N4C Conference in Albuquerque, NM

From March 14th to 17th, Mrs. Rosenblum and Dr. Carver attended the annual conference of the National Coalition for Campus Children’s Centers with about 200 educators from campus-based early childhood programs. In our presentation, we shared diverse ways to promote creativity among educators by creating a culture of creativity, providing resources, collaborating, and using a range of creativity techniques. We also compiled ideas from 37 of our 60 participants who submitted input forms and then shared the list with everyone who attended the conference.

We attended presentations on topics such as promoting resilience in young children, helping both educators and young children to process their emotions, using digital media to better connect with parents, and encouraging children to engage in more nature-based experiences. We visited a full-day program affiliated with the University of New Mexico and spent a fun evening with colleagues at the Explora science center. After a recent staff dialogue about culturally-sensitive ways to teach about America’s indigenous peoples, we took the opportunity to learn about the 19 Pueblo tribes by visiting the Pueblo Cultural Center, as well as to explore the diverse New Mexico cultural history by taking a driving tour of the city and visiting the Albuquerque Museum. We extended our investigation of Animals in the Wild by visiting the Rattlesnake Museum, where we encountered 34 of the 84 varieties of rattlesnakes. We shared meals with colleagues from the states of Florida, Nevada, Colorado, Illinois, Kentucky, New York, Minnesota, etc. Dialogue with such diverse educators over the course of several days provided the opportunity to more deeply reflect on our own practice and consider possibilities for enriching our work with educators, families and children.