

# FOCUS

## on Children 2019

**Date:** Saturday, February 2

**Time:** 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Bellingham Technical College, Campus Center Bldg.

**Register online:** [www.btc.edu/focus](http://www.btc.edu/focus)

Registration begins January 2, 2019. Questions? 360.752.8447



Celebrating 35 Years of Focus!

## Cultivating Resiliency in Young Minds

Join Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study expert **Laura Porter** as she presents training on the most powerful determinant of health: resiliency.

BTC's Focus on Children Conference will review the ways that toxic stress during development can affect cognition, relationships, health, behavior, and patterns of crisis and coping, and will introduce data that illuminates how community challenges can be attributed to ACEs as well.

Participants will learn about emerging science — including ACE Study, developmental neuroscience, epigenetics, and resilience research — that informs what early childhood professionals can do to shift the trajectory of health for future generations.

Participants will have an opportunity to explore what this science could mean for various groups within the early childhood development field, and will be given implementation strategies that can help to moderate ACE impacts and improve outcomes for children. Participants will break up into groups based on the students they work with and the roles they play in their field. These groups will be led by experienced facilitators who will engage in structured dialogue designed to encourage action steps for practice with each cohort.

### Participants will learn how to:

1. Understand and be able to describe the relevance of scientific findings to programs and community capacity development: developmental Neuroscience, Epigenetics, Adverse Childhood Experience, and Resilience (NEAR).
2. Understand variations in ACE prevalence and associated ACE-attributable health and social problems and be able to incorporate that knowledge into organizational or community planning.
3. Develop cohort-specific implementation activities designed to help individuals, organizations, and communities to step into action, based on community and organization examples of ACE science.

**About our presenter:** **Laura Porter** has more than a decade of experience leading successful implementation of ACE Study concepts in Washington state in partnership with over 30 communities and nine tribes. In addition to her work in Washington, Laura works with leaders in over 20 states, providing education, facilitation, and empowerment strategies for building self-healing communities. Laura provides support and services to a wide range of groups, from parents and youth who are convening neighborhood conversations, to philanthropic leaders and government officials who are using ACE science in investment and policy decisions. She and Dr. Robert Anda founded ACE Interface to help leaders to use ACE concepts to build self-healing communities. Laura loves to travel, garden, learn, and play with her children and grandchildren.



### Special Thanks to Our Sponsors:



Bellingham Technical College provides student-centered, high-quality professional technical education for today's needs and tomorrow's opportunities.



opportunity council

The Opportunity Council is a private, non-profit human service organization that acts as a catalyst for positive change, both in the community and in the lives of the people it serves.

Pacific Northwest Chapter



Washington Association for the Education of Young Children

Pacific Northwest Chapter of WAEYC acts on behalf of the needs and rights of all young children and their families and provides opportunities to improve professional practice in early childhood education.



Whatcom Educational Credit Union has a strong commitment to the community and social responsibility. Its goal is to support education, health, and community concerns.

**Register by Jan. 18 to save!**

- Reflect on your practices
- Gain new resources & strategies
- Connect & share information
- Contemplate culture, diversity & early childhood education issues
- Earn .5 credit & 6 STARS or Clock Hours

**Breakfast & lunch provided!**

**Special Thanks to Our Vendors:**  
**Launching Success School Art Materials**

Find the scholarship form and register on our website: [www.btc.edu/focus](http://www.btc.edu/focus)

# Get to know our 2019 facilitators!

*These facilitators will lead breakout sessions that focus on age groups and roles in early education:*

**Patricia Ashby:** Patricia has a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Seattle University and many years' experience in the field. She worked at Seattle Children's Hospital Child Care and owned an in-home childcare in Seattle. Most recently, Patricia spent 10 years as the Manager of the Child Development Center at Western Washington University.

**Pat Cavit:** Pat has a BA in Child Development and an MSW, with an emphasis on Family Social Work. Her career has focused on working with children who have experienced trauma, including work with children's grief groups through hospice, educational advocacy for foster children, case management for homeless families, including teen parents, and behavioral consulting with preschools and family childcare providers. Pat believes strongly that long-term success is rooted in a strength-based approach with an emphasis on building resiliency in both children and their families.

**Dr. Marilyn Chu:** Marilyn Chu, EdD, is a professor and program director of the Early Childhood Education (P-3) program at Western Washington University, Woodring College of Education. She teaches courses on infant and toddler development, partnering with families, and prevention of child abuse and neglect. Her recent scholarship includes, "Moving from toolkits to relationships: family engagement for systems change" in the Journal of Educational Controversy. WWU (Chu, & Korsmo, 2018).

**Masa DeLara:** Masa DeLara is an educator, facilitator, and trainer in the areas of early childhood education, equity and diversity, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and resilience, and creating trauma-responsive environments. She has a deep commitment to education, inclusion, and positive community and social change.

**Melanie Horowitz-Coyne:** Sharing the challenge and joy of supporting healthy development of little children by teaming with early learning professionals gives Melanie joy in her work as a Washington State approved STARS trainer. Melanie is a bilingual coach for Child Care Aware Northwest, and started teaching this work in 2013, after 20 years as an early learning professional. She has enjoyed presenting at the FOCUS conference for the past 2 years.

**Heather Jefferson:** Heather Jefferson is a member of Lummi Nation and has her Bachelor's Degree in Education. Her passion is education and supporting community capacity building. Her experience working throughout Whatcom and surrounding counties has created relationships and insights that have helped her see the importance of understanding ACEs on a personal and professional level. She appreciates the vital role prevention and early intervention play in healing. The most important lesson she has learned is that the wisdom is in the room, and as a facilitator she is able to witness this with every group she works with.

**Vesla Kazimer:** Vesla Kazimer is the Coordinator for the Whatcom Early Learning Alliance, whose mission is to work with early learning systems to support families and children. She has been facilitating ACEs and resilience trainings through the Whatcom Family and Community Network for the past two years. She has a degree in Communications from the University of Texas and has been working in the early learning community in Whatcom County for 8 years.

**Geof Morgan:** Geof Morgan was the founding Director of the Whatcom Family & Community Network, a nonprofit organization that focuses on community resilience at the neighborhood and community level. He has previously worked for community action, HIV/AIDS support services, and was the director of an early learning center. He currently works as a trainer, consultant and facilitator, helping infuse the research on adverse childhood experiences and resilience into school and community planning. He also serves on the Lummi CEDAR Project Board of Directors.

**Jacque Rafferty:** Jacque Rafferty is a Community Liaison for Cultivate Learning at the University of Washington. Jacque works with childcare providers who are going through Washington state's quality rating improvement system, Early Achievers. For the past 13 years, Jacque has worked with children in various rolls including preschool teacher, school-age childcare, elementary school teacher, and foster parent.

**DeEtta Simmons:** DeEtta Simmons is a Senior Director for Cultivate Learning at the University of Washington. DeEtta leads the data collection process for Washington state's quality rating and improvement system, Early Achievers, and is a co-host for Meaningful Makeover, a reality-style web show for family childcare programs. Before joining UW's Cultivate Learning team, DeEtta served children and families in rural Alaska, rural Hawaii, and Washington state in a variety of roles including lead teacher, program director, and family childcare provider.

**Kristi Slette:** Kristi Slette, M.Ed, Director of Whatcom Family & Community Network, works to promote the well-being of children, youth and families by convening and supporting communities to build their capacity. Kristi is former faculty in WWU's Human Service Program, is a facilitator of local trainings on why resilience, toxic stress, and hope matter as well as on trauma-informed practice in a myriad of settings. She is a parent and community educator of Stewards of Children Child Sexual Assault Prevention and Common Sense Parenting.

**Kim Walbeck:** Kim Walbeck worked for the Opportunity Council for 27 years in the Head Start and Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program. During her tenure there she held many positions such as preschool teacher, center supervisor, education coordinator and preschool services manager. She recently became the owner and director of The Seedlings Early Learning Center.

**Allison Williams:** Allison Williams is a community health specialist focused on the health and well-being of young children and their families. She has spent the last 26 years working in public health, with 23 of those years directly serving families in the WIC program. Allison has had facilitator training, The Art of Hosting, as well as training around ACEs, trauma, resilience, hope, and racial equity. She uses these skills when facilitating the First Steps Coalition and two Whatcom Taking Action Teams: GIDES Advisory Team and the Family Tools Team. She serves on a League of Women Voters committee working to build a more inclusive organization and community by focusing on the intersection of racial equity and democracy.

**Judy Ziels:** Judy Ziels has worked at the Whatcom County Health Department to support the health and well-being of children and families in Whatcom County for the last 20 years. Her current work is focused on increasing the capacity of systems and communities to nurture children and support families. She is a trained facilitator through the Art of Hosting methodology, and has experience as a presenter sharing information about brain development, adverse childhood experiences, and resilience.



## Focus on Children Registration Form

(Information protected by Family Privacy Rights)

Student ID Number (SID)									
			-			-			

Today's Date		Legal Last Name		Legal First Name		Middle Initial	Previous Name	
Birth Date		Mailing Address—Street			City	State	Zip	
Male	Female	Phone numbers—Day/Eve or Cell/home			Email Address <b>(Required)</b>			
Item #	Class	Date	Start Time	Location		Cost		
8391/8392	Focus on Children Conference	2/2/19	8:00a.m.	BTC—Campus Center Building				

Please register online: [www.btc.edu/focus](http://www.btc.edu/focus)

If unable to register online, please see registration options below.

**Conference Registration Begins:  
Wednesday, January 2, 2019**

**To Register by Email:** Scan completed registration form and email to [registration@btc.edu](mailto:registration@btc.edu)  
**To Register in Person:** Bring your completed registration form to BTC Registration, College Services Bldg, Mon–Thurs 8am–4:30pm or Friday 8am–4pm. Register and then pay the cashier.  
**To Register by Mail:** Complete the registration form and mail, with payment, to: BTC, Business Office, 3028 Lindbergh Ave, Bellingham, WA 98225. (postmarked by 1/18 for early reg.)  
**To Register by Phone or Fax:** Call 360-752-8350 to register by phone.  
 Or fax 360-676-2798 with completed registration form. Call to confirm fax was received.  
**Course Refunds:** A full (100%) refund is made if official withdrawal is submitted (in person, via email, or by fax) by midnight February 1, 2019. **There are no refunds after 2/2/19.**

**Registration fee (includes breakfast & lunch):**

On or before 1/18/19 (Item# 8391): **\$80.00**  
 After 1/18/19 (Item# 8392): **\$95.00**

**Scholarships available with completed application!**

*This conference is intended for professional development.  
 In order for all participants to be able to devote their full attention to the presenters, we are requesting children do not attend.  
 However, infants are welcome.*

**STARS ID# (for licensed child care providers):** \_\_\_\_\_

### New 2019 Agenda:

Time	Location	Event
7:45–8:30am	Settlemyer Hall	Check-in and visit vendors & displays
8:30–8:40am	Settlemyer Hall	Breakfast, welcome & announcements
8:45am–12pm	Settlemyer Hall	Keynote presenter with Laura Porter
12–1pm	Settlemyer Hall	Lunch and visit vendors & displays
1–2:30pm	Location Varies	Affinity group discussion
2:45–4pm	Settlemyer Hall	Discussion and closing with Laura Porter
4:00pm	Settlemyer Hall	Sign-out and turn in your evaluation form

Find more information: [www.btc.edu/focus](http://www.btc.edu/focus)

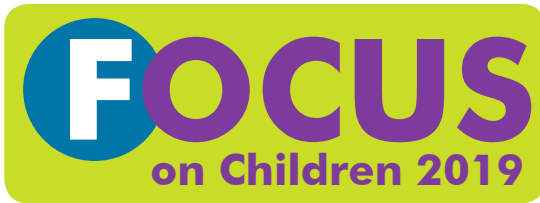
In the spirit of Zero Waste, please bring your own water bottle.

*Please circle your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> choice  
 affinity group for the afternoon session:*

*\*Please note: Choose options below based on your current role  
 in the early learning community.*

Item #	Affinity Group Session 1:00pm–2:30pm (1.5 hours)	Workshop Choice (Circle one)
8701	Infants	1 2 3
8703	Toddlers	1 2 3
8705	Preschool Age	1 2 3
8707	School-Age (K-3)	1 2 3
8709	Family Child Care	1 2 3
8711	Administration	1 2 3
8713	Spanish-Speaking Providers	1 2 3
8715	Developmental Preschools	1 2 3
8717	Professionals Working with Adults	1 2 3
8719	Early Intervention Staff Working with Caregivers	1 2 3

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[www.btc.edu/focus](http://www.btc.edu/focus)

3028 Lindbergh Ave.  
Bellingham, WA 98225

**Cultivating Resiliency in  
Young Minds!**



**Registration opens Jan. 2**

**Register**  
{on or before}  
**January 18 to save!**

*Limited scholarships for licensed child care providers*

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We look forward to seeing you at

**FOCUS**  
on Children 2019



**35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference!**

