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Editorial: Selected Proceedings from the First Global Conference on Holistic Early Learning and Development

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Editorial: Selected Proceedings from the First Global Conference on Holistic Early Learning and Development

Dear Reader,

On May 1-2, 2015, the First Global Conference on Holistic Early Learning and Development was held at Lakehead University's Orillia campus. More than 150 delegates gathered for two days of workshops, presentations, and addresses capturing holistic approaches to research, instruction, policy making, and curriculum theory. Early childhood educators, researchers, students, parents, teachers, and other early childhood advocates exchanged knowledge and experiences on topics ranging from inclusivity and mental health to Aboriginal ways of knowing and technology use in early learning environments.

We were pleased to feature two inspiring keynote addresses, first from Order of Canada recipient Dr. Charles Pascal, whose seminal report *With Our Best Future in Mind* is informing policy and practice in early child education within and outside of Canada. All delegates received a copy of Dr. Pascal's latest book, written with his teenage daughter, Tai Pascal Notar, entitled *Too Far from Perfect: A Father-Daughter Conversation about Public Education* (www.toofarfromperfect.com). The second keynote speaker, educational leader and author Connie Gale, inspired delegates to use play and games to facilitate sensory learning, and reminded us about the importance of play throughout our lifespan. Connie presented inspiring ideas from her book *Games to Grab*, which she developed to assist teachers and parents to heighten student engagement in the learning process through the use of games and play.



Conference delegates were treated to a gallery of art from students in Mrs. Aris and Ms. Molly's Full-Day Kindergarten class at St. John Paul II School in Bolton and Ms. Cole's Grade 2 class at Lions Oval Elementary School in Orillia.

In this special volume of *IJHELD*, we share selected proceedings from the conference with the hope that they inspire your practice, research, and other efforts in support of early childhood development.

Thank you for reading,

Katherine Becker and Sonia Mastrangelo
Editors