

SCHOLARS ATTEND SUMMER WORKSHOP FOCUSED ON SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

In June 2019, NCLII Scholars attended a science communication workshop hosted by COMPASS (compassccicomm.org) at Vanderbilt University. COMPASS workshops are highly interactive, personalized trainings that help participants find the relevance of their science for the audiences they most want to reach (e.g., journalists, policymakers, stakeholders, leaders within institutions, and other scientists). COMPASS brought in four external experts to assist with the workshop and give guidance to scholars on how to effectively shape and share their messages. These trainers included Nancy Shute (Editor in Chief, *Science News*), Valerie Williams (Director of Government Relations, National Association of State Directors of Special Education), Lynne Slone (Attorney, Kentucky Association of School Councils), and Jon Hamilton (Science Reporter, *NPR News*).

During the first day of the 2-day workshop, Scholars learned how to use Message Box as a tool for identifying and framing messages for various audiences. Scholars then were placed in role-play situations that involved communicating their unique messages with trainers acting as non-scientists; the large group provided constructive feedback at the end of each scenario. On the second day, Scholars practiced delivering 30-second elevator pitches and learned about the science and elements of storytelling. They worked in small groups with trainers to craft and hone a story with feedback from the group. Lastly, Scholars attended breakout workshops focused on pitching messages to journalists and linking education research to policy.



Scholars pair up to deliver 30-second “elevator pitches.”



Scholars engage in a “mock scenario” with trainer Nancy Shute

Scholars offered positive feedback for the workshop overall. One Scholar noted, “This was a thoughtful, well-planned past two days that really pushed me in the best possible way.” Other Scholars expressed feeling more comfortable talking about their research following the workshop. We look forward to seeing the Scholars applying these new skills and communicating about their work going forward!

RECENT DISTINCTIONS FOR NCLII SCHOLARS AND FACULTY

Faculty member **ERIN BARTON** received the **Merle B. Karnes Award for Service to the Division for Early Childhood**, which is given to a DEC member who has made a significant contribution to DEC in areas of leadership, service, research, advocacy, or publications. The award is given in honor of Dr. Merle Karnes, who served on the DEC Executive Board and was the founder and first editor of the *Journal for Early Intervention*.

Scholar **SAM GESEL** received the **Early Career Research Award** at the Badar-Kauffman Conference, a research-intensive conference for improving the quality and rigor of scientific research in special education and related disciplines.

Scholar **BETH POKORSKI** received the **J. David Sexton Doctoral Student Award**, given to a Division of Early Childhood member and doctoral-level student who has made contributions to young children with special needs and their families through their efforts in research, higher education, publications, policy, and information dissemination.

Faculty member **SARAH POWELL** received the **Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers**. This is the highest honor bestowed by the United States government to outstanding scientists and engineers who are beginning their independent research careers and who show exceptional promise for leadership in science and technology.

SCHOLARS EARN PHDs!

Over the last few months, several of our Cohort 1 Scholars have successfully defended their dissertations and have earned their PhD's. See below for photos of six of our Scholars reaching this incredible milestone. Congratulations to all!
Not pictured: Sam Gesel, Katherine Ledbetter-Cho, Brittany Pennington, Beth Pokorski



Skip Kumm (center), UIC



Amanda Martinez-Lincoln, UT Austin



Rachel Kunemund (3rd from left), VCU



Gina Braun (center), UIC



Lisa Didion, UT Austin



Caitlyn Majeika, Vanderbilt

IN THE NEWS

Mark your calendars for the Fall NCLII All-Scholar Meeting to be held **OCTOBER 18-19, 2019 at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Details to follow soon!

Information about **two new scholar-designed courses in intensive intervention from Cohort 2 Scholars are now featured on the NCLII website at nclii.org. Access to the full sets of masters-level course materials are available to interested faculty and district-level administrators upon request. The courses are titled "Assessing Student Response to Intensive Intervention" and "Data-based Intensive Intervention Practicum in Academics and Behavior." Each set of materials includes a syllabus, list of required readings, PowerPoint slides, class materials, and assessments and rubrics.