2015 Conference on The Value of Play: Advancing Play

Clemson University, SC
February 15-18, 2015
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**Join Us for the 2016 Conference on the Value of Play**  
**February 14-17, 2016!**
About Us:
The US Play Coalition is an international collective of individuals and organizations that recognize play as a valuable and necessary part of a healthy and productive life.

Since the Summit in 2009, we have grown to a network of more than 2,300 individuals, a number which continues to grow daily.

Our membership is diverse - including individuals with a commitment to increasing awareness of the value of play, educators, physicians, health scientists, parks and recreation professionals, psychologists, landscape architects, and many more.

Membership is free, and simply requires a declaration of shared commitment to the value of play. Join at: http://usplaycoalition.clemson.edu/

Continuing Education Units (CEU)

This conference is able to award CEUs for your participation in sessions. All keynotes, featured and concurrent sessions are 45 minutes in length. Each will be awarded .05 CEUs. There is no fee for CEUs at this conference.

How to earn your CEUs:

1. Pick up a CEU form from the registration desk.
2. Have your CEU form signed at the beginning and end of each educational sessions and keynote address.
3. At the end of the conference, return your completed CEU form to the registration desk.

You will receive confirmation of your complete CEUs via email following the conference. Please give us several weeks to complete the process.
## Need a Ride?

Shuttle service schedule between the Holiday Inn Express (HIE) and the Madren Center

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Welcome from James P. Clements, Clemson University President

On behalf of the Clemson University community, welcome to the 2015 Conference on the Value of Play!

As President, I take pride in Clemson’s leadership in an important movement to recognize and promote play as a basic human need and the foundation for strong intellectual, physical and emotional development.

Clemson students are active and engaged learners as are all of you. Thank you for choosing to spend part of your week with us. Together, we can learn more about how to promote a culture of healthy play in our communities locally, nationally, and internationally.

The Clements family needs no convincing. I grew up with three siblings, so our home was always play central for our neighborhood. Beth and I make sure that active play with our four kids is a regular part of our healthy lifestyle.

I believe you all are doing important work to keep children and adults playing throughout life. I know you have an exciting two and a half days planned and wish you a great Clemson experience from start to finish!

Go Tigers!

James P. Clements, Ph.D.
President
Clemson University
Welcome from the US Play Coalition

As your hosts for the Conference on the Value of Play, we are excited to welcome you to the 2015 event. Whether this is your first or fifth conference, we are glad you have joined us on our journey to promote the value of play for people of all ages and abilities.

This year, our theme is “Advancing Play.” We are thrilled with the many sessions that will advance play through the sharing of knowledge and experience in this area. We will advance the research around play with the debut of two new publications at the conference: “PlayPulse,” the heartbeat of play trends, and our first education-focused white paper “The Critical Place of Play in Education.” We continue to advance play with our great sponsors and partners. Collaboration is the key to our success, and we are excited that play has creatively united so many of our individual efforts.

To date, we have funded $30,000 in grants, and we look forward to increasing that total during the conference. Please join us at the closing banquet on Tuesday night to learn who receives the 2015 action and research seed grant awards.

Of course, our conference would not be possible without you. You are the heart and soul of the modern play movement. With a keynote panel, two keynote addresses, over 90 educational sessions to choose from, and two “play” hours, we are confident you will gain new knowledge and build meaningful connections with your peers. We also invite you to attend as many of our open committee meetings as you can; participating in these will position you to be an even greater leader in your community or organization in the future.

Thank you again for being with us. Thanks, as well, to our sponsors, partners, volunteers, committee chairs, steering committee, and everyone who has played a role in making this event a success.

Let’s PLAY!

Brett Wright  
Co-Chair

Fran Mainella  
Co-Chair

Stephanie Garst  
Executive Director
Welcome from Joe Frost, PhD, Honorary Conference Chair

As the Honorary Program Chair and on behalf of the US Play Coalition and its steering committee, I am pleased to welcome you to the 2015 conference. I hope you will join me in thanking Coalition Co-Chairs Fran Mainella and Brett Wright, Executive Director Stephanie Garst, our volunteer steering committee, our sponsors, our partners, and Clemson University for making this terrific event possible. Unfortunately, I am not able to attend in person this year. I will miss being with you.

Few professional organizations have progressed so far or so fast as USPC in promoting, creating and expanding collaboration for the value of play across generations. I am excited to see USPC partnering with veteran groups like IPA/USA, of which I was president from 1986-1988. In addition to these collaborations, you can see the expanding role of the Coalition in its membership numbers and in the monies awarded through action and research grants. There is no doubt the Coalition is working diligently to insure all know of play’s growing importance in all of our lives.

My sincere wishes for an informative, constructive, and enjoyable three days as we all work to expand knowledge of productive play in homes, neighborhoods, and schools. In closing, I would like to leave you with this reminder: Children are born to play. It’s value for health, development, and well-being never fades away.

Dr. Joe Frost
Parker Centennial Professor Emeritus, University of Texas

Welcome from the President of the International Play Association/USA

As President and on behalf of the board and membership of the International Play Association/USA, I am delighted to welcome you to the 2015 conference. We want to express our appreciation to co-chairs Fran Mainella and Brett Wright, Executive Director Stephanie Garst, and the team at Clemson University for their diligent work in putting together yet another impressive conference program.

We are especially excited to be a part of the conference this year as a way to maintain and strengthen the partnership between the International Play Association/USA and the US Play Coalition. We believe that this relationship has been mutually beneficial for members of both organizations. As we move into the second year of our partnership, we look forward to building linkages that will elevate the agenda for play.

IPA/USA is affiliated with the International Play Association, the oldest worldwide organization dedicated to promoting the child’s right to play. IPA affiliates are located around the world and our triennial conferences provide a venue for conversations and advocacy that are unparalleled. We encourage you to visit our website at http://www.ipausa.org/.

During the conference, IPA/USA will be hosting several sessions that will highlight the work of IPA and the benefits of membership. I especially encourage you to attend the meeting on Sunday night to learn more about who we are and what we do. All IPA/USA information sessions are open to everyone and your participation is welcomed and valued.

Throughout the conference, you will have opportunities to attend sessions, talk to colleagues, and engage in thoughtful conversations about play. As you leave the conference, we hope you have a renewed commitment to promoting play and especially the child’s right to play.

Play on,
Dorothy Sluss
Keynote Speakers

**Kevin Ross Emery**—Managing the Gift of ADD/HD Through Play and Creativity, Monday, 8:00-9:15 am. Kevin Ross Emery, known by many as “Dr. Kevin,” is a national expert in the ADD/HD field and recognized as an early innovator who integrated the concepts of coaching and counseling seamlessly into a single process known as synergetic catalysm. Working with companies such as American Express, Dartmouth College, Hilton, and Sheraton, his trademark blend of coaching, counseling, and skill development gives clients the tools to empower their lives and accomplish their goals, often in less time than traditional approaches. Kevin is also an accomplished author as well as a regular media resource. He also hosted his own radio show called “Outside The Box With Dr. Kevin.”

**Peter Gray, PhD**—What Exactly is Play and Why is It Such a Powerful Vehicle for Learning? Tuesday, 8:00-9:15 am. Dr. Gray is a research professor of psychology at Boston College, has conducted and published research in neuroendocrinology, developmental psychology, anthropology, and education. He is author of an internationally acclaimed introductory psychology textbook (*Psychology*, Worth Publishers, now in its 7th edition), which views all of psychology from an evolutionary perspective. His recent research focuses on the roles of play in human evolution and how children educate themselves, through play and exploration, when they are free to do so. He has expanded on these ideas in his recent book, *Free to Learn: Why Unleashing the Instinct to Play Will Make Our Children Happier, More Self-Reliant, and Better Students for Life* (Basic Books, 2013). He also authors a regular blog called *Freedom to Learn*, for *Psychology Today* magazine. His own current play life includes not only his research and writing, but also long-distance bicycling, backwoods skiing, kayaking, and backyard vegetable gardening.

**Tigeroar, Monday, 6:30-8:30 pm.** TIGEROAR performs a variety of musical genres around not only Clemson, but also has entertained audiences all the way from San Francisco, to New York, to Boston, and most recently, Chicago. In 9 years, TIGEROAR has produced 6 albums, twice appeared on the Best Of College A Cappella compilation CDs, received a few CARA nominations, placed first in the 2004 SoJam competition, and placed second in the South in the 2004 ICCA competition! The group also puts on two big concerts in Clemson every year, and their spring show, TIGEROAR Live, is a perennial sell-out at Clemson's 1,000-seat Brooks Center. TIGEROAR will be our post-dinner entertainment!

**Fran Mainella, Martin LeBlanc, Hedda Sharapan, Dorothy Sluss, Linda Rhoads**—Keynote Panel: Advancing Play—Critical Perspectives, Sunday, 7:30-8:15 pm. This play leadership panel will discuss the conference’s theme – Advancing Play. Each will share their critical perspectives on how to move play forward for all. Panel members include Martin LeBlanc – co-founder of the Children and Nature Network; Hedda Sharapan – Director of Early Childhood Initiatives at the Fred Rogers Company; Dorothy Sluss President of IPA; Linda Rhoads, Executive Director of the Alliance for Childhood. Open discussion will close the session and help position us for our 2015 conference and next steps for all of us to advance play.
2015 Conference on the Value of Play
Advancing Play in Partnership with IPA/USA

Featured Speakers

Robert Johnson—The Fear of Play and Collaboration—How did we get here? How do we get back?, Sunday, 1:00-1:45 pm.
Bob Johnson’s patented experiential tools comprise the elements of his seminars and workshops. Most noteworthy is the Bcube™, an experiential, team dynamics, tabletop tool, which has been used by business leaders on four continents to rediscover and accelerate learning. Researchers have shown it to be effective in teaching the elements of play and collaboration as vital problem-solving skills. Bob is a member of the Duke University Corporate Education faculty and of the faculty of CEO Space International. He is the lead facilitator for the Blumenthal Leadership Institute for Change.

Debbie Rhea—The LIINK Project: Putting Play, Character Development, Creative Time, and Academic Content in Perspective, Monday, 9:30-10:15 am.
Debbie Rhea is Professor and Associate Dean for Health Sciences and Research at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas. She taught physical education and coached in the public schools for 12 years prior to earning her doctorate in pedagogy and sport/exercise psychology. She is well-published on physical activity, eating disorders, and adolescents with a primary emphasis on diversity, behavior change, and motivation. Her newest project is The Link Project (Let’s inspire innovation ‘N kids): More play, more character development.

Ellen O’Sullivan—Play Facilitator Training, Sunday, 2:00-4:00pm, Play: Key to Adults Getting a Life, Monday, 11:30 am-12:15 pm.
Ellen O’Sullivan, Ph.D., treasures the full spectrum of life experiences of her career in parks and recreation. She has written several marketing books; worked with the National Institutes of Health, developed a series of Come Out & Play workshops for adults and created the training for Play Facilitators, a project of the Play Coalition.

Phil Gaines—Disruptive Innovations and Their Impact on Parks and Play, Monday, 10:30-11:15 am.
Phil Gaines, State Park Director, South Carolina State Park Service. He is currently on the Board of Directors for the National Association of State Park Directors, as well as the current Vice President, and Past President of the Association of Southeastern State Park Directors. He is a Past Chairman of the Board of Regents and is an instructor for the State Park Leadership School in Wheeling, West Virginia. Phil was recently awarded the Walter Cox Award for Public Service and Leadership in Natural Resources, from Clemson University. He is married and has two children and is active in his community and church, in Lexington, S.C.

Robin Moore, Nilda Cosco—National Guidelines for Creating and Managing Places Where Children Engage with Nature, Sunday, 4:00-4:45 pm.
Robin Moore is Professor of Landscape Architecture, College of Design, NC State University, and Director of the Natural Learning Initiative. He conducts research at the interface of built environment design and the behavioral needs of children and families.

Nilda Cosco is Research Associate Professor and Director of Programs, Natural Learning Initiative, College of Design, NC State University. Dr. Cosco’s primary research interest is the impact of outdoor environments on child and family health outcomes such as healthy nutrition, active lifestyles, attention functioning, and overall wellbeing, particularly as they relate to natural components of the built environment.

Martin LeBlanc is a leading voice in the movement to reconnect children and nature. For 10 years, Martin was with the Sierra Club, most recently as the National Youth and Outings Director, in which he introduced over 200,000 children to the outdoors and established non-traditional alliances with the military, educational groups and health organizations. He was recently appointed Senior Vice President at IslandWood. A founding Board Member of the Children & Nature Network, Martin now serves as an advisor to C&NN’s Natural Leaders Initiative. Martin lives with his wife and young daughter in Seattle.
Featured Speakers

Angela Hanscom—Play Outdoors: The Ultimate Sensory Experience, Monday, 3:45-4:30 pm. Angela Hanscom is a pediatric occupational therapist, with her masters in occupational therapy since 2003. Angela has treated many children over the years that presented with sensory deprivations, uncoordinated bodies, and behavioral issues that she feels is largely due to the lack of unstructured playtime in the great outdoors and the nutritional habits of our society today. Angela founded Nature’s Stepping Stones back in 2010 in hopes of re-connecting children to nature at an early age. She started the TimberNook movement in 2013 to share her unique and successful nature camps with organizations that have the drive and the passion to make a difference in children’s lives.

Hedda Sharapan—Play as a Lifelong Journey: An Approach for All of Us, Young and Old Alike, Based on Fred Rogers’ Timeless Wisdom, Monday, 4:45-5:30 pm. Hedda holds an M.S. in child development from the University of Pittsburgh, and since 1966 has worked closely with Fred Rogers on his books for children and parents, and on professional development materials for early childhood educators. As director of early childhood initiatives for the nonprofit company he founded, she is responsible for communicating about Fred Rogers’ approach to children and families in multiple ways: she writes a monthly e-newsletter and works on web materials, articles and brochures for parents, families, and professionals.

Panuel Discussion—Jump on the Band Wagon and Help Us Promote Play, Tuesday, 11:30 am-12:15 pm. This panel of top PLAY leaders will share “boots on the ground” ideas for being a play advocate in your community. Panelists include Linda Rhoads, Executive Director of the Alliance for Childhood; Shawn Lin, Manager of Research & Evaluation, KaBoom; Jackie Epping, Health Scientist, Centers for Disease Control; Tony Malkusak, President of Abundant Playscapes, Inc.; Pat Rumbaugh, founder of the Lets Play America; and Fran Mainella, Co-chair of the US Play Coalition. Q&A and discussion to follow the panel.

Linda Lanterman—Play Prescriptions as an International Health Solution, Tuesday, 1:45-2:30 pm. Linda Lanterman has been the Director of Kansas State Parks since December 2010. She received her B.S. in Accounting from Wichita State University Dec. 1991. She has been Assistant Director of State Parks at Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks since 1997. She serves on the board of KRPA, NASPD, NASORLO and the Pratt Health Coalition. She is also a member of NRPA. Linda is married and has a daughter named Lexie.

Monica Vilhauer—The Ethical Dimensions of Play, Tuesday, 10:30-11:15 am. Dr. Monica Vilhauer is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Roanoke College in Salem, VA. Her research interests are in Hermeneutics (the philosophy of interpretation), Ethics, Ancient Greek Philosophy, and Feminist Philosophy. She is currently working on a book on Plato, which focuses on the role of desire in the good life.

Rolf Huber and Ken Kutska—Recycled Rubber Use in Sports and Play Fields, Tuesday, 9:30-10:15 am. Rolf Huber is a graduate of McMaster University and has been involved in the manufacture and installation of athletic and playground surfaces since 1981. He has worked to educate the owners and operators of playgrounds of the need for effective and well maintained surfacing. Ken Kutska is a Certified Park and Recreation Professional and a Certified Playground Safety Inspector with more than 40 years of full-time experience in all aspects of public park operations management. He continues to work towards further developing the National Recreation and Park Association’s CPSI Course and Certification Exam in hopes that every municipality, school district, and public play area owner and operator has at least one trained and certified staff member responsible for maintaining every public playground.

Robert Thompson—Keeping Older Adult Feet in the Game for Play, Tuesday, 3:45-4:30pm. Robert Thompson is Executive Director of the Institute for Preventive Foot Health. He is a nationally-recognized speaker on the topic of preventive foot health. A double-board-certified pedorthist, he holds a Master’s degree in professional studies with a concentration in hospital and health services administration from Cornell University.
## 2015 Conference on the Value of Play
### Advancing Play in Partnership with IPA/USA

### Sunday, February 15, Schedule at a Glance

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<td>1:00-1:45</td>
<td>The Fear of Play and Collaboration—How did we get here? How do we get back? — B. Johnson</td>
<td>Creating Community Awareness Through Prescribing Outdoor Play for Children — R. Christiana, J. James, R. Battista</td>
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<td>2:00-2:45</td>
<td>Play Facilitator Training—E. O'Sullivan — PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED. FEE IS REDUCED FOR CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS</td>
<td>Healthy Way to Grow: Strategies for Improving Nutrition and Physical Activity in Early Care and Education — J. Weber, S. Romney, T. Barber</td>
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<td>3:00-3:45</td>
<td>No Place to Play? Exploring Disparities in Park Availability, Features, and Quality in Greenville County, SC. — S. M. Hughey, A. Kaczynski, J. Hibbert, J. Reed</td>
<td>Kids in Parks: Improving the Health of Our Kids and Our Parks — J. Urroz</td>
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<td>5:00-7:30</td>
<td>NO HOST DINNER—Seasons by the Lake (Madren Center). The cost is $13.99 plus tax plus 15% gratuity Reservations are recommended; please call 864-656-7444.</td>
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<td>7:30-8:30</td>
<td>Welcome and Keynote Panel, “Advancing Play—Critical Perspectives”</td>
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## Meeting Schedule

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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>You Must Be Joking?!? Play as an Interdisciplinary General Elective Course — M. Bell</td>
<td>Playing at the Boundaries: KidZone as Game Reserve — L. Kinney</td>
<td>IPA/USA Lost Opportunities: How Teaching Interferes with Learning — D. Lawrence</td>
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<td>Unplug and Take a Hike: A Teacher Guide for Getting Students Learning in the Outdoors — J. Agate, G. Santen</td>
<td>Education</td>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>Romping &amp; Reading: Camp Read-a-Rama and the Power of Immersion Approaches and Play to Foster Literacy Skills — M. Martin, C. Copeland</td>
<td>Play Collaboration Across Two Universities: Examining Play Practices in Texas and Alabama — G. Duarte, A. Mohan</td>
<td>Education</td>
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<td>2014 Grant Winner Update: Effects of Technological Toys on Children’s Imaginative Play — L. Barnett</td>
<td>Education</td>
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<td>IPA/USA Business Meeting Open to All</td>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>Playing with Entrepreneurship — Dave Smith</td>
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Sunday, February 15, Session Information

1:00 - 1:45  "The Fear of Play and Collaboration—How Did We Get Here? How Do We Get Back?" - Bob Johnson  
Play and collaboration are natural processes commonly seen when we observe children interacting up to about 8 years old. After about the 3rd grade, we see these qualities as natural processes drop off dramatically. By adulthood, collaboration has nearly disappeared. While collaboration is widely recognized as an important principle in most organizations, it is not often thought of as adding real value to personal or organizational success. How did we get here, and how do we get back? The talk explores these questions and the role of collaboration in helping individuals and organizations improve performance.

"Creating Community Awareness Through Prescribing Outdoor Play for Children" - Richard W. Christiana, J. Joy James, Rebecca A. Battista  
The medical community can take an active role in getting children healthier through prescribing outdoor play. Pediatricians can act as the catalyst to promote outdoor play, health benefits, and places for play. This session will discuss strategies for prescribing play, establishing partnerships and recent evidence supporting play in the outdoors.

"2014 Grant Winner Update: Latest on "SuperPower: The Super Hero Project" and "The Anarchy Zone" - Roberta Gardner, Rusty Keefer, Alex Cote, Tony Malkusak  
Hear updates on the programs implemented as a result of receiving a 2014 Action Grant. The Super Hero Project is aimed at preadolescent African American youth who live in a low income urban communities. The Anarchy Zone spread playwork to schools and neighborhoods throughout Ithaca and support new Adventure Playground startups around the country.

IPA/USA "Connecting with the World Through the International Play Association" - Dorothy Sluss, Ladonna Atkins
Learn more about this extraordinary organization—its goals, its mission, its successes, and how you can get involved.

2:00 - 2:45  SPECIAL Onsite Play Facilitator Training with Ellen O’Sullivan from 2:00-4:00pm. PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.
This introductory training is purposefully designed to meet the needs of seasonal, part-time, and temporary workers at camps, playgrounds, and after-school programs. The program is also beneficial as a training tool for staff who work with and lead those individuals. The training focuses on children ages 3-11 and gives adult facilitators the tools and beginner knowledge to provide unstructured play experiences.

"Healthy Way to Grow: Strategies for Improving Nutrition and Physical Activity In Early Care and Education" - Jennifer Weber, Stephanie Romney, Tris Barber  
This session highlights the role of early care and education settings in creating healthy lifestyles and obesity prevention. Presenters will discuss research on the health implications of early nutrition and physical activity interventions; and share lessons learned from implementing an obesity preventing technical assistance program in six communities nationally.

"Middle School Play Within the Social Studies: A Beginning" - Bea Bailey, John McElroy, Marion Reeves, Catie Norman  
Our presentation offers one of the first literature reviews on the ways in which play has been encouraged within middle grades socials studies classes. In addition, we offer brief demonstrations of some of the most promising current practices as well as suggestions for future policy and practice.

"You Must Be Joking?!? Play as an Interdisciplinary General Elective Course" - Michael J. Bell  
In traditional post-secondary schools play has been taught as part of teacher education, child development or, more recently in psychology. To advance an interdisciplinary framework for understanding play this session will address the challenges, benefits, and unique opportunities that emerge when play is taught as an elective general studies course.

"Playing at the Boundaries: KidZone as Game Reserve" - Linda Kinney  
This study explores the ways a play setting is understood as a segregated space for both play and learning and the tensions that are created by the conflicting ideologies of stakeholders, and how a more comprehensive understanding of the differing values can serves as a tool for working within the tensions.
Sunday, February 15, Session Information

2:00-5:00  IPA/USA “Lost Opportunities: How Teaching Interferes with Learning” (3 hour session) - Debra L. Lawrence Teachers disrupt children’s learning through daily interactions and schedules. This session brings to light the unintended consequences of teaching and provides strategies for increasing learning in your classroom.

3:00 - 3:45  “No Place to Play? Exploring Disparities in Park Availability, Features, and Quality in Greenville County, SC” - S. Morgan Hughey, Andrew T. Kaczynski, James Hibbert, Julian Reed Parks are important resources to promote play. This study uncovered discrepancies in park quality indicators across neighborhoods of varying income and percent minority population in Greenville County, SC. Ongoing efforts to examine the relationship between park availability and quality and youth obesity are essential to promoting health in community settings.

*Infusing Nature into the Everyday Spaces of Childhood* - Lisa Moore Explore best practices and case examples that intentionally design nature back into outdoor childhood settings and provide a research-based solution to help reconnect them with nature. Leave inspired to create naturalized settings designed to attract families, promote physical activity, increase play value, and provide unique learning opportunities for your community.

“Kids in Parks: Improving the Health of Our Kids and Our Parks” - Jason Urroz The Kids in Parks program has installed a network of more than 100 self-guided hiking trails (and other types of trails) in 7 different states, and Washington, DC. In this session, you will learn how Kids in Parks has helped improve the health of our kids and our parks.

“Unplug and Take a Hike: A Teacher Guide for Getting Students Learning in the Outdoors” - Joel Agate, Greg Santen This presentation will introduce a toolkit to help educators in Southern Illinois integrate nature and wilderness into their curriculum. Drawing on Sobel’s (2008) curriculum design principles, the toolkit provides development ideas for nature-based curricula and offers presents community resources for educators. This toolkit provides a model for other regions.

“Romping & Reading: Camp Read-a-Rama and the Power of Immersion Approaches and Play to Foster Literacy Skills” - Michelle H. Martin, Clayton A. Copeland Camp Read-a-Rama, a day camp for children ages 4-11 and teens ages 12-17, uses children’s and YA literature as the springboard for all other camp activities. This presentation will focus on the connections between play and literacy immersion and how play helps children and young adults “live books.”

“Kids in Parks: Improving the Health of Our Kids and Our Parks” - Jason Urroz The Kids in Parks program has installed a network of more than 100 self-guided hiking trails (and other types of trails) in 7 different states, and Washington, DC. In this session, you will learn how Kids in Parks has helped improve the health of our kids and our parks.

4:00 - 4:45  “National Guidelines for Creating and Managing Places Where Children Engage with Nature” - Robin Moore, Nilda Cosco Successful nature play and learning places can be created in a wide range of contexts from low cost and modest to expensive and complex. Understanding the role of spatial design, nature play programming, and site management as a dynamic process are keys to success.

“Happy Trails: An Analysis of Byways, Pathways, Footpaths, and Trails as Places for Play” - Michael J. Bell From walking in urban areas to wilderness hiking, pathways and trails provide for play, recreation, and healthy living. This session will present types of trails and their use, as well as challenges in planning and developing multi-use trails. The benefits of play, walking, and running along trails will be discussed.

“The Power of Wood for Playground Equipment” - Julia Rousakis, Chelsea Hoffman, Robin Meyer Natural wood is especially beneficial and conducive to satisfying play. However, there are often many barriers to including wood on playgrounds. This presentation explores the benefits of wood and dispels common myths about its use, drawing on case studies of recent playground installations in Chicago and Washington, DC.

“Family Nature Play and Family Nature Clubs = Happier, Healthier, Smarter Kids!” - Janice Swaisgood, Jenni Kinch Discover the joys and benefits of unstructured nature play and Family Nature Clubs! Explore current research and learn how the Children & Nature Network is leveraging Family Nature Clubs to engage a growing number of kids and families in unstructured play for their health and wellbeing. You can too!

More sessions on next page.

“You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation.”

- Plato
4:00 - 4:45  2014 Grant Winner Update “Effects of Technological Toys on Children’s Imaginative Play” - Lynn A. Barnett  
Preschool children’s imaginative play time was recorded, after which children could play on a computer, and then their imaginative play was again timed. It was found that the more play on the computer, the greater the decrease in imaginative play, suggesting computer play has a stifling effect on children’s creative expression.

“Playing with Entrepreneurship” - Dave Smith  
The 21st-century workplace is our playground, where students experiment with the world around them. Corpus Callosum uses entrepreneurship to excite students about learning. In this session, participants will experience a new approach to engage students while sharing how they use project-based learning and play to keep students motivated to learn.

5:00 - 6:00  US Play Coalition Committee Meetings (TBD)  
Open IPA/USA Business Meeting

5:00 - 7:00  Seasons by the Lake (Madren Center Restaurant) is open for dinner buffet.  
The cost is $13.99 plus tax plus 15% gratuity per person and includes non-alcoholic beverage.  
Reservations are recommended; please call 864-656-7444.

7:30 - 8:30  Welcome and Keynote Panel, “Advancing Play - Critical Perspectives”

8:45 - 10:00  Hospitality suite open (room 430 at the James F. Martin Inn)
Posters on Display Throughout Conference

Formal Poster Session Tuesday, February 17, 5:30-6:30 PM

“Play at the Core: The Importance of Promoting Play-Based Learning in Early Childhood Education, a Mixed-Methods Approach” - Emily Rea, Jacob Gomez, Jared Carroll, Sanam Jain

Play at the Core aims to introduce play-based learning practices to Universal pre-Kindergarten educators, in hopes of improving professional practices in low-income neighborhoods throughout New York City. Play at the Core is designed to improve children’s school problem-solving, critical thinking, language and literacy and overall school readiness through play-based learning.

“Attitudes of College Students Toward Play-Based Learning” - Dolores A. Stegelin

Contemporary theories about how students learn focus on active learning, hands-on approaches, and engaging students fully in the learning experience, regardless of content or age level. The research on play-based learning, however, is often associated with very young children who are engaged in early learning settings. This presentation describes the results of a survey of college-age students about play-based learning. Students from a major university in the southeast participated in the study and the students ranged in age from 19-25 years and represented several majors.

“Knowledge Gains Through Active Play in the College Classroom” - Beverly Evans

Play elements such as competitive play, mimicry, games of fate and sensory play were used as a stimulus to promote arousal in a flipped classroom pedagogical model. In the current study 155 students from a public university participated in spring 2013.

Conference Evaluations

Session evaluation forms are provided at the beginning of each presentation session. Please complete these forms during and after the session. Return the completed form to the room monitor at the conclusion of the session. Your input provides valuable feedback for our speakers and also to the conference planning team.

On Tuesday, you will receive an overall conference evaluation form. Please return completed forms to the registration desk. You may also complete the form and mail or email it to us after the conference. Your comments and feedback are greatly appreciated.

Mailing address:
Attn: US Play Coalition
128 McGinty Court,
263 Lehotsky Hall,
Clemson, SC 29634-0735

Phone:  (864) 656-2525
Email:  usplaycoalition@clemson.edu
# 2015 Conference on the Value of Play
## Advancing Play in Partnership with IPA/USA

### Monday, February 16, Morning Schedule at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Auditorium (Featured)</th>
<th>Seminar Room I</th>
<th>Seminar Room II</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00-9:15</td>
<td>Keynote Speaker — Kevin Ross Emery, Managing the Gift of ADD/HD Through Play and Creativity</td>
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<td>Park and Recreation</td>
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<td>12:30-1:30</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
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**February 15-18, 2015 Clemson, SC**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Room I</th>
<th>Meeting Room II</th>
<th>Meeting Room III</th>
<th>Meeting Room IV</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Programming</td>
<td>Recess Research and Advocacy — O. Jarrett, L. McAlpin, L. Atkins, V. Stenhouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opportunities for Playful Learning in a Post-NCLB Kindergarten Classroom: The ECTUS-P with New York City Teachers — C. Medellin-Paz, J. Astuto</td>
<td>Advancing Play and Literacy in a Writer’s Workshop — K. Davis, M. L. Child, M. Vaughn</td>
<td>Just Have a Ball: Providing Play-Oriented Physical Activity to Elementary-Aged Students — M. Boguslawski</td>
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<td>The Child’s Right to Play - Moving Article 31 Forward — C. Gentry</td>
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<td>Programming</td>
<td>The Role of Neuroscience in Supporting Play — M. Guddemi</td>
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“In every real man a child is hidden that wants to play.”

- Friedrich Nietzsche
## 2015 Conference on the Value of Play
Advancing Play in Partnership with IPA/USA

### Monday, February 16, Afternoon Schedule at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Auditorium (Featured)</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Park and Recreation</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30-3:30</td>
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<td>The Power of Play by PlayWorks Play Workshop</td>
<td>RePlay: Active Games for Fun-Loving Grown-Ups — K. Schiller</td>
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<td>HANDS-ON</td>
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<td>WORKSHOPS</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:45-4:30</td>
<td>Play Outdoors: The Ultimate Sensory Experience — A. Hanscom</td>
<td>Play with Me: Creating Opportunities for Outdoor Intergenerational Play in Your Community — K. Callison</td>
<td>Healthy Hearts, Healthy Schools: Promoting Academic Achievement Through Play Based Mental Health Services — P. Blanco, R. Holliman, J. Muro</td>
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<td>Park and Recreation</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:45-5:30</td>
<td>Play as a Lifelong Journey: An Approach for All of Us, Young and Old Alike, Based on Fred Rogers’ Timeless Wisdom — H. Sharapan</td>
<td>Making the Connection: Promoting Your Agencies Connection to National Play Initiatives — C. Heizer</td>
<td>The Effects of Utilizing High Ropes Courses as a Treatment Intervention on Self-Efficacy — J. Cordle</td>
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<td>Park and Recreation</td>
<td>Health</td>
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<td>5:40-6:30</td>
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<td>US Play Coalition Meeting DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE Open to All</td>
<td>US Play Coalition Meeting INCLUSIVE PLAY Open to All</td>
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<td>8:45-10:00</td>
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Dinner—Welcome Remarks by Clemson University president James P. Clements and entertainment by Tigeroar.

Hospitality Suite open (room 430 at the James F. Martin Inn)

“We don’t stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing.” - George Bernard Shaw
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<td>Bcube™ - B. Johnson</td>
<td>Turing the World into a Field of Play — L. Tarver</td>
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<td>A Camping Trip that Can Change Classrooms — M. Moore, S. Hall</td>
<td>Computational Thinking &amp; Play: Using Physical and Digital Tools to Develop Pattern Recognition Skills — M. Boyer</td>
<td>Using Behavioral Economics to Increase Play Outdoors — S. Lin</td>
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Monday, February 16, Session Information

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<td>8:00 - 9:15</td>
<td><strong>Keynote Kevin Ross Emery “Managing the Gift of ADD/HD Through Play and Creativity”</strong> Highly creative, intelligent &amp; creative children are labeled ADD-ADHD, whether they are or not because we have made ill fitting boxes for our children to live in. ADD, ADHD or just a kid, Dr. Kevin will share insights, tools and techniques to help return children to a childhood.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 - 10:15</td>
<td><strong>“The LiINK Project: Putting Play, Character Development, Creative Time, and Academic Content in Perspective” - Debbie Rhea</strong> The LiINK Projects (Let’s inspire innovation ‘N kids) began two years ago as a result of examining the Finnish educational system and the importance Finn’s place on recess and character development in an academic setting. This presentation will discuss how the project began, what the project is about, and how to create a more playful school environment for children to learn.</td>
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<td>9:30 - 10:15</td>
<td><strong>“Creating Quality Play Opportunities for Children of All Ages and Abilities in Your Community: Inclusive and Sustainable Principle Design for Splashpads” - Monica Slanik</strong> Challenged with juggling fiscal responsibilities as well as the demand for new amenities that promote a safe, inclusive and healthy lifestyle for all of its constituents, Splashpads have been and still are the most popular solutions chosen for municipal park settings.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 - 10:15</td>
<td><strong>“Therapeutic Play: Interventions for Health” - Marilyn Jones-Parker</strong> Play is powerful in the process of healing both physically and mentally. It provides an outlet that reduces stress symptoms for all ages. This presentation will illustrate how play can facilitate a healing process in reducing stress symptoms by encouraging physical, social and emotional outlets and strengthening relationships.</td>
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<td>9:30 - 10:15</td>
<td><strong>“The Developmental Roots of Civic Engagement for Poor Children: It Starts with Play” - Jennifer Astuto, Martin Ruck</strong> New empirical evidence suggests that when young children from low-income communities have access to playful kindergarten experiences they are more likely to be adolescents who are civically engaged. Supporting and cultivating children’s engagement in classroom-based play may lead to the development of a healthy, productive and just society.</td>
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<td>9:30 - 10:15</td>
<td><strong>“Growing the Future: Nature - The Best Playground” - Amanda Kirkpatrick, Janice Swaisgood</strong> Nature provides the best play of all. Outdoor play and nature experiences in childhood impact children’s health, well being and influence actions and attitudes about the environment. Nature is essential to a well-balanced day for children.</td>
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<td>9:30 - 10:15</td>
<td><strong>“Connecting Youth to Nature: Rock Climbing as a Strategy to Get Youth Outdoors” - Ryan Gagnon, Garrett Stone, Barry Garst</strong> As the sport of competitive indoor climbing transitions youth to the outdoors it may act as a modality for enhancing youth involvement in nature-based play. While the benefits of outdoor play are well researched, this study explores competitive rock climbing as a new context for play.</td>
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<td>10:30 - 11:15</td>
<td><strong>“Disruptive Innovations and Their Impact on Parks and Play” - Phil Gaines</strong> The impact and use of technology continues to be debated in parks across the nation. Do park visitors really need WiFi? Is technology, gaming systems and other technology keeping this generation away from experiencing the parks? Time to embrace technology and realize it's just another “disruptive innovation.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 - 11:15</td>
<td><strong>“Using Embodiment-Projection-Role (EPR) Play to Support Affective Social Competence” Margaret A. Powell</strong> Affective Social Competence (ASC) articulates the development of emotional expression, understanding, and regulation (Halberstadt, Denham, &amp; Dunsmore, 2001). Sue Jennings’ Embodiment-Projection-Role (EPR) method of play and drama therapy can uniquely support ASC through opportunities for sensory, object, and imaginative play, encouraging the development of coping, expressive, and perspective-taking skills.</td>
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“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul.”

- John Muir
Monday, February 16, Session Information

*Opportunities for Playful Learning in a Post-NCLB Kindergarten Classroom: The ECTUS-P with New York City Teachers* - Cristina Medellin-Paz, Jennifer Astuto In response to No Child Left Behind (NCLB), opportunities for playful learning in the classroom have been challenged. Using the Early Childhood Time Use in Schools Profile, tensions between assessments driven mandates and best practices in kindergarten are explored, highlighting the role of training and resources in teachers’ approach to play-based learning.

*Advancing Play and Literacy in a Writer’s Workshop* - Karen Davis, Martha Lee Child, Michelle Vaughn Learn how literacy skills and play skills can be enhanced when fifth graders write their own productions. Children learn different roles and genres during the writer’s workshop. With the plethora of roles growing, so does their vocabulary, mastery of grammar, pragmatics of language, and metalinguistic awareness. The main goal provides language-rich interactions and language-rich written texts.

*Just Have a Ball: Providing Play-Oriented Physical Activity to Elementary-Aged Students* - Melissa Boguslawski Just Have a Ball™ is a childhood obesity prevention program offered to elementary students in primarily under-served areas. The program uses play as a way to increase physically active in and outside of school by providing a playground ball to schools and each participating student.

IPA/USA *The Child’s Right to Play - Moving Article 31 Forward* - Cynthia Gentry This presentation will update all on the current status of Article 31 around the world, the campaign IPA is mounting to promote it, what is being done in various countries around the world, and what can be done in this country to promote it.

11:30 - 12:15

*Play: Key to Adults Getting a Life* - Ellen O’Sullivan You never outgrow the need for play. The well-being of individuals and society is related to how well adults can relax and renew. Come learn why play is the key. Explore FLOW and other important concepts.

*Design, Fund, and Engage Communities in Building Inclusive Play Destinations* - Victoria Schmitt Babb, Natalie Blakemore, Lisa Moore Discover how national non-profit organization, Unlimited Play, rallies communities to raise millions of dollars to create universally designed playgrounds and meaningful play experiences for people of all ages and abilities. Strategies for fundraising, best practices in design, and community involvement will be highlighted through inspirational case examples and personal stories.

*Play: The Root of Family Resilience* - Beth Venable What if play is the root cause of resilience? When one member of a family struggles the whole family struggles, too. This presentation explores what happens to play when there is struggle and why it is vital that play be integral to treatment for the whole family.

*Play is a Many Splendored Thing: An Investigation of Cultural Variability in Parenting Values Regarding Play and Learning* - Juliana Karras-Jean Gills, Jennifer Astuto Though researchers and practitioners may agree on the developmental benefits of play, a parent-professional gap persists regarding the role of play in learning. This project highlights values around play and learning held by low-income, urban parents who are often targeted by interventions, which will inform early childhood practice and research.

*Creative Play: The Foundation for Learning* - Marilynn Jones-Parker Learning is a process of discovery. Play forms the foundation for learning in all areas of development. Understanding how children learn through play develops understanding for the educational process. This presentation will provide a glimpse into the child’s world through play as a learning process.

*Bringing Fun Back to Adults’ Lives: How Undergraduate Students Implemented Community Play Activities* - Melinda Novik, Emma Gist This presentation will discuss how a class of undergraduate students encouraged play among adults via two strategies. A worksite challenge incorporated traditional games and activities typically found in public school field days whereas various apartment community activities incorporated playful games to help the residents feel more connected with other residents.

IPA/USA *The Role of Neuroscience in Supporting Play* - M. Guddemi First focusing on an overview of play theory from historical perspective to today, this session will provide participants with the neurological science of how play promotes brain development especially in the area of executive functioning.

12:30 - 1:30 Lunch

“Man is most nearly himself when he achieves the seriousness of a child at play.”
- Heraclitus, philosopher (500 BCE)
Monday, February 16, Session Information

1:45 - 2:30

*”Nature Passport Project: Using Technology to Play and Explore in Nature”* - Martin LeBlanc The Nature Passport Project is a joint project of IslandWood and Nature Play Australia to leverage technology to connect families and children to nature. The APP is designed to help Play, Explore and Educate the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts. It has foundational partners Geocaching, National Geographic and North Face.

*”ECHO Across America (Every Child Healthy Outdoors): Building Community and Advocating for Outdoor Play”* - Linda Rhoads This interactive session will introduce the ECHO (Every Child Healthy Outdoors) Toolkit and resources designed to help communities develop strategies to get children outside to play. Learn about the “OAK” Partnership and this exciting national initiative, and how you can get involved at the local level.

*”A Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Infant Flat Head Syndrome and Torticollis”* - Susan Slaughter, Anne Zachry Reasons behind infant flat head syndrome are explained. The how, when, why of tummy time; limiting baby gear (swings, bouncy seats, etc.); and other developmentally and play supportive positioning are detailed.

*”Project Revive Play: What Happens When Your Children Don’t Know How to Play?”* - Suzy Ross, Daniela Martinez Recreation Therapy undergraduate students provided structured play experiences to foster socialization and independent play during recess. An exploratory study used mixed method including remote observation that tracked play patterns by play type, frequency, volume, and gender in five-minute increments before and after interventions. Results and continued research will be discussed.

*”School to Prison Pipeline: What Does PLAY Have to Do With It?”* - Jeannette Breilsford, Christen Clemson What are the similarities between schools and prisons? What are the differences in formal and informal norms between schools and prisons? Is physical activity valued within the school system? What does physical activity and recess have to do with increased discipline and the classroom/school to prison pipeline?

*”Early Childhood Teachers’ Thinking About Play Across the Transition from a Traditional to a Naturalized Playground”* - Kristen Kemple, Jihyun Oh This qualitative interview study describes changes in teachers’ thinking about outdoor play as their early childhood center transitioned from a traditional to a more naturalized playground. Implications are discussed for maximizing the benefits to young children of outdoor play, including outdoor play in naturalized environments.

2:30 - 3:30

HANDS-ON PLAY WORKSHOPS

*”The Power of Play”* - Sean Keelan, Playworks This workshop introduces the importance of play and lays the foundation for creating a safe and healthy environment for youth. It includes a discussion of the various barriers youth may face and ways to help overcome them.

*”RePlay: Active Games for Fun-Loving Grown-Ups”* - Kerri Schiller Play isn’t just good for kids, it’s good for adults, too. In this workshop we will talk about the ways in which adults are different from children; discuss how to create an environment that encourages adults to play; and play some active games tested by real adults.

*”MORE Making and Playing From Scratch”* - Joyce A. Hemphill This session demonstrates ways to use clean-safe household recyclables to create activities that promote creativity, problem-solving, decision making, coordination, and turn-taking. Each attendee will make a couple of simple games and experience firsthand the benefits of playful learning.

*”Play Workshop”* - Bob Johnson Bob Johnson’s Bcube™ is an experiential, team dynamics, tabletop tool, which has been used by business leaders on four continents to rediscover and accelerate learning. Researchers have shown it to be effective in teaching the elements of play and collaboration as vital problem-solving skills.

*”Turning the World into a Field of Play”* - Lisa Tarver Play is essential to the healthy development of children, especially those living in harsh environments. Children with nothing to play will still find a way to play. Hear firsthand stories about the power of play and how to measure its impact. Create a “ball” using found materials similar to those used by children worldwide.

3:45 - 4:30

*”Play Outdoors: The Ultimate Sensory Experience”* - Angela Hanscom Angela Hanscom, pediatric occupational therapist and founder of TimberNook, will explain the underlying reasons why restrictive movement and lack of play outdoors is affecting the sensory development of all children. By tapping into the therapeutic potential of play outdoors, we can promote healthy child development and creative thinking once again.

*”Play with Me: Creating Opportunities for Outdoor, Intergenerational Play in your Community”* - K. Callison Intergenerational play offers endless health, social and psychological benefits for communities. These meaningful experiences shared between family members make lasting memories and build social capital. Discover creative ways to intentionally design public parks and outdoor recreation spaces for people of all ages through innovative case examples across the nation.
Monday, February 16, Session Information

“Healthy Hearts, Healthy Schools: Promoting Academic Achievement Through Play Based Mental Health Services” - Pedro J. Blanco, Ryan P. Holliman, Joel H. Muro Students with emotional difficulties may also struggle in their academic performance. This section will provide practical guidelines and examples for implementing a therapy intervention in a school setting for improving academic achievement. Current research, case studies, and video clips will be provided to substantiate the use of play therapy as a means to provide evidence based services.

“Landscape Manipulatives: Learning Middle School Mathematics Through Learning Landscapes” - Yang Song, Matthew Powers A landscape manipulative is a new environmental design framework and learning tool that integrates play and learning theories. The math manipulative prototype presented here uses a built landscape as a catalyst and companion design for learning middle school mathematics. It demonstrates how natural and built environments can enhance learning in mathematics.

“I Always Knew Play was Important but I Didn’t Know it was THIS Important: How a Course on Play Affected Former Students’ Interactions with Children” - Heather Gwen Von Bank, Stephanie Feldman, Amy Cords, Alexa Van Sickle In this presentation, attendees will discover how a college level course on the benefits of play affected students interactions with children. Survey results indicate that former students used the information from the course in ways that mirrored course material to highlight the importance of free and unstructured play of children.

“Revisiting a New Public School Birthday Party Policy” - Blaire Peters, Allison Wilson, Melinda Novik This presentation will provide information about how on one school district institutionalized a new birthday party policy. This presentation will highlight the collaboration between three community entities and will incorporate a discussion about how this new policy can be implemented in other schools by presenting the newly developed party policy toolkit.

“Play and Creativity: Under Utilized Connection” - Ellen O’Sullivan JWT Intelligence recently identified play as a future competitive advantage. The link between creativity and play constitutes that advantage. Changes in the way the world functions demands agile thinking and innovation in a speeded up time framework. That framework consists of play and its natural disposition for creativity.

“Making the Connection: Promoting Your Agencies Connection to National Play Initiatives” - Claudine Heizer Many parks and recreation agencies understand the value of play; however, they are not telling the story of how they are providing critical opportunities for play and why. Learn how to create a multi-faceted marketing/communications plan that builds advocacy and education by promoting your agency’s connection with national play initiatives, resources and audiences.

“The Effects of Utilizing High Ropes Courses as a Treatment Intervention on Self-Efficacy” - Jessica L. Cordle The purpose of this mixed-methods study was to determine the outcomes related to utilizing high ropes challenge courses as a treatment intervention on self-efficacy for the general population. In addition to understanding the impact on self-efficacy this research explains motivations behind the change and the longer-term impact.

“A Camping Trip that Can Change Classrooms” - Mary Ruth Moore, Susan Hall Children’s literature about U.S. National Parks provides an enjoyable way for teachers to use informational literature. PARK summarizes the session’s approach. P = play, A = active learning, R = reading and recreation, and K = knowledge. The session may also be useful to policy makers and park professionals.

“Computational Thinking and Play: Using Physical and Digital Tools to Develop Pattern Recognition Skills” - Matthew Boyer This session will present an overview of research and practice focused on how tangible interfaces, physical tools, and digital media can be used to support learning of pattern recognition skills, a component aspect of computational thinking, for young leaders.

“Using Behavioral Economics to Increase Play Outdoors” - Shawn Lin Join us as we discuss how KaBOOM! And Ideas42 are working to apply behavioral economics principles to increasing play behavior. This session will discuss how behavioral economics and scarcity factor into a family’s prioritization of play, and how we can address these barriers by implementing the concept of Play Everywhere.

4:45 - 5:30 “Play as a Lifelong Journey: An Approach for All of Us, Young and Old Alike, Based on Fred Rogers’ Timeless Wisdom” - Hedda Sharapan There was a playfulness about Fred Rogers that we can all learn from-and it wasn’t just about or for children. Through fun and treasured video segments, we’ll explore what play means in our lives as adults... and as adults who care about children of all abilities.

5:40 - 6:30 US Play Coalition Committee Meetings: DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE and INCLUSIVE PLAY COMMITTEE

6:30 - 8:30 Dinner—Welcome Remarks by Clemson University president James P. Clements and entertainment by Tigeroar.

8:45 - 10:00 Hospitality Suite open (room 430 at the James F. Martin Inn)
## 2015 Conference on the Value of Play
Advancing Play in Partnership with IPA/USA

### Tuesday, February 17, Morning Schedule at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Auditorium (Featured)</th>
<th>Seminar Room I</th>
<th>Seminar Room II</th>
<th>Meeting Room I</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00-9:15</td>
<td>Keynote Speaker — Peter Gray, What Exactly Is Play and Why Is It Such a Powerful Vehicle for Learning?</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30-1:30</td>
<td>LUNCH (Ballroom)</td>
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Can you solve the rebus puzzles below? Rebuses cryptically represents a word, phrase, or saying. Put your thinking cap on...!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Room II</th>
<th>Meeting Room III</th>
<th>Meeting Room IV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physical Literacy is as Easy as 123, ABC</strong> — L. Campanella</td>
<td><strong>Recess: An Organized, Active, and Safe Time for Schools, Staff, and Students</strong> — B. Gologor, F. Lyons</td>
<td><strong>Playing Teacher... After School: Teacher Education, the Arts, Play, and Informal Educational Environments</strong> — A. Leonard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Programming</td>
<td>Education</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>You’re in the Game Now! Implementing a Playful Approach in Higher Education</strong> — M. Moore, V. Geneser</td>
<td><strong>Play and Social Inclusion: The Role of Play Spaces in Promoting Social Inclusion Among Clemson University Students</strong> — B. Kitheka, A. Cooper, J. Roper, C. Cunningham, J. Resler</td>
<td><strong>Play and the Twice Exceptional Child</strong> — K. Hanson, A. Puryear</td>
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<td><strong>Gender Differences on the Playground</strong> — L. McAlpin, O. Jarrett</td>
<td><strong>Facilitation: The Lost Art, Which We All Have</strong> — H. Gibson</td>
<td><strong>Out is In! Extending Classroom Learning to the Outdoor Play Environment</strong> — L. Moore</td>
</tr>
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<td>Programming</td>
<td>Education</td>
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“The playing adult steps sideward into another reality; the playing child advances forward to stages of mastery.”
- Erik H. Erikson
# 2015 Conference on the Value of Play

## Advancing Play in Partnership with IPA/USA

### Tuesday, February 17, Afternoon Schedule at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Auditorium (Featured)</th>
<th>Seminar Room I</th>
<th>Seminar Room II</th>
<th>Meeting Room I</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Park and Recreation</td>
<td>Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30-3:30</td>
<td>UNSTRUCTURED PLAY</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Park and Recreation</td>
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<td>4:40-5:30</td>
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<td>US Play Coalition Meeting: LICENSE TO LEAD PLAY</td>
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<td>Open to All</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30-6:30</td>
<td>Reception with Poster Presentations and Book Signings</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30-8:30</td>
<td>Closing Dinner Banquet (Grant winners announced)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45-10:00</td>
<td>Hospitality Suite open (room 430 at the James F. Martin Inn)</td>
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## Posters

Displayed in main hallway from opening registration through Tuesday closing banquet. Poster Presentations from 5:30-6:30 on Tuesday, February 17

- “Play at the Core: The Importance of Promoting Play-Based Learning in Early Childhood Education, a Mixed-Methods Approach” - Emily Rea, Jacob Gomez, Jared Carroll, Sanam Jain
- “Attitudes of College Students Toward Play-Based Learning” - Dolores A. Stegelin
- “Knowledge Gains Through Active Play in the College Classroom” - Beverly Evans
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Meeting Room IV</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Play and the Maker Movement STE(A)M Education, Maker Spaces, and the Future of Creativity and Innovation — O. Jarrett</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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“Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood.”
- Fred Rogers
Tuesday, February 17, Session Information

8:00 - 9:15
Keynote Peter Gray *What Exactly Is Play and Why Is It Such a Powerful Vehicle for Learning*  Play as activity that that is (1) self-chosen and self-directed, (2) motivated by means more than ends, (3) guided by mental rules, (4) imaginative, and (5) conducted in an alert but non-stressed frame of mind. I'll explain how each of these characteristics contributes to play's amazing educative power.

9:30 - 10:15
*Recycled Rubber Use in Sports and Play Fields* - Rolf Huber, Ken Kutska  Recently concern has been expressed in the national press as to the potential for adverse health effects from play and sports surfaces using recycled tire rubber. There have been many studies that express that rubber is not toxic. There may be concerns that are not apparent under special circumstances and manufacturing or with people with certain sensitivities. Although not toxic, some people might want to reduce their exposure directly to the rubber.

10:30 - 11:15
*The Ethical Dimensions of Play* - Monica Vilhauer  By focusing on the work of philosopher Hans-Georg Gadamer, this session aims to articulate what is unique about the movement of play, what sort of ethical comportment is necessary to fully engage in play, and how human understanding itself is an open-ended dialogical play-process. Finally, the session considers the ultimate value of engaging in dialogue-play.
Tuesday, February 17, Session Information

“Physical Literacy: Getting Kids Active for Life" - Debbie Smith  The purpose of this presentation is to explore the context of the physical literacy movement and how it can impact play and participation. Participants will look at the context of the program, why it is important, how it is taught, and the long term affects on lifetime participation.

“You’re in the Game Now! Implementing a Playful Approach in Higher Education" - Mary Ruth Moore, Vivien Geneser  Discover innovative ways to teach the value of play across the lifespan! In this presentation, we will show how to transition from theory to practice with activities that characterize a joyful approach to teaching and learning with students in higher education. Join us as we demonstrate a variety of methods for implementing meaningful objectives through play.

“Play and Social Inclusion: The Role of Play Spaces in Promoting Social Inclusion Among Clemson University Students" - Bernard Kitheka, Annabelle Cooper, Jordan Roper, Caroline Cunningham, Jessica Resler  Play is essential for the wellbeing of university students to help enhance physical fitness, social bonds and sense of place. Play can also improve college experience for students despite being away from home and the pressures of work. This study investigates the role of play in enhancing social inclusiveness among Clemson University students.

“Play and the Twice Exceptional Child” - Kay Hanson, Arlene S. Puryear  This presentation focuses on a survey of classroom teachers’ perceptions on the value of play and the play skills of their gifted, high achieving, and twice exceptional students. They examine the suspected gap between these students’ play skills and needs for support and their teacher’s expectations and perceptions.

11:30 - 12:15  Panel Discussion “Jump on the Band Wagon and Help Us Promote Play” - Fran Mainella, Pat Rumbaugh  This panel of top leaders from Alliance for Childhood, KaBoom, CDC, an inclusive play expert, letsplayamerica, and the US Play Coalition will share at least one idea that might help on the ground how to advance play or give ideas to others that might help our audience to think of new ideas for offering play. After all panelists are complete, we will then open our session to the attendees for questions or their suggestions.

“Playful Explorations: Building a Foundation for Learning” - Keith L. Pentz  Play serves as a catalyst for learning as the very young child engages with a caregiver, parent, teacher, and his/her environment. Through explorations, relationship building, and multiple interactions, the infant and toddler establishes a foundation for all higher cognitive functions as well as emotional and mental health.

“The LiINK Project: The Effects of Play and Character Development on Classroom Behaviors in K-2 Children” - Debbie Rhea, Alexander Rivchun, Heather Heefner  The LiINK Project aims to develop the social, emotional and physical well being of students through a recess and character development intervention. Classroom and recess behaviors and listening skills were compared in 123 K-1 children before and after a four month intervention.

“Gender Differences on the Playground” - Leslie McAlpin, Olga Jarrett  This session will explore gender differences in playground behaviors in four year old children. Topics will include playmate selection, group size, activity selection, play entry strategies, and implications for educators.

“Facilitation: The Lost Art, Which We All Have” - Hugh M. Gibson  Many professionals deal with facilitation; however, people describe it and define it differently. Therefore, facilitation, processing, and debriefing have been used interchangeably. This session will clarify those differences. Furthermore, we all have facilitation strengths and weaknesses which we should highlight and/or minimize once we get in touch with them.

“Out is In! Extending Classroom Learning to the Outdoor Play Environment” - Lisa Moore  By viewing the playground as an extension of the classroom, early childhood educators can bring meaningful and memorable play experiences outdoors that intimately engage young minds. This session will focus on best practices to transform outdoor play environments into a dynamic, experiential, developmentally appropriate resource for learning and fun!
12:30 - 1:30  Lunch (Ballroom)

1:45 - 2:30  “Play Prescriptions as an International Health Solution” - Linda Lanterman  
Play is key to physical, mental, emotional and social health throughout life. A medical provider can write a play prescription to connect the patient with resources that support play. Park and Recreation professionals, in collaboration with community partners, provide many of the resources for play.

“Enhancing Play with a Mobile Recreation Vehicle” - Pam Davis  
In collaboration with Furman University’s Diversity Leadership Initiative, the City of Greenville Parks and Recreation Department has a mobile recreation vehicle that travels to various parks, neighborhoods and events to enhance quality play. In this session, participants will learn the history of this vehicle, implementation strategies, successes and challenges!

“From Past to Present: How Play Changes as We Age” - Sarah Cosco, Candace Nykiforuk, Jane Springett  
Much of play research focuses on specific age groups, but how does play change across the lifespan as children grow into teenagers, adults and seniors? This presentation examines play histories to highlight transition points and play patterns, starting in childhood and working through the years to current play behaviors.

“Providing Appropriate Play Experience for Children with Autism” - Rebecca Woodard, Zachary Burt  
This presentation provides an overview of a Missouri State University and Rivendale Center for Autism in Springfield, MO, pilot project to help children with ASD develop play skills, leading to enhanced inclusion in their communities and schools. Topics will include instructor preparation, games, equipment, facilities, and goal development.

“Play and the Maker Movement: STE(A)M Education, Maker Spaces, and the Future of Creativity and Innovation” - Olga Jarrett  
This session reports on the rise of the Maker movement and STE(A)M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) as an opportunity to reintroduce playfulness into formal learning as well as informal education. The connections between play, construction, innovation, and creativity will be explored through examples and a hands-on activity.

2014 Grant Winner Update “Celebrating Global Expressions of Play: Playground Ideas’ Teacher Training Resources” - Elizabeth Moreno  
Playground Ideas equips anyone, anywhere to build a unique, creative playspace using only local tools, materials, and labor. Presentation is an action grant update on new teacher training resources specifically focused on the challenges teachers in the developing world face and how cultural play traditions can support healthy child development.

2:30 - 3:30  UNSTRUCTURED PLAY

3:45 - 4:30  “Adults at Play: A Burning Man Experience” - Yating Liang  
Being regarded as the ultimate “play destination” by its participants, this presentation will explore and discuss how “Burning Man”, a unique annual week long event in Nevada, provides an optimal environment for adults to play creatively. The impact and benefits of such play for adults will also be discussed.

“Building Momentum for Play Locally and Nationally” - Pat Rumbaugh  
In six years Pat Rumbaugh, The Play Lady founded a play committee in Takoma Park, Maryland in 2009. They became known as Takoma Plays! After putting on over 50 FREE play events Pat and her playful volunteers are expanding to national non-profit to bring play across the country.

“A Four-Letter Word that Can Innovate Higher Education: PLAY!” - Patricia Hohlbein  
Play is powerful in many contexts and in higher education it needs to be viewed as a critical element of an excellent education. Higher education does an excellent job of developing technical skills, but oftentimes falls short in teaching leadership, creativity, and innovative problem solving across disciplines. It’s time for change.

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YJNDWBYCOS
Tuesday, February 17, Session Information

“Use Your Inside Voice Outside Mind: Playful Thinking in Adolescent Education” - Blake Wanger This exciting, interactive presentation explores the power of playful thinking in adolescent education and the importance of play in the mental, physical, emotional and social development of adolescents. Participants will learn powerful playful methods to educate and empower adolescents as well as strategies for advocating play in adolescent education.

“Local Sprouts: Increasing Education One Garden at a Time” - Audrey Cova Local sprouts is a program that offers a great opportunity for children to get outdoors and learn about nutrition along with environmental topics. This program has opened the door for children to incorporate what they may have already learned in school, while also providing hands on experiences in the garden.

4:40 - 5:30  US Play Coalition Committee Meeting: LICENSE TO LEAD PLAY

5:30 - 6:30  Reception (Ballroom Lobby), Poster Presentations (near the Ballroom Lobby), and Book Signing (near the Ballroom)

6:30 - 8:30  Closing Banquet (Ballroom) 2015 US Play Coalition Action and Research Seed Grant award winners announced

8:45 - 10:00 Hospitality Suite open (room 430 at the James F. Martin Inn)

Wednesday, February 18, Information

6:30 - 8:00  Breakfast provided at the James F. Martin Inn and Holiday Inn Express

7:00 - 9:00  Steering Committee Meeting (Suite 330 at the James F. Martin Inn)

*** Have a safe trip home!
If you have arranged shuttle transportation to return you to the airport, check with the registration desk to be sure you are set for your trip.
Giving Thanks

Special thanks to the following organizations, who are important partners in planning the 2014 Conference on the Value of Play.

The following people are also deserving of our special thanks:


Be sure to visit our website regularly for ongoing updates about the play movement and Coalition activities!

usplaycoalition.clemson.edu

Also follow US Play Coalition on social media!
Other Programs and Offerings from the US Play Coalition

Play Facilitator Certificate of Completion Training Online Program

Individual Online Training $59/person. (Department Trainer Option $300)

PLAY CONFERENCE ATTENDEES CAN REGISTER FOR THE SPECIAL ON-SITE INDIVIDUAL TRAINING
ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2:00-4:00pm FOR $40/PERSON!

Play Facilitator Certificate of Completion training is an introductory course that will help you incorporate play through two facilitation roles: supporting and directing. This introductory training is purposefully designed to meet the needs of seasonal, part-time, and temporary workers at camps, playgrounds, and after-school programs. The program is also beneficial as a training tool for full-time staff that work with and lead those individuals.

The training focuses on adults working with children in age groups 3-5, 6-8, and 9-11. There is also a brief segment on children ages 12 and up. The training gives adult facilitators the tools, beginner knowledge, and confidence to provide unstructured play experiences at their facility. The format of the training is an average of two-to-three hours of online learning for an individual to complete the program. Through online quizzes, the Certificate of Completion program ensures comprehension of the training material. There is also a resources section available throughout and after the training. The individual online training track is now available for $59.00/person.

The department trainer option allows a qualified individual (qualifications are: two years of working with children and completion of the online training) to complete the online training as an individual then to be provided the resources to train an unlimited number of additional staff. With the approval of the department trainer, the additional staff would then be eligible to purchase certificates at a reduced cost. This is an excellent option for those who train the seasonal, part-time, and volunteer staff and is available for the low price of $300.00.

The curriculum and coursework were developed primarily by Dr. Ellen O'Sullivan in conjunction with Fran Mainella and in consultation with many members of the US Play Coalition.

Learn more on our website: http://usplaycoalition.clemson.edu/play_facilitator.php
Playground Maintenance Certificate of Completion Training Program

More than 200,000 children require hospital care due to playground-related injuries every year, and 40-percent of those injuries can be attributed to a lack of – or poor – maintenance practices. Maintaining safe playgrounds requires more than just removing litter and painting equipment. The Playground Maintenance course offers a systematic approach and provides technical information about how to maintain common materials found in playgrounds including play equipment and safety surfacing materials.

Frequently asked questions about the Playground Maintenance Certificate of Completion Training Program:

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM AND OTHER NATIONAL PLAYGROUND SAFETY CLASSES?

The Playground Maintenance Program focuses on practical playground maintenance practices, inspection principles and best practices in making repairs. This program does not focus on play theory or memorizing standards. Course modules explore the maintenance challenges associated with the common materials found in playgrounds, including concrete, metal, wood, plastics, fasteners and various surfacing materials. Through videos and case studies, you learn about the types of playground inspections, how to repair damaged equipment, and associated legal considerations. A virtual playground offers you the opportunity to apply your newly-learned skills.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND THIS CLASS?

Anyone who performs hands-on playground safety inspections and maintenance, along with those who supervise playground maintenance staff, should attend the Playground Maintenance Program. Participants, with experience ranging from just a few weeks up to 30 years, find the two-day course practical and informative.

DO I HAVE TO RECERTIFY WITH THIS PROGRAM?

No. This is a certificate-of-completion program. There is no recertification requirement. Continuing education modules to address new playground-maintenance issues, along with refresher segments, will be available on the Clemson University website.

HOW LONG IS THE PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE PROGRAM?

The program lasts approximately two days and does not require any class or test preparation.

WHAT DO PAST PARTICIPANTS SAY ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM?

“After a 15-year career in maintaining playground equipment, I learned a lot in this class and found it to be very focused on practical day-to-day playground maintenance topics that come up all the time. The class information and the comprehensive 250-page reference book will be very helpful on the job.” – Course evaluation comment

“This course provided me with my first formal education on how to inspect, maintain and address playground safety concerns. Too bad I couldn’t have taken it earlier in my career.” – Course evaluation comment

“This playground maintenance course covers a totally different aspect of playgrounds than the Certified Playground Safety Inspector course, and the two courses combined provide complete training on playground design, operations and maintenance. I also have had my maintenance staff complete this Playground Maintenance course... These are two totally different training programs and the Playground Maintenance course has been needed for a very long time.” – Roger K. Scott, CPSI, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, Richardson, Texas

TO SCHEDULE A PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION, EMAIL PMT@CLEMSON.EDU OR CALL 864-656-2525
US Play Coalition Steering Committee

A special thanks to our volunteer Steering Committee, who dedicated an incredible amount of time, energy and commitment to making the 2015 Conference on the Value of Play happen, and who do so much throughout the year to further awareness of the value of play in the lives of people of all ages and abilities.

Jodie Adams - Past President of NRPA, former Director of Springfield-Greene County Park Board in Springfield, MO
Joel Agate, PhD - Assistant Professor, Recreation and Leisure Studies, SUNY College at Brockport
Lawrence Allen, PhD - Professor, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management, Clemson University
Joan Almon - Alliance for Childhood
Bob Becker, PhD - Retired Academic Program Director, Strom Thurmond Institute, Clemson University
Richard J. Dolesh - Chief of Public Policy, National Recreation and Park Association
Jackie Epping - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Joe Frost, PhD (Honorary Conference Chair) - Parker Centennial Professor Emeritus, University of Texas
Stephen Hamelin – Vortex Aquatic Structures International
Dan Hendy - CPSI, Site Masters Inc.
Teri Hendy - CPSI, President, Site Masters Inc.
Tom Kalousek - Director, Safe Play for All
Ingrid M. Kanics - OTR/L, Kanics Inclusive Design Services LLC
Kenneth S. Kutska - Executive Director, International Playground Safety Institute, LLC
Fran P. Mainella (Coalition Co-Chair) - Visiting Scholar, Clemson University, Former National Park Service Director
Tony Malkusak, ASLA, CPSI, President and Landscape Architect for Abundant Playscapes, Inc.
Danielle Marshall - Execute Director, Girls on the Run of Central Maryland
Tom Norquist - Senior Vice President of Marketing, Design and Product Development GameTime
Eric W. O’Brien - Chairman, O’Brien & Sons, Inc.
Lynn Pinoniemi - Director of Marketing, Landscape Structures
Peggy Riggs, Co-Director at Brio2 Solutions
Dolores (Dee) Stegelin, PhD - Professor, Teacher Education, Eugene T. Moore School of Education, Clemson University
Michael Suk, M.D. - Chairman, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Geisinger Health System
Rita Watts - The Play & Playground Encyclopedia
Brett Wright, PhD (Coalition Co-Chair) - Interim Dean, College of Health, Education & Human Development, Clemson University

Join Us for the 2016 Conference on the Value of Play
February 14-17, 2016!
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