

# Nurturing Giftedness

## Early Childhood Education MASTERS STUDENTS: STRATEGIES FOR TEACHERS OF GIFTED INDIVIDUALS

UCF offers a unique program to train graduate students who are in the Early Childhood Program to meet the social, emotional and academic educational needs of High Ability and Gifted Learners. The online courses are differentiated for each student's context and interests, in line with Gifted Education best research-based practices.



## Become A Specialist In Teaching Gifted Learners -

The need for Early Childhood Teachers to be trained in Gifted Education has never been greater! Very few have been trained to meet the unique needs of this population, despite the extensive programs and services in local schools. In addition, teachers are directly involved in their identification and assessment.

Most of the programs and curricula exist in Elementary Schools. There is a great move to have all teachers become certified to teach gifted learners and develop strategies for all students in a Schoolwide Enrichment and Acceleration approach. The National Association for Gifted Children has set standards for training all teachers in relevant practices. However, at UCF we go much further and aim to meet the ADVANCED standards for teacher leaders and curriculum specialists in Gifted Education. In Florida, the ACCEL legislation provides guidelines for serving all students in relation to relevant acceleration options within a regular classroom setting. Diverse groups within the Gifted population range from Learning Disabled or Twice-Exceptional Gifted; Marginalized Gifted; Underserved Populations and At-Risk learners. How to address underachievement in Gifted and High Ability learners is as important as the stress and anxiety experienced by "overachievers".

Take any one of the courses as an elective or register for the UCF GIFTED CERTIFICATE - [egi6417](#) and [EGI6246](#) available in Spring!

### Gifted Certificate Courses

- [EGI6051](#) **Understanding Gifted/Talented Students**
  - [EGI6245](#) **Curriculum and Instruction for Teachers of Advanced, Gifted and Talented Learners**
  - [EGI6417](#) **Counseling and Guidance Strategies for Teachers of Gifted and Talented Individuals**
  - [EGI6246](#) **Education of Special Populations of Gifted Students**
  - [EGI6305](#) **The Nature and Development of Creativity**
- ELECTIVE:** [EGI6247](#) **Developing Advanced Curriculum Programs and Services:**



5 courses in GIFTED EDUCATION CERTIFICATE Program - fully online.

PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Dr. Gillian Eriksson, 407-8236493  
Department of Learning Sciences and Educational Research

# Meet UCF ALUMNA

## Jeanette Lukens, Seminole County Public Schools

Jeanette Lukens, Ed.S. is a Nationally Certified and State Licensed School Psychologist with Seminole County Public Schools.

Ms Lukens is the Director and Co-P.I. of Project ELEVATE, a USDOE Jacob K. Javits Grant, 2015-2020, a collaboration between UCF and SCPS. Ms. Lukens is a widely respected colleague in the field of gifted education, with years of experience working in exceptional student education.

As the lead psychologist on the district's Gifted/Talent Development Initiative, Ms. Lukens has advocated and implemented a Matrix for underrepresented students in the district's highest need schools to be identified for gifted services. (This was developed in the course EGI6246 at UCF). She has an undergraduate Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Psychology, an Education Specialist degree in School Psychology, and a Graduate Certificate in Gifted Education (University of Central Florida). She has presented at state, national and international conferences on topics of identification and development of high-ability students, professional development of teachers, and socio-emotional needs of gifted learners.

In 2017 she won an award as a "Leader to Learn From" for her work on Project ELEVATE by Education Week.



*"As I complete my courses in the gifted program, I continue to be amazed at the depth and breath of my increasing knowledge of gifted education. Each course is providing me a solid foundation and capturing my interest to further develop my knowledge. I anticipated this course would benefit my daily role as a school psychologist due to the diverse populations of students that I support. Little did I know that this course would prove essential as professional opportunities arose to be a member of my school district's Elementary Gifted Planning Committee and my role as the lead psychologist for gifted identification. I hope to make a positive impact on increasing the participation of low SES students and ELL students in the gifted program (2013)" (Permission to print)*



### PROJECT ELEVATE:

This grant has revised the identification for Underserved Low-Income and English Learners - increasing the numbers in 10 Elementary Title I Schools OVERALL 11%; with Low-Income increasing from 354 to 720; English Learners from 39 to 87. (2013-2019)  
UCF has trained TEAMS of Teacher Leaders and ALL teachers at 10 Elementary Schools and 2 Middle Schools

## EGI6417 Course Topics:

### EXAMPLE OF COURSE CONTENT ON GUIDANCE

- Referral and Placement Decisions
- Assessment Issues in Identification
- Personal and Social Development
- Perfectionism and Resilience
- Underachievement and Self-Perception
- Anxiety, Depression and Personal Growth
- Developing an Affective Program for Gifted
- Strategies: Managing Stress, Time, Study and Behavioral Issues
- Nurturing Diverse Groups of Gifted Learners

# THE GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAM AT UCF

Build your professional portfolio and become recognized as a specialist in serving High Ability and Gifted Learners!

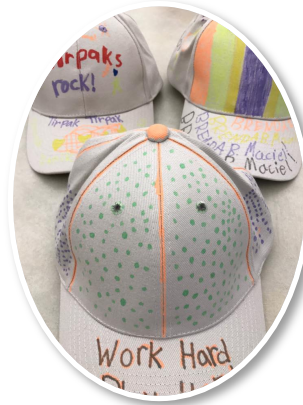
See: <http://ccie.ucf.edu/lser/gifted>

The Gifted Education graduate program prepares educators to facilitate the unique learning skills of advanced, high-ability, gifted and talented learners and ensures preparedness to provide a range of services and programs, with enriched and accelerated academic opportunities for students with advanced educational needs. UCF's program uses the National Standards for Professional Development of Teachers of the Gifted (National Association for Gifted Children and Council for Exceptional Children). The 15 credit hours earned in the certificate program fulfill the professional development requirements necessary to apply for an endorsement to the Florida teaching certificate in gifted education.

Courses in this program have been specifically designed for delivery online and integrate the most efficient group communication technologies to create interactive, collaborative learning communities. New and emerging technologies are infused in course content, delivery and productivity with alternative formats for assignments, learning tasks and research. Students with advanced knowledge or experience can compact specific sections to work on higher level curriculum extension activities or research.

Faculty members are highly qualified instructors with diverse professional backgrounds and have received international recognition for excellence in the field of gifted education.

The certificate program can be completed in one year (2 in Fall, 2 in Spring, 1 in Summer). Students are able to continue working and/or teaching while completing authentic, relevant, online learning assignments tailored to their needs.



*fully online!!!!*

## Gifted Education

What does it mean to be "gifted"? How are teaching strategies for advanced and gifted students different from effective practices that are relevant for all students? What are the unique socio-emotional needs of high-ability and gifted students that should be considered in an affective curriculum and counseling? How should culturally and linguistically diverse high-ability students be identified and served? How can teachers nurture the development of creative productivity? These questions will be addressed throughout the Gifted Education program.

## Benefits of the Program

The UCF Department of Learning Sciences and Educational Research provides a unique opportunity for teachers and other professionals to earn a graduate certificate online while balancing the responsibilities of work, family, and professional development.

- Web-based delivery of gifted courses
- Experienced, expert, international faculty
- Coursework uses National Teacher Preparation Standards for Gifted Education in the Certificate, and Advanced Standards in Gifted Education Teacher Training in the Master's Degree (NAGC/CEC)
- All certificate credits (15) may be applied toward a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction
- Individualized advisement and field research and observations
- Modification of content for teacher's context and research interests
- The development of a cumulative Professional Portfolio in Gifted
- Enhancement of knowledge and skills related to gifted education