

YOICE for Children

2023 VOICE for Children Award Recipient

Dr. Jean C. Allison, PhD

Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education, Delaware Community College

Dr. Jean Allison has devoted more than 30 years to the field of education, earning her Bachelor of Science Degree and Teaching Certificate in Special Education from West Chester University. Dr. Allison continued her education, obtaining her Master of Arts in Education at Widener University and her PhD. in Education Psychology from Temple University.

Jean Allison began her career as a preschool teacher and was quickly elevated to the role of Center Director for a small child care center in Clifton Heights, PA where she served the program and families for sixteen years.

Jean moved into the nonprofit world working for the Preschool Project and the Philadelphia Early Childhood Collaborative in North Philadelphia. At



The Preschool Project, she managed a large grant intended to provide much needed supports to child care centers in Philadelphia to improve the quality of care and education being delivered to young children. At the Philadelphia Early Childhood Collaborative, Jean worked in the Keystone STARS system providing professional development and technical assistance for many programs in the southeast region. Over the years, Jean has served on many state committees to inform the professional development system in Pennsylvania.

Dr. Allison is currently employed by Delaware County Community College where she has served as faculty since 2006. Jean has been instrumental in the development and replication of the registered ECE Apprenticeship program in Delaware and Chester Counties. This program gives access to higher education opportunities and on the job skill development for the early learning workforce. Dr. Allison is currently supporting the early childhood community through a non-registered apprenticeship program, Learn and Earn Pathway in partnership with First Up. Dr. Allison is actively involved with both Pennsylvania Professional Development Organizations, PDO at

PHMC and PDO at PASSHE, to support and advocate for training and education for the early care and education workforce.

