Tamara Collins Jessup
Lorraine S. Kimbrough Megan
Krauledis
Jessica Krueger
Kourtney Kurps
Aija Larry
Jennifer Pauli Liberman
Maureen K. Luze
Amanda Lee Mason
Lisa Megan Matuska
Naomi Claire Muskovin Sarah
Elizabeth Nelson Ivelyse
Padilla
Gladys Susana Paredes Silvia
Patterson
Alyssa Pennington
Joanna M. Philley
Dyneisha Pierce
Nina D. Powell
Griselda Ramos
Lydia Angelica Reaves
Alexandra Schwartz
Rachel Sherman
Anna Shkolnikov
Stephanie Marie Snow-Myron
Danya Browner Snyder
Amanda J. Speck
Antonia Therrasant

Jamie Thomas
Eva Ursula Volin
Kimberly Young Wadsworth
Claire M. Weinstein
Kirsty West
Jaclyn Wiseman
Zoe Z. Wolfe

Master of Social Work

Marilyn Angelina Barnes
Kenzie Paige Berggren
Lauren G. Brun
Lorine Elizabeth Carlson
Giselle Castellucci
Silvia Aimee Castillo
Anna Chu
Stephanie Staszak Cohen
Virlyn Collantes
Raquel d'Escoto
Karen Lynn Davidson
Lynnare Deutsch-Ortiz
Emily Ruth Francis
Melina Hernandez
Tamyra Amanda Hickman
Sarah Rae Jacobs
Julia Elizabeth Jones
Jessica Kristen Kubiak
Nicole Marie Leonard
Kathryn C. Lorenger
Roniquee Marksman
Madeline Martinez
Spencer Mays
Kathleen McCarty
Kathleen Mary McCormick
Gabby Mendez

Continued

Master of Social Work, continued

Catherine Diana Milliken
Jennifer Tucker Nelson
Olivia Onesti
Ella Petersen
Anne Powers
Lauren Reinstein
Valeria Rodriguez

Claudia Meyer Rozenberg
Ellie Kristi Schendzielos
Judith Stewart
Rebecca Tupuritis
La Keisha S. Vereen
Madelyn Warner
Christianna Louis Weiss

Doctorate in Child Development

Lauren Solarski
Chair: Dr. Gillian McNamee

Dissertation: “Clarifying Coaching: A Mixed Methods Analysis of a Math Content-Focused Model and Its Impact on Teachers’ Practice, Content Knowledge, and Dispositions.”

A Message of Thanks to our Scholarship Donors

Thanks to generous philanthropic support, Erikson Institute **awards over \$2 million in scholarships and grants each year.** We humbly thank **Crown Family Philanthropies, the Irving Harris Foundation, Mrs. Marjorie Pelino, Cari and Michael J. Sacks, The John and Kathleen Schreiber Foundation,** and the **anonymous donors** whose commitment to investing in the future of early childhood care and education made an Erikson education possible for our 2020 and 2021 graduates.

Keynote Speaker

Jamilah R. Jor'dan, PhD

Executive Director, Illinois Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development



Jamilah R. Jor'dan, PhD is a graduate of Erikson Institute (MEd, '93) and serves as the Executive Director of the Illinois Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (GOECD). In this role, she supports the development and implementation of early childhood policy across multiple state agencies. Dr. Jor'dan has over 35 years of experience in the field of early care and education, and has served in various leadership and service positions.

Dr. Jor'dan started her career in Head Start as an Assistant Executive Director. She has served as the Accreditation Project Director and Interim Executive Director of the Chicago Metropolitan Association for the Education of Young Children (Chicago Metro AEYC). Dr. Jor'dan was President of the Partnership for Quality Child Care, a \$16 million public/private partnership that supported a city-wide accreditation facilitation initiative in Chicago that provided assistance to both center-based and family childcare providers. During this time, Chicago achieved national recognition for the largest number of early childhood programs serving children and families in Chicago's lower-income communities that attained accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Dr. Jor'dan is the past Vice-President of the governing board of NAEYC. She has served as a consultant for Strengthening Families Illinois through the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. She co-chaired the Family Specialist Credential Committee as part of Gateways to Opportunity, Illinois' Professional Development System that acknowledges contributions of professionals who provide responsive relationship-based services to families. She currently serves as Tri-Chair of Gateways Workforce Development and Pathways Committee.

In Memoriam

Christine Alexander, 1966–2020

Student, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Certificate Program



Christine Alexander, a student in Erikson’s Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) Certificate program, passed away in December 2020. Christine first became connected to Erikson through professional development, then joined the IECMH certificate program last fall. Sarah Martinez, Christine’s program director, noted “her big heart and excellent sense of humor left a lasting impression.” Christine was

committed to quality early childhood education and dedicated more than 30 years of her life to the field.

Impact of COVID-19 on the Erikson Community

Living through a pandemic has changed us all. We have lost family, friends, and community members to the deadly COVID-19 virus, which completely transformed our lives, communities, and society. However, while this past year was filled with stress, sadness, loss, and uncertainty, there were also moments of hope. At Erikson, our staff, faculty, and students adjusted at a moment’s notice to working, teaching, and learning virtually, and we saw amazing things happen when we joined together. Remember that as a graduate of Erikson, you will always be part of this close-knit community seeking to change our world for the better, no matter what challenges our world presents to us.

About Erikson Institute

Knowledge in the Service of Children

Erikson Institute is the premier independent institution of higher education committed to ensuring that all children have equitable opportunities to realize their potential.

Recognized for our groundbreaking work in the field of early childhood, we uniquely prepare child development, education, and social work leaders to improve the lives of young children and their families. Our impact and influence are further amplified through our innovative academic programs, applied research, knowledge creation and distribution, direct services, and field-wide advocacy.

Our Mission

Because nothing matters more than a child's early years, Erikson Institute educates, inspires, and provides leadership to serve the needs of children and families so that all can achieve optimal educational, social, emotional, and physical well-being.

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Erikson Institute

451 North LaSalle Street

Chicago, Illinois 60654

312.755.2250

www.erikson.edu