Welcome The Arts Plus STEM Equals STEAM participants!

I look forward to facilitating this webinar and application session and hopefully, we can think about new ideas, get inspired and learn from each other to improve the work that we do with each other, young children and families.

My name is Kathy Kashner and I am a Technical Assistant Consultant and Professional Development Instructor for Community Education at Northampton Community College. During the past 20+ years, I have worn many “hats” in the early care and education field including; classroom teacher, center director, trainer, coach and mentor. I am a wife and a mother to three beautiful children (twins-boy/girl, and an eight year old boy). We also have an adorable beagle. I enjoy Philly sports, but only because my husband was born and raised in the Philadelphia suburbs. I enjoy gardening and taking walks with my family.

See the attached “Blackboard Collaborate Ultra Guide for Students” document to get your computer up to speed. Please make sure you use the following guidelines:

- You must use Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox browsers. NEVER use Internet Explorer or Safari.
- The link to the webinar will be emailed to you 24 to 48 hours before the start of the webinar. Each person will need to click the link sent to their email to attend the webinar individually for attendance purposes. Please make sure that you are available, have a computer with strong internet access, and are set up in time for the webinar to begin. This will be an opportunity to share knowledge immediately with one another, while learning some new information regarding observation and environments.
- You may join the meeting 30 minutes prior to the start time.
- Make sure you have working speakers for your computer. Most laptops have a microphone built in, but if you don’t have a microphone, you can still type in the chat box. Interaction with the content and instructor is key to facilitating rich dialogue during the session. It is a great experience when we are able to share ideas with each other!
- The webinar will be 1 hour in length and then there will be an additional hour of classwork to complete. This classwork will require you to log in using your ll code to your Blackboard account that was emailed to you when you enrolled, so that you can participate in the discussion boards. You will have one week to contribute to the postings. You can contribute as much as you want that week!

Our webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, July 30, 2019 from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM. Again, please use the link emailed to you to access the webinar. Once the 1 hour webinar is complete, you will have until Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at 11:59 pm to complete the additional online assignments in Blackboard.

As per the NCC ECE Department, please fax the following forms to 610-861-4110:

1. Student Release of Information Form
2. ACT48 Form (optional)

You will not have access to Blackboard or your course until the webinar ends on Tuesday, July 30, 2019 at 2:00 pm.
Blackboard Access – After Webinar

Your course uses Blackboard for your course site. You may access Blackboard from the NCC home page at http://www.northampton.edu by clicking the ‘logins’ area and then choosing ‘Blackboard/Online Learning’ or you can go directly to http://northampton.blackboard.com. Please note this direct link contains no www and ends in .com rather than .edu.

Blackboard Login Procedure:

Your Blackboard logon is your Lifelearn student ID#. That ID# begins with ll (two lower case Ls) and then usually 4 or 5 digits. Your initial Blackboard password is your Lifelearn ID #. If you previously used Blackboard and changed your password, use your current password instead.

When you logon to Blackboard, you may change your password if you desire. Also, please verify/change your e-mail address. Instructions on how to do this are in the Blackboard Manual accessed from the NCC Online Learning website. You can access and print a manual by going to the NCC Online Learning website at: http://www.northampton.edu/onlinelearning. From the left hand menu, click on Current Students > How to Get Started Using Blackboard to see instructions on using Blackboard.

After the webinar, your assignment is to login to your blackboard account and click the link “The Arts Plus STEM Equals STEAM: An Integrated Approach”. Hopefully, you’re in! If you are having problems on July 30th, please contact the help desk at 610-861-5413 or helpdesk@northampton.edu. You can begin to explore the buttons on the left-hand side of the page, including the “course home” button, which lists any new announcements and places to go if you need help. Now go to the "start here" button and explore the documents that explain the Blackboard system, technical requirements, student responsibilities and assessment criteria. Please remember that this is not a graded course, but your participation is required to obtain and earn your professional development certificate at the end of the course.

Begin to navigate the “discussions” button, where you will be sharing ideas and exploring questions. The idea behind this 24/7 professional development session is to be able to access it at your convenience. Please do, however, check back often on discussion boards so you have an opportunity to see, respond to and interact with other’s responses. Ideally, you can have a conversation with other participants through the discussion board. Please note: Do not wait until the end of the session schedule. Think of how difficult it might be to join a face to face conversation just as everyone is about to wrap up and leave!

A certificate of participation for 2 hours will be provided in the PA PD Registry System under My Individual Profile - My PD once the sessions is completed and closed; which typically will happen within the week after the workshop completes on Tuesday, August 6, 2019.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have a question about this training or specific assignments. I welcome your questions. My email address is kkashner@northampton.edu

I look forward to “meeting” you in our virtual space on Tuesday afternoon!

Kathy Kashner,  
Lead Consultant  
Northampton Community College