

Panelist Biographies

MISD Alumni Panel 2/9/17

Annabeth Jensen, Montessori Coach & Inclusion Advocate/AMI Elementary Consultant/MISD AMI Inclusive Education Course Assistant - Portland, Oregon. Annabeth came to Montessori with a background in psychology and social work. She earned her elementary certificate with Dr. Kay Baker in 1989 and earned her Masters Education from Loyola in 1990. She spent 25 years as an Elementary Teacher in Washington D.C. and Portland, Oregon during which time she presented lectures and workshops for NAMTA, AMI-EAA and the Oregon Montessori Association, earned her AMI Elementary Consultant certificate and raised three daughters. In the past five years, her focus has been in the area of Inclusive Education. She undertook her studies with Dr. Silvia Dubovoy at MISD in 2013. Currently Annabeth wears many hats. She consults for AMI, mentors teachers at a public charter Montessori, advises teachers regarding the needs of exceptional children and serves as the Course Assistant for MISD's Inclusive Education Course.

Krista Riihimaki, Creative Director at White Poppy Media. Documentary Film: "Child, Disrupted"- San Francisco, California. Krista received her AMI / NAMTA certificate at the Orientation to Adolescent studies after graduating from the Birth to Six (Infancy +Primary) training at MISD. She worked as a Montessori guide for two years at Pacific Rim International School, where she taught in the Children's house as well as the middle school as a science specialist. Her students produced and won an award for a creative science film about composting. She then went on to work at LePort Schools' flagship campus in San Francisco, helping to open a toddler classroom. Krista is currently working full time on a documentary about the effects of the overuse of technology on children's development in a film called "Child, Disrupted" (www.childdisrupted.com)

Chen Jian, Head of School, Academy Enlightenment Internationale "AEI"- Hangzhou, China. Chen Jian 'CJ' has worked in Montessori education in the US and China for the past 8 years. He has 3-6 and 6-12 training, both completed at MISD with Dr. Silvia Dubovoy and Greg McDonald. He has been involved in transitioning traditional schools into Montessori schools including school environment design and teachers training. He has also worked as the Director of CMS (Chinese Montessori Society) as well as Planner/Organizer for the annual CMS International Symposium for Montessori Education for the past 5 years. After his elementary training, CJ opened one of the first elementary classrooms in China. He now works as Head of School at AEI, one of the first Montessori schools in China for children ages birth-12. AEI has three school locations in Hangzhou and serves children from the Infant Community to Elementary age. All of CJ's experience, in the US and China, has been in bilingual, multicultural environments. CJ also had the greatest honor to serve as translator for J. Mckeever for the first two

elementary assistant teacher courses for AMI/China. CJ is committed to helping further the Montessori elementary program in China.

AEI Wechat:



AEI VIDEO :

http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XMTQ0NzY1NzM2NA==.html?spm=a2hzp.8253869.0.0&from=y1.7-2

AMI China Elementary Assistant Training with J McKeever:



CMS Conference Videos:

1. <https://youtu.be/0tasFPJy0oo>
2. http://v.youku.com/v_show/id_XMTMxODY0MjkwNA==.html?from=s1.8-1-1.2&spm=a2h0k.8191407.0.0

Meagan Ledendecker, Director of Education, The Montessori School of the Berkshires- Lenox, Massachusetts. Meagan grew up in a Montessori school with two Montessori teachers and administrators as parents. She holds an M.S. in Environmental Education through the

Audubon Expedition Institute/Lesley University. Before co-founding The Montessori School of the Berkshires, www.BerkshireMontessori.org, she worked as an Education Coordinator for nonprofits, taught at the elementary level for Pittsfield Public Schools, and provided professional development for teachers. Meagan began her adult Montessori path after the birth of her first daughter. Meagan is trained in AMI Assistants to Infancy (birth-3), Montessori Educators International (MACTE accredited) early childhood (3-6), Montessori Educators International elementary training (6-12), and is nearing completion of her AMI elementary training (6-12). Although usually at the school, Meagan has been known to enjoy gardening, yoga, hiking, running, and reading with a cat curled up on her lap.

Sarah Dosmann, Primary Guide, Maryland Avenue Montessori School (public school), Yoga

Teacher- Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Sarah began her “career” in Montessori at 3 years old when she started attending a Public Montessori school in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. After her path in public education, years of traveling, and too many waitressing jobs to count, she settled back in Milwaukee to study Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She earned her Montessori primary diploma at the Montessori Institute of San Diego in 2011, completed her Masters at Loyola University in Baltimore, Maryland, and gained her public teaching license in Milwaukee. Eager to pursue a career in the public sector, she began working at Maryland Avenue Montessori school in the heart of Milwaukee’s vibrant East side upon graduation. She has been honored to teach in the same classroom for six consecutive years and observe many cycles of children and even their siblings. Sarah is also a yoga teacher and incorporates a plethora of yoga and mindfulness based education in her teaching approach.

Dominic Bradford, Elementary Guide, Yukon Montessori School- Whitehors, Yukon Canada. After completing a BA at McGill University in Montreal, Dominic took his AMI elementary training in Bergamo in 1994 and worked for 4 years at Montessori Elementary School in Calgary before completing a B Ed. and then worked in India at a Montessori School in the Tibetan Children's Village in Dharamsala India in 2002. In 2003 Dominic took his Adolescent Training course in Cleveland, Ohio under the guidance of the North American Teacher's Association before taking up a three year position in Juneau, Alaska to design, start and teach the Adolescent Montessori Program in Juneau Public School district. In 2006 Dominic returned to Canada where he started a *casa* classroom and over the next three summers took his primary training at MISD. In 2010 he completed his M Ed. at Loyola Maryland. In 2012, Dominic started up the Yukon Montessori Elementary program where he is now Head teacher and focuses primarily on the Upper Elementary Children.

Robin Miller, Administrator/ RTI Facilitator, Shaw Montessori (public school)- Phoenix, Arizona.

Robin found her Montessori career early as a primary assistant at a beautiful school called Sundborn Children’s House in Albany, Oregon. After a few summers, it became clear how influential the primary aged child can be and set her on her educational path. Robin graduated from Western Oregon University with an Early Childhood Education degree, along with her teaching license. Having a positive background experience working within a primary classroom, Robin applied to Montessori Institute Northwest shortly after graduation, and received her primary diploma in 2008. After graduation, she retired her rain boots, packed all her albums, and headed down to sunny Arizona where she took a job at a public Montessori school. She has been working there for 9 years, servicing children of all cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds with ages ranging from preschool to 8th grade. After taking the position of

RtI (Response to Intervention) facilitator, her school was seeking a Montessori-friendly approach to referring students to Special Education. Robin was granted the opportunity to pursue the AMI Inclusive Education course under Dr. Silvia Dubovoy and Janet McDonnell. After two enriching summers surrounded by gifted, experienced Montessori guides from all over the world, she was able to continue giving intervention to teachers in need, along with a greater understanding of working with a multidisciplinary team and how to better utilize their services within our environments.

Lauren Blaik, Lead Primary Directress/Project Director, The White House School- Hong Kong.

Lauren studied at The Montessori Institute of San Diego followed by completing her M.Ed at Loyola University Maryland. Upon graduation, she moved to Hong Kong to begin her career in education working at Casa Dei Bambini International School for a year. She then moved to The International Montessori School, Hong Kong and worked as the Lead English Directress in a classroom for 2 years and on the third year also took on the role of Campus Head Teacher and Logistics Coordinator. After 3 years at IMS, Lauren took on a project working with a nonprofit in Hong Kong, The Tai Tam Tuk Foundation, to create and implement a curriculum rooted in Montessori principles and integrating sustainable education and other international education frameworks such as the International Baccalaureate. She worked here for 6 months as the Lead Teacher for a group of 7 children who were part of the pilot class. She also collaborated with other organizations and interested parties to engage the community in this project, and brought in relevant specialists such as botanists, biologists, linguists and other educators.

https://www.facebook.com/TheWhiteHouseTaiTam/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

Caitlin Dolan, Primary Guide, Great Work Montessori Learning Community (public school)-

Lakewood, Colorado. Caitlin graduated from MISD in the Spring of 2015. She was then hired on by Great Work to help start a new Montessori Community that is dedicated to making Montessori education accessible to ALL children with a sliding scale tuition model. In the summer of 2016, Great Work Montessori Learning Community opened their doors with Caitlin as their lead Primary Guide. Since then Great Work Montessori continues to grow. In late January of 2017 Great Work Montessori School's charter application was approved providing the opportunity to serve even more children while additionally supporting Montessori education within the public school system. Caitlin has also earned an M.E.d from Loyola University of Maryland and a B.A. from the University of Colorado at Boulder in Anthropology and Theatre.