

# 30th Annual Integrated Arts Conference

**MAKE IT HAPPEN**

Not THAT AI, Arts Integration!

Nothing ARTIFICIAL about it!

JANUARY 24, 2025

FRIDAY • 8:30-3:30 PM

Common Man Inn, Plymouth, NH

**AI in 2025**

## Presenter Biographies

**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.



**Dr. Irene Cucina** is a Professor and the PEHE Teacher Certification Program Coordinator at Plymouth State University. With expertise in K-12 health and physical education, she focuses on teaching strategies, fitness, wellness, and their impact on student learning. Irene is a national leader in Teacher Education and has expertise in Health Education Teacher Education (HETE) and Physical Education Teacher Education (PETE) certification standards. She was the co-author of the 2018 HETE Initial Teaching Standards Manual and works with higher education faculty to create key assessments that document Teacher Candidate competencies.

Irene has contributed extensively to her field through scholarly publications, presentations, and keynote speeches, covering diverse topics like assessment in physical education, creative movement, and skills-based health education. Her career began with 16 years of teaching high school health and physical education, where she was named Massachusetts Secondary Physical Education Teacher of the Year in 1997. She developed a curriculum focused on fitness, nutrition, and lifetime wellness and launched programs that engaged over 900 students annually. She also founded the Fighting AIDS through Education student club during the AIDS epidemic.

Recognized widely for her contributions, Irene has received numerous awards, including the NH Meritorious Achievement Award (Edie), PSU Distinguished Teacher, SHAPE America Luther H. Gulick Award (the associations highest honor), the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport Pathfinder Award, and was inducted into the Northeast Women's Hall of Fame in 2004. Her legacy is defined by her commitment, passion, and the deep respect she has earned from her colleagues and the profession.



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**Jule C. Finley:** Jule earned her BA in Dramatic Arts in New York in 1990 with a focus on directing and has been teaching theater to children ages 4-19 for nearly 40 years in NY, Texas and NH! She also started Summer theater camps in NY, Canada and here in Franklin, as well as co-founding the FHS Players and Franklin Footlight Theater in 1994-1995. Jule earned her Masters in Arts Integration and her CAGS in Educational Leadership in Arts through PSU. She has performed with ETC in Plymouth and the Little Church Theater in Ashland. She has loved sharing the stage with many students and beloved friends, but also her amazing family! Her daughters have grown up in Footlight and FHS Players and she and her husband Jack were married while playing the Baker and the Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods*. Currently, Jule is an Assistant Superintendent/ Curriculum Coordinator and still runs the extracurricular theater program at Franklin. When not busy with a show, she loves spending time traveling, with her three amazing dogs or just breathing at home!



**Fran Page** (Co-Producing Artistic Director) holds a BA in Acting from Plymouth State University and a MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts (Applied Theatre) from Goddard College. He has spent the last 24 winters at ETC in various roles on and off the stage and is excited to be entering his first season at ETC as the Co-Producing Artistic Director alongside Jule Finley. Fran has performed, taught, and directed throughout New England, South Africa, Canada, and Eastern Europe. He is a Teaching Lecturer in the Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance at Plymouth State University and also coordinates the Standardized Patient Program. ETC performance credits include: *Gypsy* (Herbie), *Guys and Dolls* (Nathan), *Annie* (Rooster), *The Little Mermaid* (Ursula), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Mordcha), *Shrek* (Shrek), *Marking the Moment* (Babe Ruth), and *Frindle* (Ted Bell). Select directing credits include: *Once Upon a Mattress*, *A Killer Party*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Sweet Charity*, *Death Trap*, *Master Class*, *A Man of No Importance*, and *Avenue Q*.





**MICHAEL STODDARD**, recently returned to New Hampshire after spending the last twenty-five years in New York, Milwaukee, Chicago and Miami as a theatre educator, artistic director, actor and playwright. He holds a BA in Performance and a MEd in Theatre Education and Integrated Arts from Plymouth State University. Seventeen years of his career was spent as the Director of Theatre in two different private middle and high schools where he was brought in to strengthen and grow the programs. He is currently the Associate Artistic Director for the professional company, *Interlakes Summer Theatre* and the new Managing Artistic Director of PSU's *TIGER Touring Company*. He is one of the co-founders, content creators and playwrights for *Musicals Made Easy*, an online platform offering mostly free resources to directors in need of guidance and support in the world of theatre arts. As a playwright, he recently premiered his original one-act comedy, *Paradise* at the New York Theatre Festival as the playwright and director where he received first place in both categories and was the playwright and co-creator of *Triggered*, the newest TIGER touring show. He is the current playwright for the 2025 musical for the Educational Theatre Collaborative entitled, *The Show Must Go On*, which premieres this January. When not working locally, Michael teaches, performs and directs all over the world. [michaeldavidstoddard.com](http://michaeldavidstoddard.com); [musicalsmadeeasy.com](http://musicalsmadeeasy.com)

**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.



**Lisa Travis** has had a 40 year career in dance as a performer, choreographer and teacher. She began her teaching career at New Hampton School where she held the position of Director of Dance for 8 years. Lisa then went on to serve on the faculty of Plymouth State University in the department of Music, Theater and Dance. During her time at PSU, she taught dance pedagogy and technique courses, as well as choreographing for the Musical Theater Department and the Contemporary Dance Ensemble. In 2011 she was the recipient of the Distinguished Teaching Lecturer Award, recognizing her hard work and dedication to her students and the world of dance. She has choreographed for community and professional theaters in NH, receiving a NH Theater Award in 2017 for best community production at the Little Church Theatre. Lisa holds a 500 hour Advanced Shakti Flow Yoga certification and enjoys teaching yoga in her retirement.



**Kimberly LaCroix** has directed musical casts of 75 people, devised new works exploring themes from adolescence to modern sex slavery, and performed her one-woman show, *Mzungu Memoirs*, for eight years. Her work is rooted in community development, social activism, and the liberatory action of Theatre of the Oppressed. Kimberly teaches at Gordon College and serves on the nonprofit boards of Wiffletree Works, Inc. and History Alive, Inc



**Harmony Markey** is the Program Coordinator for Music Education and Director of Choral Studies at Plymouth State University where she is responsible for advising, mentoring, and supervising of all pre-service music teachers, teaching undergraduate music education and conducting courses, and directing the University Chorale and Chamber Singers ensembles. In her short 5 years at PSU, she has received two student recognition awards. She is also in her fourth season as Music Director for the Educational Theatre Collaborative. Before serving at PSU, Harmony spent more than 20 years teaching general, choral, and instrumental music in K-12 public schools in Vermont, Colorado, and the Lakes Region of New Hampshire, where she earned the 2015 Distinguished Teacher of the Year award.

As a classical vocalist Harmony has performed with the Lakes Region Music Symphony Orchestra, the Carter Mountain Brass Band, the NH Music Festival Chorus, and the New Hampshire Master Chorale and also performs also performs as a multi-instrumentalist, singer/songwriter. She holds a Bachelor of Music Education Degree from Northern Vermont University, and a Master of Music degree in Music Education from Boston University. She holds certificates in Social Emotional Learning and Trauma-Informed classroom techniques and is a teacher trainer in Modern Band techniques with Music Will.



**Donna Koskela** has been teaching Video and Media production at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, NH since 2019. Prior to that, she was an Assistant Professor at Vermont State University in Lyndon, VT teaching in the broadcast journalism department. Before entering education, Donna was a producer at WMUR-TV for more than a decade. She worked on a variety of programs as a newscast producer and coordinating producer for the Emmy Award winning show *NH Chronicle*.

Donna is NH native and lives in Derry with her husband John. In her free time you can find her biking and hiking or sewing up a storm in her sewing room.



**Kirsten Mohring** (Conference Coordinator) is an elementary music teacher at Nottingham West Elementary School in Hudson, NH. During her 22 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 performs with the Manchester Choral Society.

