



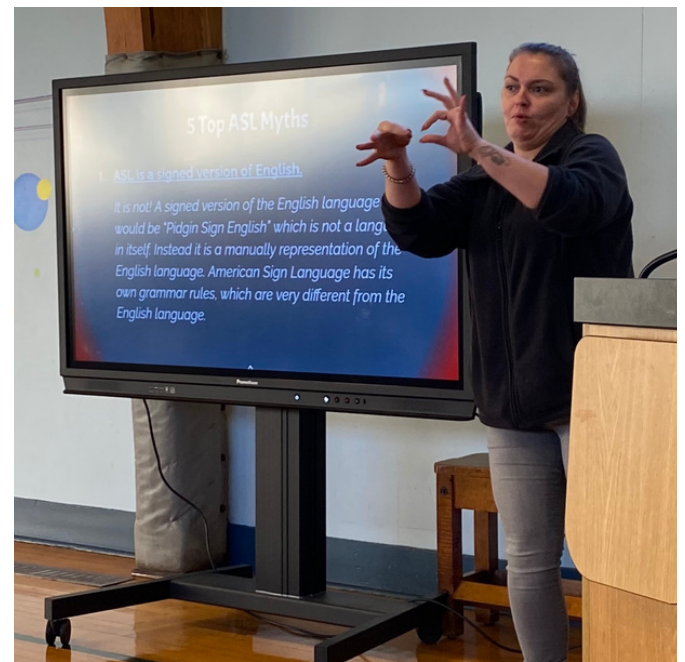
Summer and Fall of 2022 have been a time of growth and momentum at The Institute. From grants to publications to presentations - we have been busy! Enjoy this issue of **The Gear Up** to learn more about our work. All issues of our newsletter can be found and downloaded [at our website](#).

Dr. Amy Szarkowski (Director) & Dr. Sarah Brandt (Associate)

Raising the Bar for Professional Excellence at CCCBSD

At CCCBSD, The Institute facilitates professional development aimed at broadening knowledge, deepening skills, and expanding understanding.

The **Deafness, Disability, & Diversity Representation** series welcomes individuals to share their valuable lived experiences with CCCBSD faculty. Examples include persons representing a minority culture or language, or individuals sharing stories of navigating complex special education systems. This fall, Ashley Eaton, CCCBSD Teaching Assistant and ASL Community Class Coordinator, guided faculty through an exploration of **Deaf Culture**, covering Deaf history, ASL myths, audism, and other important topics.



Ashley Eaton, CCCBSD Teaching Assistant and ASL Class Coordinator, leading faculty professional development

The **Hands on Learning** program for faculty promotes interactively learning, practicing, and applying discrete skills. In the fall, Hands on Learning sessions addressed **Important Plans at CCCBSD** - IEPs, behavior plans, health care plans, unit plans, and lesson plans. Other Hands on Learning sessions were presented by CCCBSD faculty, including **Data Collection**, **Special Education Best Practices**, **Deaf Education Best Practices**, and **How to Not Get Hurt at Work**.



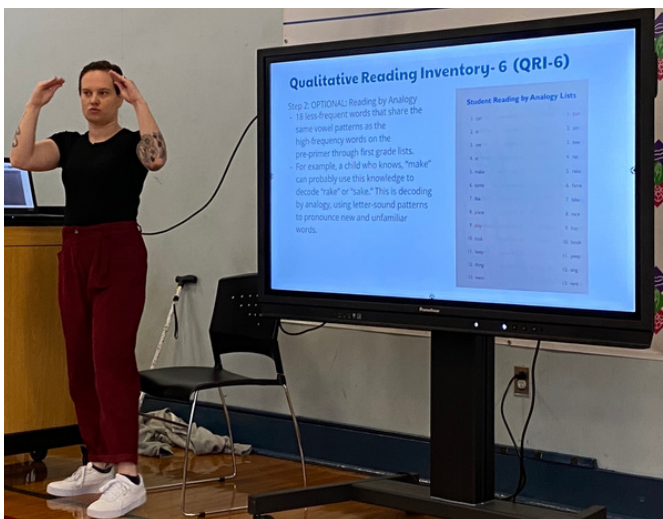
Raising the Bar for Professional Excellence at CCCBSD

The [Deep Dive](#) program engages faculty in asking big questions rooted in problems of practice. Our first fall [Deep Dive](#) focused on [Leadership and Teaming](#) - a highly-requested theme at CCCBSD! Within classroom or department teams as well as school wide meetings, faculty addressed topics such as [Leading From Where You Are](#), [Leadership Through the Diversity/Equity/Inclusion Lens](#), and [Team Communication](#). Faculty reported being energized by gathering in-person as a school community.

The [Deep Dive](#) on [Leadership and Teaming](#) also included presentations by Djenne-amal Morris, a renowned diversity leader, advocate, and parent of a young man who is deaf with disabilities. During her two days in Beverly, she led conversations about leadership, family engagement, and diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. Faculty shared that they were moved and motivated by this professional development! This was followed up by topic-driven, virtual office hours throughout the remainder of 2022, during which faculty could connect with Ms. Morris to explore these critical areas.



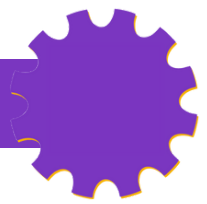
Djenne-amal Morris supported professional development activities at CCCBSD



Maddy Gibson, MEd, CCCBSD Teacher and Reading Specialist, shares her knowledge during a Deep Dive on Literacy

Supported by a grant through the Beverly Public Schools, the second [Deep Dive](#) focused on [Literacy](#). Led by CCCBSD Classroom Teacher and Reading Specialist Maddy Gibson, this [Deep Dive](#) addressed big questions about literacy for CCCBSD students. From introducing current literacy research to training on specific assessment tools, Ms. Gibson shared her unique expertise at the intersection of literacy development, special education, and deaf education. Additional [Deep Dives](#) on literacy are underway to continue this work!

A Fall of Firsts

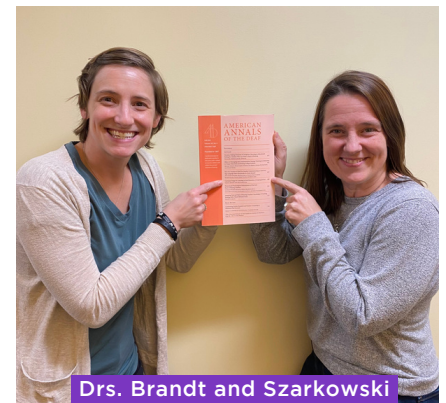


The Institute was awarded a grant from the Peter & Elizabeth Tower Foundation to support the [Pathways to Partnership](#) program. With a focus on celebrating diversity and striving toward equity, this project engages families, professionals, and the community in support of children who are deaf with disabilities. With both in-person and virtual learning opportunities, [Pathways to Partnership](#) will forge pathways to positive engagement.

Beginning in January 2023, a cohort of partners will embark on an intensive training called the [Pathways Program](#). This group is eager to roll up their sleeves and examine the facilitators and barriers to effective partnership and family engagement. We look forward to participants' feedback about what they learn during this experience!

The Institute was well represented in the 2021-2022 issue of [Odyssey: New Directions in Deaf Education](#). Dr. Szarkowski and Candace Lindow-Davies (Hands & Voices) highlighted the Fostering Joy movement. Dr. Brandt and Rachel Benjamin (CCCBSD) shared insights about reframing "academic" and "functional" learning. These publications can be accessed for free online [here](#).

In her first peer-reviewed article, Dr. Brandt - along with co-author Dr. Szarkowski - performed a [scoping review](#) on [universal design for learning \(UDL\)](#) in deaf education contexts. A scoping review helps understand what is already known about a topic with limited presence in the research landscape. UDL is a framework for educators to design accessible and powerful instruction to meet the needs of all learners. Drs. Brandt and Szarkowski found that while UDL has global appeal in deaf education contexts, there are many unexplored opportunities in this area. This article was published in [American Annals of the Deaf](#), the oldest and most widely read English-language journal focused on deafness and the education of deaf persons.



Drs. Brandt and Szarkowski proudly share their article

Finally, Dr. Szarkowski - along with her writing team - celebrated her first publication available in [Dutch](#)! Published by the Dutch Psychological Association, the team explored the role [fathers](#) of children who are deaf or hard of hearing play in early intervention.



The Institute Around the World!



Thanks to partnerships with organizations and universities, invited speaking opportunities, and grant support, The Institute was able to "spread the word" about our work throughout the summer and fall of 2022. Check out some of the national and international conferences where The Institute was represented!

July, Ottawa, Canada
International Congress on Infant Studies
Parent-Child Interaction

August, Ottawa, Canada
Congenital CMV Public Health and Policy Conference
♥ Fostering Joy (Keynote)

September, Rochester, NY
Hands & Voices Family Leadership Conference
♥ Fostering Joy

September, Chicago, IL
Division for Early Childhood (DEC) & International Society on Early Intervention (ISEI)
Social-Emotional Development

October, England (virtual)
British Association of Teachers of the Deaf
Pragmatics

October, Boston, MA
Speech and Hearing Foundation of MA
Pragmatics

November, Washington, D.C.
Association of University Centers on Disability
Disability Advocacy

December, Danvers, MA
Massachusetts Psychological Association
Trauma and Honoring Lived Experience in Individuals with Disabilities

November, New Orleans, LA
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
♥ Fostering Joy



Looking for more information about Fostering Joy?
Check out the [December 2021 issue of The Gear Up](#).

