

GEORGE C. HOFFMANN AWARD

William Parnell, Ed.D. (2005)



WILL PARNELL, ED.D., is a professor in early childhood education, department chair of Curriculum and Instruction, and a pedagogical liaison to the Helen Gordon Child Development Center at Portland State University. His specialty areas are rethinking readiness in the early years, disrupting traditional early childhood research, creating learning designs, and documenting and making young children's learning visible.

Parnell currently serves as president of the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators, consultant for the International School of Beijing Early Years, and founder of the Inventing Remida Portland project. Parnell finished his doctorate in education at PSU in 2005, and has been researching Reggio-inspired practices related to making listening and learning visible and valued; and working with children's creative expression, representational work and Remida creative reuse materials. His most recent research centers on meaning-making through early childhood education arts-based narrative-building processes that informs classroom practices. Parnell has presented and written many journal articles and book chapters about his research. He has co-edited and authored three books: "Making Meaning in Early Childhood Research," "Disrupting Research in Early Childhood Education," and "Rethinking Readiness in Early Childhood Education." His other scholarly research articles and book chapters focus on children,

teachers and parents' lived experiences and he is actively working with many doctoral candidates in the U.S. and Australia.

Parnell has been an educator and researcher in the field of early childhood education/teacher education since 1986 with a significant background in teaching and leadership. His background includes work in lab schools, parent cooperatives, and public-school settings and he has consulted around the globe from across the U.S and Canada to countries like Beijing, Australia, Bulgaria and Denmark. He has also started many schools for young children, working with architects on place-making, space planning and pedagogy in architectural design.

The Hoffmann Award is given annually to a faculty member in recognition of distinguished contributions to the University in the areas of instruction, university service, and scholarship which are done in the spirit of humanism, civility, and collegiality, with particular dedication to students and loyalty to the University. These values were especially cherished by the late George C. Hoffmann, a distinguished dean and professor of history at Portland State University.