The author of over twenty books translated into 27 languages, and several hundred articles, Gardner is best known in educational circles for his theory of multiple intelligences. He has received honorary degrees from 22 colleges and universities, including institutions in Chile, Ireland, Israel, and Italy. Among numerous honors, Gardner received a MacArthur Prize Fellowship in 1981. In 1990, he was the first American to receive the University of Louisville’s Grawemeyer Award in Education and in 2000 he received a Fellowship from the John S. Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. In 2004, he was named an Honorary Professor at East China Normal University in Shanghai. In 2005, he was selected by Foreign Policy and Prospect magazines as one of 100 most influential public intellectuals in the world.
We are living in a time of socio-economic and technological change that calls for new ways to approach learning and cultivate thinking. Traditional teaching approaches based on memorization, recitation, and the concept of a single solution or correct answer do not accommodate our current, more global understandings about the human mind and the nature of intelligence. To foster an enriched and successful lifelong engagement within a world of rapidly evolving ideas, young people must cultivate habits of mind which are adaptive, reflexive, and creative. An arts-based education prepares young people to meet these growing demands through the nurturing of original thought processes, critical thinking and innovative ways to address relevant problems. Moreover, a curriculum that integrates the arts can motivate learning in all disciplines and enhance standards-based education.

Educating the Creative Mind Conference is the inauguration of a new educational project that aims to heighten public awareness of the significance of the arts in children’s learning and development. Throughout this three-day conference, we seek to generate conversations about ways to strengthen arts-based education for young children by inviting educators to share theories, research and best practices with each other and with the community of stakeholders – policy makers, teachers, parents, social workers – all those who influence children's lives. We hope to establish a network of all these individuals who will join forces in finding innovative ways to bring a well-rounded education to children.

Hope you can join and support us at this valuable event!

Dr. Lily Chen-Hafteck,
Director of the Educating the Creative Mind Project, Chair of Young Professionals Focus Group,
Former member of Board of Directors and Chair of Early Childhood Commission,
International Society for Music Education.

Featured Guest Speakers

Dr. Liora Bresler is Professor at the University of Illinois at Champaign. An award-winning educator who is recognized for her tremendous contribution to arts education, Bresler is known for her numerous edited works including International Handbook of Research in Arts Education. Her work has been translated into German, French, Portuguese, Hebrew, and Spanish. She has also written about 100 papers and chapters in leading journals of arts and education, and given keynote speeches in six continents. Currently, she is Honorary Professor at the Hong Kong Institute of Education, Visiting Professor at Stockholm University, and Professor at Stord University, Norway.

Dr. Lori Custodero is Associate Professor and Program Coordinator of Music Education at Teachers College, Columbia University, well-known for her research in young children's musical development. In addition to numerous articles and book chapters, recently she co-edited the book Critical Issues in Music Education. Custodero has served in various professional leadership roles with the Music Educators National Conference's Special Research Interest Group for Early Childhood, and the International Society for Music Education's Early Childhood Commission. She has given invited speeches in Australia, Finland, Greece, Portugal, Taiwan, and the U.K., and has developed programs for young children with many local institutions including Jazz at Lincoln Center and the New York Philharmonic.

FEATURED INTERNATIONAL PRESENTERS
Dr. Elizabeth A. Andang, Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya
Dr. Debbie Carroll, McGill University, Canada
Dr. Markus Cslovjecsek, University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland
Dr. Ana Lucia Frega, Past President of International Society for Music Education, Argentina
Dr. Morakeng Edward Kenneth Lebaka, University of Pretoria, South Africa
Ms. Sari Muhonen, Helsinki University, Finland
Dr. Alda de Jesus Oliveira, Federal University of Bahia, Brazil
Dr. Jens Skou Olsen, Rhythmic Music Conservatory, Denmark
Ms. Rosalía Trejo Leon, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, México
Ms. Ana Veloso, Universidade de Aveiro, Portugal
Dr. Jiaxing Xie, China Conservatory of Music, Beijing, China
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS
This conference will bring together scholars from 13 different states in the United States and 11 other countries including Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America whose presentations will help us understand arts-based education from an international perspective, which is much needed in this increasingly globalizing environment. A wide-ranging selection of presentations will include paper sessions, symposia, hands-on workshops, posters and round-table discussions that will be delivered with an array of topics such as:

- Teaching to Imagination: The Use of Wordless Imagery as Text
- Integrating the Arts in Early Childhood Settings: The Role of Materials
- How Children Teach Us to Teach Math - Impulses for Creative Sound in Math's Classrooms
- Integrating Creative Drama in Our Curricula: Facilitating the Joy of Complete Engagement
- Reaching Children Through Musical Theatre
- Creating Dances with Young Children as a Response to Literature
- The Unschooled Dancer - YouTube as a Source for Understanding Early Childhood Dance
- But I Can't Draw: Supporting Teachers in Aesthetic Inquiry and Arts Integration
- Visual Arts Exploration: Pathways to Literacy
- Children as Creators, Singers, Critics and Teachers: A Study of Children's Intuitive Musical Understandings
- Let Them Play! An Examination of Improvisation as Play for the Development of Children's Creative Musical Thinking

PANEL DISCUSSION: NURTURING THE CREATIVE MIND
Dr. Janet Barrett, Associate Professor at Northwestern University, will facilitate a panel discussion. Dr. Howard Gardner together with officials from the Department of Education and school administrators will discuss the current situation and the implementation of a well-rounded education in early childhood classrooms. Among the special guests are Lucille E. Davy, former Commissioner of Education and Dale Schmid, the Visual & Performing Arts and 21st Century Life & Careers Coordinator at the New Jersey State Department of Education in New Jersey.

SPECIAL CONFERENCE EVENTS
OPENING PERFORMANCE: CELEBRATING CHILDREN'S CREATIVE MIND
On the evening of Thursday, March 4, 2010, a celebration of Children's Creative Mind will feature children's creative works in dance, music, theatre and visual arts. Interviews with young artists that follow each performance will help us learn more about children's creative processes.

CHILDREN'S CREATIVE ARTS DAY: ENGAGING THE CREATIVE MIND
On the morning of Saturday, March 6, 2010, Drs. Lori Custodero, Olga Hubard, and Suzi Tortora, the three leading experts in early childhood arts education from Teachers College, Columbia University, will present creative arts workshops for young children (from 12 months to 6 years of age) and their parents. Following the observations of children's creative arts at work in an educational setting, conference participants will engage in in-depth reflections and discussion led by Dr. Liora Bresler, Professor at the University of Illinois at Champaign. This event will be the concluding highlight of the conference.

Children and parents of the community are invited to register and participate in this creativity-filled and educational event. There will be a registration fee of $10 for each child with a parent. It is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Spaces are limited, so please register early!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT HOURS
For New Jersey educators, attending the full conference will earn 21 professional development hours. Day attendance of Thursday will earn 7 hours and Friday will earn 8.5 hours.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND
Early Childhood and Elementary Classrooms Teachers
Arts, Dance, Music and Theatre Specialist Teachers
College and University Professors involved in Teacher Preparation
Elementary Principals, Preschool Directors, and other School Administrators
Arts-based institutions offering educational programs
School Board Members and Trustees, Government Officials, and Other Policy Makers
Anyone interested in children and education!

REGISTRATION

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Day Registration:

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ACCOMMODATION
Two hotels will serve as Conference Host Hotels:
Kenilworth Inn
http://www.kenilworthinn.com/
$79.00 per night

Homewood Suites
http://www.homewoodsuitescranford.com/
$99.00 per night

CONFERENCE SITE
Founded in 1855, Kean University has grown to become New Jersey’s third largest institution of higher learning and the most prolific producer of teachers in the state. The University is conveniently located within two miles from Newark International Airport. A train station is located adjacent to the campus, offering 30 minute transportation to New York City. Similarly, the University offers easy access to major highways including the New Jersey Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway.

Please register today at www.kean.edu/~creative