

WSMS TEACHES TEACHERS, TOO!

As many members of our WSMS community members know, in addition to providing “where to begin” for 200-plus children every year, we also run a series of programs for adult learners to become credentialed Montessori educators through our WSMS Teacher Education Program (WSMS-TEP). WSMS-TEP currently offers the following Montessori credentials:

- Infant Toddler: birth to age 3
- Early Childhood: age 2.6 through 6
- Elementary I: age 6 through 9
- Elementary I-II: age 6 through 12
- Administrator

We also offer the Montessori Inclusion Endorsement for teachers working with children with disabilities. This training benefits an inclusive approach in all Montessori classrooms.

How does WSMS-TEP affect the broader community and classrooms?

WSMS-TEP is deeply woven into the fabric of WSMS and its effects are far-reaching. Our classrooms benefit from teachers who are WSMS-TEP alumni or student teachers. We offer our employed student teachers training through WSMS-TEP



at no cost to them. Additionally, some of our teachers also serve as WSMS-TEP faculty or support staff, providing numerous years of Montessori classroom experience and excellence.

From its founding, WSMS recognized and understood the importance of quality formalized training for Montessori educators. WSMS believes so deeply in supporting Montessori educators that in 2017 a financial aid program was created through WSMS-TEP for qualified students every year. This crucial financial aid program is funded by **WSMS Gives**, which is generously supported by our current parents and alumni families.

Where is WSMS-TEP located?

WSMS-TEP is located in our buildings at 302 West 91st Street and 309 West 92nd Street. Additional locations have been added to support the growth of Montessori teacher preparation in Shanghai, Whitehouse Station, NJ, and Buffalo, NY.

What is the mission of WSMS-TEP?

We seek to prepare adults in the transformative process of Montessori teacher education in order to develop into responsive, sensitive, and knowledgeable guides who are empowered to lead the diverse communities in which they work. Our motto encapsulates this: “... to think, not [to] be thought for.”



TEP STATISTICS

- 83 students are currently enrolled for 2022-2023
- 48 students completed their programs in June 2022
- 7 WSMS teachers are TEP faculty
- 14 WSMS teachers and 2 WSMS admin are TEP students
- 23 WSMS teachers are TEP alumni/ae

WSMS TEACHERS WHO ARE TEP FACULTY OR SUPPORT:



Latisa Gilmore



Florencia Lisita



Robyn Mernick



Maria Rosado



Katherine Schneider



Carla Simms



Kira Haag Walker

WSMS TEACHERS WHO ARE TEP STUDENTS:



Alessandra Castaneda



Marine Dalla Santa



Zsuzanna Dvorak Ramjohn



Arlim Gonzalez



Habab Ibrahim



Yibei Li



Miranda Liu



Florim Macaуда



Arisandy Palacios



Raven Rocca



Taylor Senatus



Megan Turmon

WSMS ADMIN AND TEACHERS WHO ARE TEP ADMIN STUDENTS:



Alyse Camacho



Kathleen Cook



Maria Rosado



Yanjun Yao

WSMS TEACHERS WHO ARE TEP ALUMN/AE:

Gretchen Amberg-Stack
Valeria Benalcazar
Dave Eckert
Aldo Evangelista
Shayna Gatling
Latisa Gilmore
Jovanae Gilzene-Brown

Veranica Hayward
Jackie Hunte
Maiko Ishii
Thana Khouli
Florencia Lisita
Cailyn Lynn
Margot Mack
Beata Owczarzak
Marcia Polanco

Nubia Ramirez-Carson
Maria Rosado
Melissa Silvestri
Carla Simms
Stephanie Virgo
Kira Walker
Yanjun Yao

A BRIEF HISTORY OF WSMS-TEP

In 1967, Project CHAMP (Central Harlem Association of Montessori Parents) was founded by Roslyn D. Williams to prepare parents to become active participants in their children's education and to increase the pool of Montessori teachers in New York City. CHAMP was the first American Montessori School (AMS) Teacher Education Program affiliated in New York City, and the first African American-established Montessori TEP in the US. WSMS faculty and administrators, along with faculty from other Montessori schools, taught at Project CHAMP in those early years.

In September 1994, the WSMS Board of Trustees voted to move Project CHAMP under the umbrella of WSMS to ensure the legacy of Montessori teacher preparation in NYC. At that time, the name was changed to West Side Montessori School—Teacher Education Program. For many years, WSMS-TEP offered a program to prepare adults to earn the AMS Early Childhood credential. In 2012, the Infant Toddler level was added in response to local need. Crucially aware of the expanding worldwide need for high-quality Montessori educators over a broader range of ages, WSMS-TEP expanded to add the Elementary I (6-9), I-II (6-12), and II (9-12) levels in partnership with Metropolitan Montessori School. The first cohort of Elementary began in 2016. The Administrator program, which prepares adults for leadership positions in Montessori schools, accepted the inaugural cohort in 2017. WSMS-TEP was one of the first programs in the US to add the Montessori Inclusion Endorsement to prepare credentialed Montessori teachers to serve children with exceptional needs.