

June 2025

CENTRE NEWS

This newsletter celebrates all the great events that happened with Centre members around the CSSE conference. Throughout CSSE, many of us were able to get together and participate in several great events.

To begin, at the end of May, 3 PhD candidates from Hasselt University in Belgium visited with Jacqui Specht at Western to discuss their research and its connections to the work of the Centre. We had great discussions with colleagues on definitions of inclusion and visited the Accessible Education Centre to understand better the services offered for university students who need support in learning. A group of colleagues participated in a photo elicitation technique as part of an international comparison on inclusive education. Thank you to Liesbet Saenen, Katrien Hermans, and Luciano Pirson for sharing your work with us. They continued their discussions as participants and presenters at CSSE.



CSSE PRECONFERENCE



The preconference on May 31st brought international scholars Dr. Jace Pillay from the University of Johannesburg in South Africa and Dr. Bephyer Parey from University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad and Tobago to discuss inclusive education as it relates to work that they are doing in their contexts. Over 40 of us gathered to discuss issues of mental health and inclusion, bias, and models of disability. Great conversations in all of our contexts left us thinking about mental health in education and schools and how opportunity affects issues of equity and inclusion. We were so grateful to gather together with top international scholars to learn from and with them. Much appreciation to one of our Centre RAs, Israa Ibrahim for ensuring a smooth preconference.



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Thank you to all who attended the CSSE Preconference!







AWARDS CIRCLE

CSSE brought many accolades to colleagues of the Centre. Dr. Tiffany Gallaher, winner of 2024 Carol Crealock Memorial Award presented her address this year. She focused on the issue of mentorship which was a fitting nod to Carol. The address was well received. The 2025 Robbie Case Memorial Award was given to Dr. Steve Sider. We look forward to his address next year. Finally, the Exceptionality Education International book award was presented to Drs. Margo Horne-Shuttleworth, Monique Somma and Kathy Ann Wlodarczyk for their book *Teaching Inclusive Education through Life Story Inquiry*. Congratulations to all our colleagues on these well-deserved awards!







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CSSE FUN!

We also participated in fun things like the book award reception and an outing to the Blue Jays Baseball game. Many of our international visitors, including Dr. Caroline Sahli Lozano and Sophie Schneider from Bern University, attended and enjoyed the game even though the Blue Jays Lost. Thanks to those that organized these events.







SSHRC-PARTNERSHIP GRANT

Finally, good news came to many Centre members at CSSE who were part of a Stage 1 SSHRC Partnership Grant (PG) proposal led by Dr. Steve Sider. At the beginning of June, we heard that he was successful in being invited to stage 2 of the grant competition. The stage 2 submission of "Fostering collaborative research networks and knowledge mobilization on inclusive education: Strategic Canadian-global connections" is underway beginning with conversations at CSSE and meetings on Zoom. The Organization of the Eastern Caribbean States was hosted in the last week of June at Laurier with support from the Centre as a partnership building experience. An upcoming August meeting at Laurier with leaders and partners on the grant is in the planning stages. Stay tuned for updates in the Fall newsletter.

As always, it is a pleasure to work with such a great group of people so committed to the area of inclusive education. Please continue to use <u>our link</u> to let Annie Beatty, another wonderful RA who keeps it all running, know what you are up to.

Have a great summer!

Check out our Linktree for all links related to the Centre!

