

Friday, January 19, 2024 (8:30am-3:00pm)
Common Man Inn, Plymouth, NH

Presenter Biographies



Dr. Patricia (Trish) Lindberg is professor of education and the coordinator of the M.Ed. in Integrated Arts at Plymouth State University (PSU) in Plymouth, New Hampshire. She is the artistic director and co-founder of the Educational Theatre Collaborative (ETC), the Kearsarge Arts Theatre (KAT), the St. Martins Summer Theatre in New Brunswick, Canada, the Palestinian/American Children's Theatre (PACT), and the Emmy Award-winning Theatre Integrating Guidance, Education and Responsibility (TIGER), a professional educational theatre company that has performed for over 500,000 school children regionally, nationally, and internationally. In addition to her producing and directing, Trish is also a published author and playwright. Her book *Bringing the Word Alive* and her original musical *Pollyanna*, and short play *Bystander Blues* are published by Dramatic Publishing, Inc. Her original musical production, based on letters from children to the President, *Mail to the Chief* was performed at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, DC.

Trish has won numerous awards including:

The National Youth Theatre Director Award (AATE), The NH State Council of the Arts Governor's Arts Award for Arts and Education, the Plymouth State University Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award, the prestigious Carnegie Foundation NH Professor of the Year Award, an Edie Excellence in Education Award given by the NH Department of Education, a Regional Emmy for Co-Producing the Best Children/Youth Program, a NH Association Broadcaster Award for Best Feature, a Bronze Telly for Best Youth and Children's Program, and the Moss Hart Trophy (awarded twice, once for *A You and Me World* in 2002 and once for *Marking the Moment* in 2013) given by the New England Theatre Conference (NETC). Trish has directed over 100 educational theatre productions for family audiences, including performances in the United States, Ireland, England, France, South Africa, Palestine, New Zealand and Lithuania. In June of 2015, Professor Lindberg was awarded the first NH Humanities Council's 40 over 40 Award, celebrating the forty individuals who have made the most significant impact on the arts and humanities in the state of New Hampshire in the last forty years. This past fall, Dr. Lindberg was named the 2021-2023 Stevens-Bristow Endowed Professor of Education at Plymouth State University. She is extremely grateful for the many wonderful opportunities she has had to work with her talented colleagues to experience the power of the arts in the community.



Marcia McCaffrey, Senior Director US Partnerships, has 23 years of leadership experience at the New Hampshire state department of education (NHED) working with partners and key stakeholders to improve educational opportunities across the state. As the federal grant manager for New Hampshire's Title V Part B, Rural Education Achievement Program, in 2022 Marcia worked alongside her Title II colleague to establish a state-based partnership with TeachUNITED and rural, low-income schools. While at the NHED Marcia was engaged in a variety of state-level activities including standards-based performance assessment, data-driven decision-making, and competency-based learning. Most recently, she set the stage for the state's Leaning Into Literacy initiative.

Marcia's early career includes working as a K-12 dance educator in New Jersey (Montclair SD), Oregon (Lane CC), and upstate New York (Cornell University). Other professional credits include president of the State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education (SEADAE) and facilitating meetings of the National Coalition for Core Arts Standards; panelist and presenter for the National Endowment for the Arts, the US Dept. of Education, and the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics; and ten years active membership with the State Collaborative on Assessment & Student Standards (SCASS), National Arts Consortium, Council of Chief State School Officers. She holds a Master of Arts from Teachers College, Columbia University and Bachelor of Science degrees in Elementary Education and Physical Education/dance from Iowa State University. An arts educator at heart, she continues to dance and coach young performers. Outside interests include enjoying time with her family, digging in the dirt (gardening), and walking miles of wooded trails close to home with the family dog, Lucy.

Aj Coppola teaches Band, Chorus and General Music at Campton Elementary School, a K-8 school in Campton, New Hampshire. He is also the choir director at Gilford Community Church and sings with the Pemi Choral Society and New Hampshire Master Chorale, and plays bassoon with the Lakes Region Symphony Orchestra. He created the Children's Chorus Festival which recently held its 10th Annual Concert. He has performed with ETC 11 times and in his free time enjoys reading, running, puzzles and his cat Lucio.





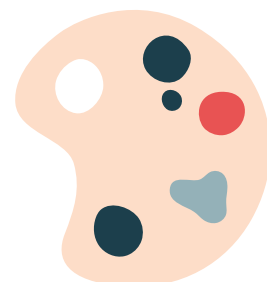
Megan Allen (she/her)

A native Jersey girl, Megan studied Acting and Musical Theatre at Marymount Manhattan College in NYC before heading to Los Angeles where she worked as a Teaching Artist and performed professionally in theatre, TV, and film for many years. She now lives in Massachusetts and in December completed her MA in Theatre Education and Applied Theatre from Emerson College. Over the years she has taught acting, singing, dancing, Shakespeare, puppetry, improv, and play-making to students from ages 3-18 in Los Angeles, Madison, WI, online during COVID lockdown, and now in her new hometown of Northampton, MA. She believes her role as a theatre teacher is to meet students where they are with joy and enthusiasm and encourage them to see themselves as creative problem solvers in the world.



Hannah Welsh is an innovative, passionate, and student-centered educator with more than 20 years of teaching under her belt. She has worked in outdoor experiential education, emergency medicine, and STEAM classrooms alike, working with ages elementary through adult. She believes that knowledge gained is of no use unless it is shared with others.

Hannah has undergraduate degrees in the fields of fine art and paramedicine and recently completed her Masters of Education focusing on Integrated Arts at Plymouth State University. She is working as a middle-high school teacher in Epping, NH growing both the social-emotional well being, and the rigor-threshold, of all students so that they are academically, and emotionally, ready for the 21st century.



Erin Sweeney lives and works in southern New Hampshire. She received her MFA in Book Arts and Printmaking from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, where she was awarded the Elizabeth C. Roberts Prize for Graduate Book Arts. She also has a BFA in Sculpture from the Maine College of Art in Portland, Maine.

Sweeney exhibits nationally, most recently at the Museum of the White Mountains and the Rhode Island Center for Photographic Arts. In July of 2019, Sweeney was awarded a Ruth and James Ewing Award for Excellence in the Arts, and in 2020 was honored to be a juror. Additionally, she is the 2021 recipient of the NH Arts Educators' Association's Outstanding Service Award.

Sweeney is an educator, teaching book arts workshops at her Lovely in the Home Press. She also travels to teach workshops at many locales, including Haystack Mountain School of Crafts, Monson Arts; Maine Media Workshop; Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Philadelphia Center for the Book. She is a member of the NH State Council on the Arts' Artist Roster and is the Art Education Coordinator and Studio Art Faculty at Plymouth State University.



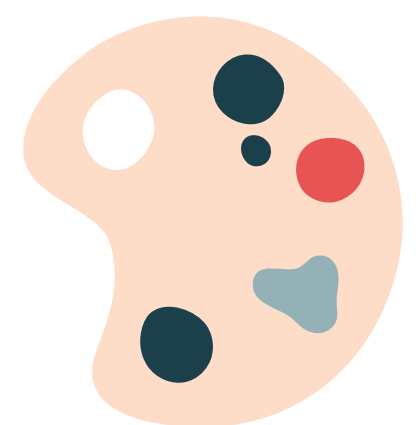


Stacey Bellen is a K-8 Art teacher at Lincoln Akerman School since 2000. She graduated from P.S.U. in 1998 with a B.S. in Art Education. Stacey earned her certification as a Zentangle teacher in 2012 and shares the step-by-step method with Social Emotional Learning. She not only inspires students to find their inner artistic voice through art lessons but also helps her students find their voice on stage with extracurricular drama productions from first graders to eighth graders. Stacey has a passion for integrating art with many of her colleagues through science, literature, math and social studies. She is the director of Hampton Falls Summer Recreation Camp and a co-leader of her town's Girl Scout troop. When Stacey is not teaching, she is singing in her church choir or playing with its handbell choir, and she loves spending time with her husband and two children.



Kelli O'Connor-Maynard is a middle school English language arts and social studies teacher at Lincoln Akerman School in Hampton Falls, NH. She values interdisciplinary team teaching and the power of literacy combined with the Arts to make connections among students, the community, and the world each day. A graduate of the University of New Hampshire, Kelli received her C.A.G.S. in Arts, Leadership, and Learning through Plymouth State University in May 2023. She is an active member of her school's DEIJ team and enjoys singing music from a variety of cultural traditions with the women's chorus Voices from the Heart in Portsmouth. Additionally, Kelli enjoys walking and boating along the Seacoast with her husband and dog, knitting, and spending time with family and friends.

Kelly Trottier has come a long way from working the drive thru counter at Dunkin' Donuts. She is currently teaching sixth grade math, science and reading at Lincoln Akerman School in Hampton Falls. Since graduating from the University of New Hampshire with a Master's in Education, Kelly somehow still finds the time and motivation to take classes toward her doctorate. Kelly coaches the Cross Country and Track and Field teams at LAS, helping to encourage physical activity and camaraderie through sports. Two energetic kids and an old lazy mini-dachshund doggy help make the Trottier home one of Kelly's favorite places. She enjoys gardening, cooking, camping and riding her red moped around town.





Michael Stoddard has spent the last 20 years in Milwaukee, Chicago, Miami and New York as an actor, director and playwright. He is currently the Associate Artistic Director for Interlakes Theatre and the Assistant Director of TIGER. He is one of the playwrights and content creators for Musicals Made Easy and recently co-created, Triggered, the newest TIGER touring show. He was recently the Executive Director of Miami Theatre Works and the Director of Theatre at Palmer Trinity School. Last year Michael directed for the CLO Academy in Pittsburgh. When not writing or directing Michael performs all over the world. Recent companies include Interlakes Summer Theatre, ShangKat, Musical Mysteries and More, Split Stage Productions, All In Productions, StageRight! and Jean’s Playhouse. michaeldavidstoddard.com



Pamela Irish, is in her 16th year serving as the Tour Manager for TIGER (Theatre Integrating Guidance Education and Responsibility) and in her 9th year as Business Manager for ETC (Educational Theater Collaborative). Both programs have been enriching children’s and the community members lives, TIGER since 2002 and ETC since 1994 respectfully and Pam is honored to be a part of them. Pam found her love of the arts through her children, Brittany and Caitlyn, who have participated in numerous ETC shows over the years as well as being a part of Trish Lindberg's beloved Theatre camp KAT until Summer 2013. She has fostered relationships with schools throughout New England, ensured that the participants in both programs are set up for success, and helped in building a creative and nurturing environment for community and children through the rewarding programming offered through both TIGER and ETC.



Some other hobbies of Pam’s include creating shell and stone artwork, spending time with her family, and taking her dog Murphy for hikes.



Kirsten Mohring (Conference Coordinator) is an elementary music teacher at Nottingham West Elementary School in Hudson, NH. During her 21 years at Nottingham she has taught general music to grades 2-5, started a grade 5 chorus, band program, and a guitar program. Recently Kirsten has been honored with the Educational Theatre Collaborative 2018 Arts Leadership Award and a 2019 Commendation in Arts and Educational Leadership from the NH State Council on the Arts. She has presented workshops and classes with an integrated art focus at Plymouth State University, namely integrating music and literature. Working closely with Dr. Trish Lindberg, Kirsten Co-Founded and was the Music Director of the St. Martins Summer Theatre Camp. Also, she collaborates with ETC as the Integrated Arts Conference Designer, Coordinator and author of the Teacher Resource Handbook. Kirsten is currently earning her CAGS in Arts Leadership and Learning at Plymouth State University and is Vice President and performs with the Manchester Choral Society.



Lori DeVost is an English teacher and Instructional Coordinator at Plymouth Regional High School. She has been teaching for 22 years and is pursuing a Master’s Degree in Curriculum and Instruction at Plymouth State University. She is a mother of two, grandmother of two, and has been married to her best friend for 33 years. She is a self-proclaimed “recovering perfectionist” and is diligently working to incorporate more creativity and “thinking outside the box” into both her instructional practices and her everyday life.

