



The **2025 Mielke Summer Institute** will be held at Björklunden, Lawrence's seminar center on Lake Michigan near Baileys Harbor in Door County. From Monday evening, **June 22**, through noon on Friday, **June 27**, all sessions will be held at the lodge during the day and, on occasion, in the evening. There will be ample free time so participants can explore Björklunden's 441-acre estate and the rest of Door County. Room (double-occupancy with private baths) and board (breakfast, lunch and dinner) will be provided courtesy of Lawrence University. Participants will be expected to stay at the lodge for the duration of the institute.

Goals for Mielke Fellows

The Mielke Summer Institute in the Liberal Arts seeks to give educators from Appleton, Shawano and Lawrence the opportunity to explore new ideas and examine issues of societal importance from a multidisciplinary perspective in a collegial environment characterized by open-mindedness and mutual respect. The intent is to combine serious study and playful inquiry. It is expected that participants will find areas of common interest with other educators across the disciplines and grade levels, and that the resulting links will encourage both communication and collaboration in the future. The knowledge and skills that fellows acquire during the Summer Institute will, in time and in various ways, affect their work as educators. However, the goal is to provide intellectual stimulation and renewal for the participants themselves on the assumption that, ultimately, the best teachers are those who are continuously learning, exploring and creating.

Register

Credits	6 graduate units
Tuition	None
Room and board	Free

Who

Appleton and Shawano public school educators K–12, in all subjects and areas.

Applications and Deadlines

Can be downloaded from the website below by following the appropriate links:

lawrence.edu/info/community/mielke

Appleton Teachers

Return completed applications by March 14, 2025, to:

Stewart Purkey
Lawrence University
711 E Boldt Way
Appleton, WI 54911-5699

Shawano Teachers

Return completed applications by March 14, 2025, to:

Kurt Krizan
Superintendent
Shawano School District
218 County Rd. B
Shawano, WI 54166

All participants must be fully vaccinated, including all recommended boosters.

Acceptance

Fellows will be notified during the week of March 31, 2025.

Contact these teacher coordinators for more information:

Appleton Public Schools

Brian Bartel
Morgan Building
920-832-6265, ext.63167
bartelbrian@aasd.k12.wi.us

Michelle Johnson
Lincoln Elementary School
920-832-6270
johnsonmichelle@aasd.k12.wi.us

Shawano Public Schools

Megan Pyatskowitz
Shawano Community High School
mpyatskowitz@shawanoschools.org



What we do is *teach!*

JUNE 22–JUNE 27, 2025



What we do is *teach!*

Since its beginning, the Mielke Summer Institute in the Liberal Arts has focused on addressing issues of social and cultural significance from an interdisciplinary and, increasingly, multicultural perspective. To that end, we have examined how the visual arts, philosophy, natural science, history, theater, social science, literature, and music, each by itself and in combination with other liberal arts disciplines, can deepen, enrich and, at times, challenge our understanding of the world around us.

The Summer Institute was also created to be an ongoing example of professional development that trusts K-12 educators and believes that their practice will always, in myriad but unpredictable ways, be enriched by engaging in study and conversation with other educators. Given that, we have rarely spent the entire week at Björklunden thinking, specifically, about curriculum and instruction. This summer, however, we plan to do just that: read about, think about, talk about what we do, how we do it and why we do it.

Under the theme, What We Do Is Teach!, we will explore a variety of pedagogical topics, some of which have long histories (e.g., culturally and historically responsive teaching, enduring ethical dilemmas and philosophical issues), some of which have only recently emerged (e.g., the use of AI and machine learning, parental rights laws) and some of which we now know more about (differentiated learning, advances in the science of learning). We'll explore ways in which theater arts can help us create more engaging classroom learning experiences. We'll spend some time outdoors, paying attention to what we see and hear and thinking about how that translates to what we do in school. We'll see a film or two about teachers and teaching and kids. And, throughout, we'll have the opportunity to talk at length and in depth with other K-12 educators and with Lawrence faculty about what we do, how we do it and why we do it.

During the week, seminar sessions take place in the morning, afternoon and evening and we are confident that, as people said about good butchers once upon a time, we "give good weight" intellectually. Still, of late and especially in these times we've realized the value of providing green time, space in which we can simply enjoy Björklunden's beautiful grounds ("touching grass" in TikTok-speak) and being with people who understand what it means to teach – and why we need to relax, refresh and renew at the end of the school year.

So, whether you are a brand-new teacher or a veteran educator, whether you have attended Mielke before or never yet, we welcome your participation. We look forward to learning with you and from you and we look forward to the pleasure of your company!

—Stewart Purkey



Stephanie Burdick-Shepherd, associate professor of education at Lawrence, teaches in the Teacher Education Program and directs the Center for Teaching Excellence. She views teaching as a continuous, imperfect journey of practice and growth, emphasizing the pursuit of the good, the true, and the beautiful. Her research focuses on reading, early childhood, and philosophy, with published work highlighting early childhood thinkers and a recent podcast appearance on Thinking in the Midst discussing reading. She also presented on using picture books to support children's technological education at the Children's Literature Association conference. In order not to lose sight of the wisdom that comes from a messy and imperfect journey she throws flour around her kitchen trying to bake the perfect cherry scone and happily learns about teen linguistic patterns from her daughters.

Jacque Troy is a lecturer in Theatre Arts, Education Studies, and Business and Entrepreneurship. In high school, inspired by a friend and a compassionate teacher, she took an acting class which transformed her from a shy teen and ignited a lifelong love of theatre. She joyfully taught high school for three years before spending 15 years as a professional actor, along the way designing and teaching theatre classes in a variety of settings. Her work outside of Lawrence includes nine years as the Education Director at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, six years as Education Director/Literary Manager at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre and, most recently, Instructional Coach at Arts@Large, a non-profit supporting arts in underfunded schools. She is glad her journey has taken her here and thrilled that you'll find your way here, too.

Bob Williams, a cognitive scientist and professor of education at Lawrence University, studies how learning is shaped by memory systems and discourse. His research focuses on the role of gestures in problem-solving, reasoning, and understanding, and his work has been published in leading journals and books on cognition and linguistics. He has contributed entries on distributed cognition and gesture for key reference works. At Lawrence, he chairs the Mielke Family Department of Education and, in addition to supervising LU's secondary school student teachers, teaches courses on the science of learning and on differentiated instruction and literacy. He's a faculty member in Lawrence's highly regarded linguistics program where he leads advanced seminars in linguistics and cognitive science. Outside work, he sings with NEWVoices, explores nature, and enjoys traveling with his family.

Stewart Purkey, Director of Teacher Education at Lawrence and Bee Connell Mielke Professor of Education, is the director of the Mielke Summer Institute in the Liberal Arts. He comes from a family of educators (which, perhaps, indicates the call to teach may be heritable) and attributes his passion for teaching to the examples provided by his mother, who taught middle school English language arts before becoming a Title I reading teacher, Mrs. Wheat, his 3rd grade teacher, and Mrs. Wise, his high school English teacher. He hopes they would approve of the teacher he continues to become.

