

# Connections

The EESLPD West Office Newsletter

December 2017

Volume 1: Issue 3

***If I have seen  
further it is by  
standing on the  
shoulders of Giants.***

**Isaac Newton**



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*For the December issue of Connections, I would like to recognize a remarkable woman upon whose shoulders I stand.*

*When we take time to reflect on our life- where we are, who we are and how and why that is, we must think about the individuals in our lives that make up a small or large part of our character, our values, and how they may have helped pave the way at some point in our journey through life.*

*Along our journey, it is critical to our own growth that we encounter a person who exudes tenacity, perseverance, and the ability to forge ahead. From our interactions with these individuals we learn to be steadfast, to be determined, and to tirelessly work for what gives us purpose. We learn to stand tall, to take risks, and to innovate.*

*I am truly blessed, as are many of you, to have the opportunity to stand upon the shoulders of Cindy Wheeler. As she prepares herself for her well-deserved retirement, it is important that we recognize Cindy's undeniable presence and lasting impressions on so many of us and on the field of early childhood education.*

*Cindy- your efforts and passion have created forces strong enough to continue to forge ahead for years to come. We thank you and wish you an abundance of love, laughter, and fellowship throughout your retirement. Be Well!*

*Amanda*

# Mentor Minute

## Supporting teachers as they incorporate Global Awareness

Many times teachers struggle with understanding Global Awareness and what it might look like in a preschool classroom. Ideally, we begin with what children know and their prior knowledge. How then can teachers expand children's lives and their view of the world they know in a meaningful, authentic way?

Strategies to support incorporating Global Awareness include asking some guiding questions such as:

- How can you involve parents or family members in learning about other places and cultures?
- How can you utilize family members that travel to share news or artifacts from their trips and/or work?
- How might mapping promote Global Awareness?
- How might you help connect what is important to a child to others in the classroom, their community or the larger world?
- How can books and the local library be used to explore global topics? Are there similar books written by different cultures that you can compare and contrast?
- How can you connect the current study into how it might be different in another place?
- How can you plan lessons that promote taking care of the environment?
- How can you promote ways the children can plan projects to help others? (Food drives, clothing drives, etc.)



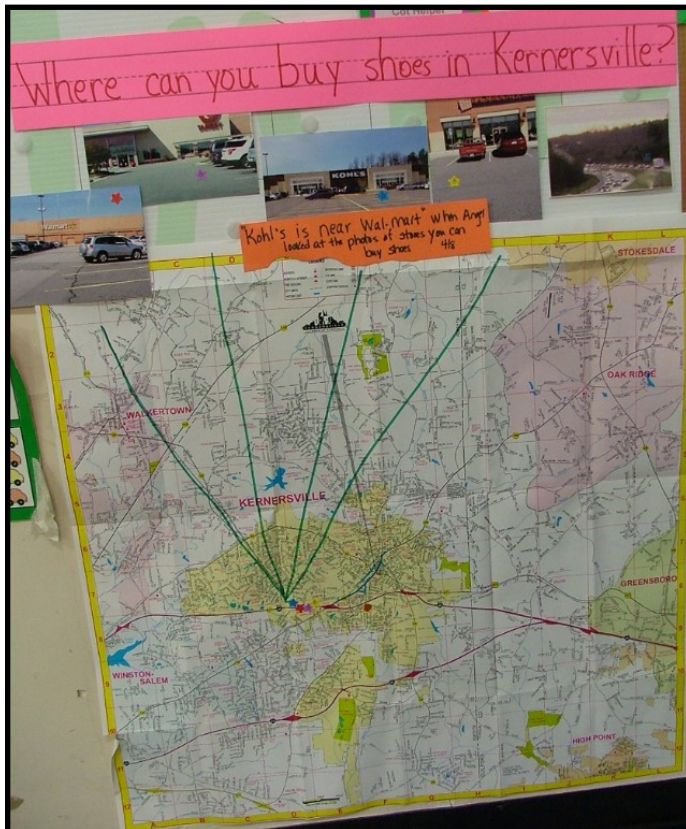
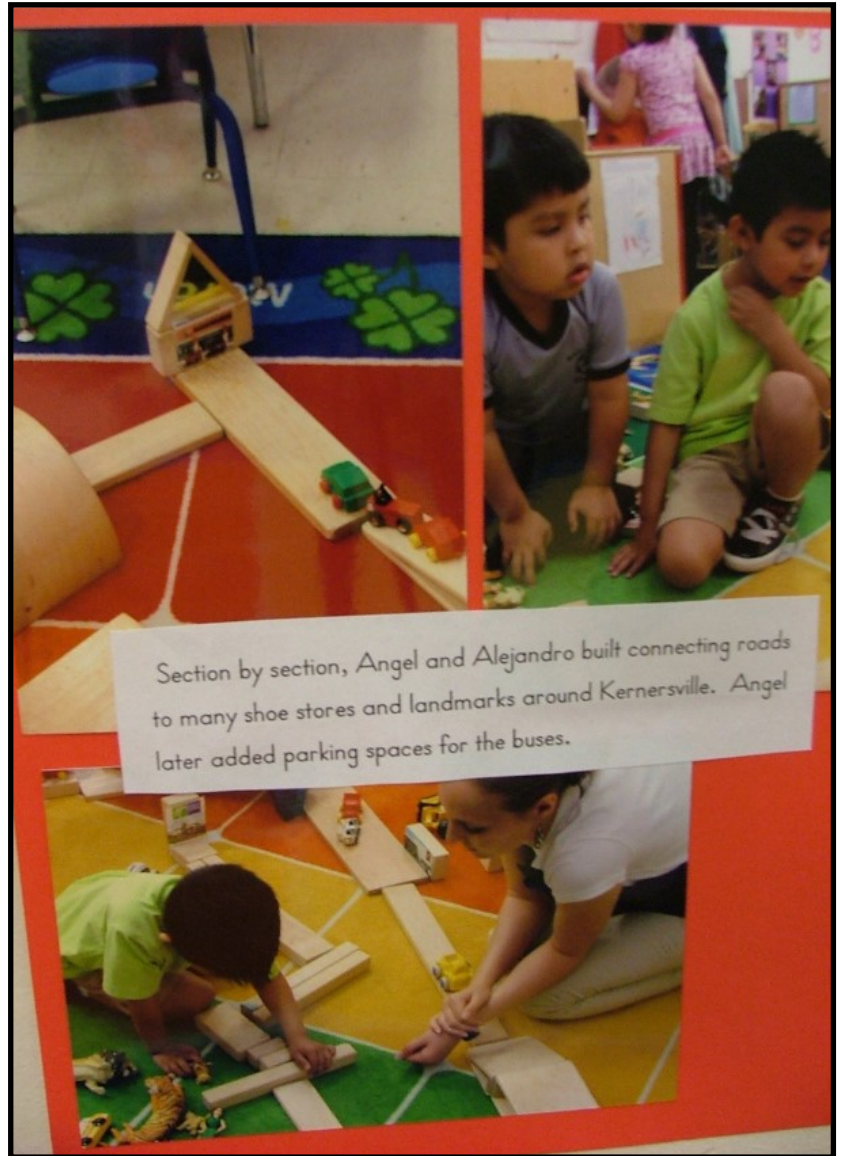
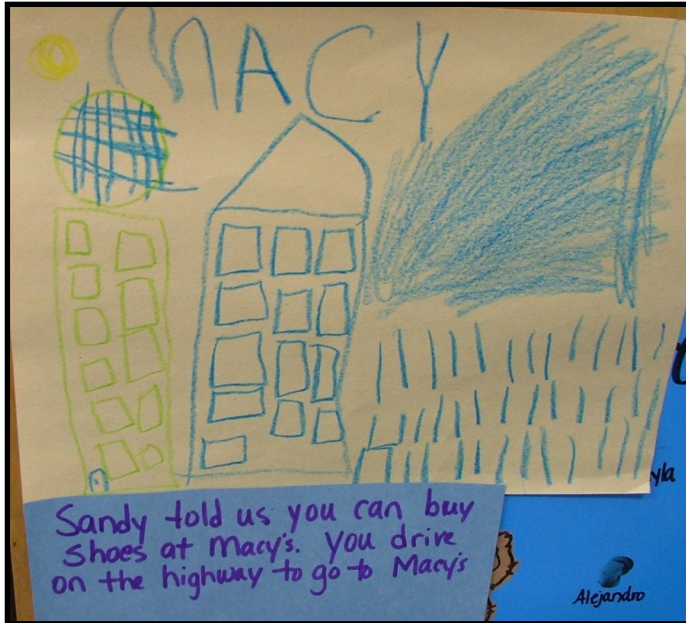
This child drew a map to her grandmother's house. Her teacher then introduced her to the App Google Earth. Together they explored the map where they lived as the student excitedly recognized landmarks from her community. This led to a study of map-making and exploring different places important to children.



# Mentor Minute (cont.)

## Global Awareness in the preschool classroom

This shoe study explored where children might buy shoes in their community.



Special thanks to Lead Mentor, Martha Berry for contributions to the Mentor Minute



Ashley Weber is a Mentor and Evaluator whom has worked with the EESLPD Office at UNC Charlotte since Sept. 2016. The thing she likes best about this work is the positive impact we have on the teachers we serve and on the field of early childhood education. She expresses, " I like making the teachers feel that I am their teammate in this extremely tough and rewarding field!"

Her favorite children's book is *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson because the book emphasizes the importance to always be kind to everyone, because you never know what they are going through and if you will get a "second chance."

Ashley is also a certified yoga instructor and has research interest in discovering the benefits of practicing yoga in classroom environments.

## COLLABORATOR CORNER

We are grateful for our partnership with the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools NC Pre-K Staff. Over 15 literacy coaches, site administrators, and mentor teachers work as EESLPD partners. Together we continue to make a positive impact on the children, families, and teachers of Mecklenburg county.





## DID YOU KNOW?

As of December 4th, Michael Viar has been hired with the DCDEE as the EESLPD Manager. Michael will work closely with hub leadership and will oversee the EESLPD Unit in the Raleigh Office. Michael is no stranger to our work or to BK licensure and will be instrumental in our continued growth and model of continuous improvement.

Michael will join the UNC Charlotte team and partners during our full team meeting on Monday, January 8th, via WebEx.

Welcome Michael!!

Have you visited our website yet? We encourage you to explore it as you will find useful resources that will help you as you support teachers.



The first 5 people to email Jessica Ward ([jward@uncc.edu](mailto:jward@uncc.edu)) the answer to the question below will be entered to win a Starbucks gift card. The winner will be announced in January.

**What is the title of the 4th document found under the Mentor/Evaluator 2017-2018 Documents/Resources?**



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## December 2017

**Observation 1 completed (Continuing-SPII licensed)**

December 20th

**Observation 2 completed (Initial-SPI /LE licensed)**

December 20th

**Winter Break (UNC Charlotte Staff)**

December 22nd -January 1st

## January 2017

**Full Team Meeting (WebEx link to join below)**

January 8th-2:00pm-3:00pm UNC Charlotte Staff

-30 minute break

-3:30pm-4:30pm Staff and Partners

<https://uncc.webex.com/uncc/j.php?MTID=m62624f437e8f7509a429882f1dacd614>

**Observation 1 locked in NCEES/Home Base (Continuing-SPII licensed)**

January 10th

**Observation 2 locked in NCEES/Home Base (Initial-SPI /LE licensed)**

January 10th

**Martin Luther King Jr Holiday (UNC Charlotte Staff)**

January 16th



For more information about the EESLPD West Office at UNC Charlotte, please follow this link:

<https://ceme.uncc.edu/early-educator-support-lincensure-and-professional-development-eeslpd-office>