Under the leadership of Maggie Rosenblum in 2016, the Children’s School initiated the founding of the Pittsburgh Alliance of University Schools (PAUS) with four partners: The Carlow University Campus School, CMU’s Cyert Center for Early Education (which now has two sites), The Fanny Edel Falk School at the University of Pittsburgh, and Pitt’s University Child Development Center. We collaborate to expand the professional development opportunities we offer to the 196 educators across our five centers.

For the first year, we sponsored a series of open house events so that each partner could showcase their unique programs and highlight one special interest. In November of 2016, we hosted an open house focused on supporting children’s Inquiry Learning, during which we engaged educators in a variety of explorations that we use with our children.

For the 2017-18 year, PAUS has focused on deepening interactions among educators in several ways. A book club is reading *Eight Essential Techniques for Teaching with Intention* (Lewin-Benham, 2015) and another group is exploring mindfulness practices for educators. On Saturday, February 10th, we held the first annual PAUS conference, during which two teams of educators from each school offered workshops and then we shared lunch together before hearing an inspirational message from keynoter Jason Kotecki, “an artist who speaks”. The theme for the conference originated from one of Kotecki’s paintings, *Build Something Wonder Full*. His message encouraged us to improve our early childhood practice by seeing with new eyes, tinkering, and striving to create a legendary portfolio.

During the conference, Mrs. Armbruster, Mrs. Opferman, and Mr. Salinetro shared their approaches to *Building with Young Children* in open-ended indoor and outdoor contexts to demonstrate how varied types of block building, loose parts exploration, and Make Shop experiences can promote socio-emotional, language, cognitive, and physical development, as well as artistic expression and appreciation.

Also, Mrs. Bird and Mrs. Blizman invited Allison Marcin (Behavioral Specialist Consultant from Wesley Spectrum) and Michelle Ford Thomas (Pittsburgh Public Schools Therapist) to join in a panel presentation about *Building Partnerships to Support Children with Special Needs*. They discussed resources and strategies for proactive collaboration to facilitate support for children with learning and behavior challenges.

We purposely scheduled the practicum for students from Duksung Women’s University, so that they could attend the conference with their cooperating teachers, who represent 4 of the 5 PAUS partners. The conference was a “wonder full” culmination to their international education experience!