



Individual Responsibility Within Equity-Empowered Early Childhood Special Education and Early Intervention Systems

Early childhood special education and early intervention systems are the cornerstone for provision of services to young children with disabilities and those deemed “at-risk.” Despite the realization that disparities and biases exist for young children within systems, we often focus on fixing children and families.

Through acknowledging our individual responsibilities within equity-empowered systems, Dr. Blanchard will show how we can recreate systems that truly serve every child, no matter their identities or circumstances.

March 24, 2021

1:25–2:25 pm (EST)

Optional discussion to follow

Online through Zoom



About the Speaker

Sheresa Boone Blanchard, Ph.D. is an associate professor at East Carolina University in the department of Human Development and Family Science. She teaches courses and supervises interns in the birth through kindergarten teacher education program, a blended licensure area in North Carolina. Dr. Blanchard currently serves as co-chair of the Division for Early Childhood’s Inclusion, Equity, and Social Justice Committee and serves as a governor-appointed commissioner for the North Carolina Child Care Commission as well as other state and local-level boards. She received the Merle B. Karnes Award for Service to the Division for Early Childhood in 2018.

Dr. Blanchard’s research and teaching focus on family/community engagement, inclusion, families of color, assessment, early intervention, and improving teacher preparation competencies through lenses of intersectionality, equity, and social justice. These interests emerged from over 20 years of experience as a teacher, practitioner, and consultant in early childhood, special education, and early intervention. In Fall 2020, she was appointed to the ECU Rural Education Institute to sharpen her research focus on the strengths and needs in rural education and early intervention.

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