

**GINA PEPIN, Ed.D.**  
Curriculum Vitae

**EDUCATION**

Post-Graduate Certificate: Reading, Literacy, and Assessment; Walden University,  
2018

Doctorate of Education: Teacher Leadership; Walden University, 2013

M.S., Reading & Literacy K-6, Walden University, 2007

B.S, Elementary K-5; Social Studies & Language Arts 6-8, Northern Michigan  
University, 2001

**K-12 TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Elementary Intervention Teacher Leader; Lemmer Elementary School.

Escanaba, MI. 2020-2021; 2021-2022 Present

Elementary Reading Teacher; Lemmer & Soo Hill Elementary Schools.

Escanaba, MI. 2019-2020

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher; Soo Hill Elementary School. Escanaba, MI. 2018-2019.

Elementary Reading Teacher; Lemmer, Soo Hill & Webster Elementary

Schools. Escanaba, MI. 2012-2018

Multiple Teaching Roles; 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher, K-5 Music Teacher, Technology

K-5

Teacher, Middle School Language Arts Teacher, and Middle School Social

Studies Teacher. Escanaba Area Public Schools. Escanaba, MI.

2008-2012\*

Multiple Teaching Roles; 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher, K-12 Music Teacher, Middle

School Language Arts and Geography Teacher. Mid Peninsula

Schools. Rock, MI. 2001-2008

K-5 Music & 7-8 Grade Band Teacher; Holy Name Catholic School. Escanaba, MI.  
1998-1999.

### **ADDITIONAL EDUCATION EXPERIENCE**

Expert Teacher at UPPERCASE. <https://www.uppercaseteach.com/>.

Great Start Collaborative; Great Start Parent Coalitions (GSPC) Contractual Work:

*Read and Rise* Family Workshops; Summer Literacy Camps; Parent Academies, *Talking is Teaching* community book nooks; Trusted Advisor.

2016 to present.

### **HIGHER EDUCATION EXPERIENCE**

University Supervisor for Teacher Candidates; Northern Michigan

University, 2020, 2021-Present

Teacher Education Advisory Council (TEAC); Northern Michigan University,

2020, 2021-Present

University Supervisor for Teacher Candidates; Grand Canyon University

2022, 2023

Contingent Assistant Professor; Online: Northern Michigan University, M.Ed.

Literacy Courses. 2016-Present

Adjunct Online Instructor; M.Ed. Literacy Courses. Grand Canyon

University, 2014- Present

Dissertation Committee: Content Expert; Grand Canyon University,

2016-Present

NMU Masters Thesis Defense Committee; Northern Michigan University,

2019

Course Design (Co-Creator). Grand Canyon University. REA 460. 2019

## **SCHOLARSHIP & PUBLICATIONS**

### **Contribution Articles**

**3 Ways for Preschoolers to Learn Through Play:** Find out how play helps your preschool students sharpen their skills. Scholastic Editors.

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/teaching-tools/articles/lessons/learn-through-play-preschool.html>

**5 Group Reading Activities for Kids:** These interactive activities will entertain everyone and sharpen their reading skills. Scholastic Editors.

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/raise-a-reader-blog/reading-activities-kids.html>

### **Scholastic Professional Authors Look Ahead to the New Year**

(EduBlog; Scholastic, Co-Authored with Eric Litwin). January 2, 2021.

Retrieved at:

<https://edublog.scholastic.com/post/scholastic-professional-authors-look-ahead-new-year>

### **The Power of Joyful Reading: Help Your Young Readers Soar to Success**

(Scholastic, Co-Authored with Eric Litwin). November 2020.

**3 Fun Ways to Encourage and Praise Your Young Readers:** Here's how to use growth mindset premise to support reading in your classroom. Co-Authored with Eric Litwin. Scholastic Education - Teaching Tools (Digital Article). October 2020.

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/teaching-tools/articles/professional->

development/3-fun-ways-encourage-praise-young-readers.html.

**Why the Joyful Reading Approach is Needed Now More Than Ever.**

Co-Authored with EriC Litwin. Scholastic Professional EDU Blog; September, 2020.

<https://edublog.scholastic.com/post/why-joyful-reading-approach-needed-now-more-ever#.X2VAy1Zn4ag.linkedin>.

**The Power of Joyful Reading: Help Your Young Readers Soar to Success.** (E.

Litwin & G. Pepin, 2020). Scholastic.

**The Power of Read-Alouds in Elementary & Secondary Classes.** Meemic: The

Bulletin Board Blog. March 2019.

<https://www.meemic.com/why-meemic/about-meemic/blog/mtoy/march-2019/the-power-of-%E2%80%8Bread-alouds-in-elementary-secondar.aspx>.

**Integrating Scholarship into Academic Life as an Adjunct.** Grand Canyon

University CIRT Blog. March 2017.

**Teacher Leadership: Teachers as Literacy Leaders;** Chapter 14.

Literacy Program Evaluation and Development Initiatives for P-12 Teaching (Lawrence, 2017).

**Effects of a Language Arts Service-Learning Project on Sixth-Grade**

**Academic Achievement;** Dissertation, 2013.

**Wildcat Authors Directory;** Northern Michigan University Alumni Association.

**PRESENTATIONS, KEYNOTE SPEAKING, & WORKSHOPS**

October 13, 2023: **How to Make Instruction Joyful, Engaging, and**

**Motivating (while still meeting the daily objectives etc.) Workshops**

Central Michigan University - Teacher Candidate Conference.

June 16, 2023. **MTOY Program Reflections and Moving Forward.**

**Presentation.** Michigan Teacher Leadership Advisory Council Meeting.

March 14, 2023. **The Power of Joyful Reading. Guest Speaker (Virtual).**

Wagner College: Student Candidates & Early Childhood Graduate Students.

March 17, 2023. **The Power of Joyful Reading: Help Young Readers Soar to Success. Webinar.**

*Description: Award-winning authors Eric Litwin and Dr. Gina Pepin will share how to transform your classroom (and school) into a "reading playground"—a space in which children read along to, sing to, dance to, and celebrate words and texts. Dr. Gina will show that when young children are immersed in joyful and engaging shared reading experiences throughout the day, something wonderful happens: Students learn to love books, enjoy reading, and see themselves as readers. This engaging workshop demonstrates and provides ready-to-go joyful reading activities, lessons, songs, and stories that you can put to work in your classrooms and daycare centers right away. It will empower you to immerse all young readers, including your English learners, in joyful and engaging reading experiences throughout the day—and help them build their essential reading foundation. Gather all of your favorites to build ready-to-use "equipment" for your reading playground. Get ready to create your*

*own samples, lessons, and activities to turn your classroom into a reading playground today!*

March 1, 2023. **Joyful and Engaging Reading. Keynote Speaker (Virtual)** with

Co-Author Eric Litwin. Missouri School Board Association: Spring Meeting.

*Description: Joyful and Engaging Reading: In this highly entertaining presentation Eric Litwin shares the inspiring ideas found in his book The Power of Joyful Reading, Help Your Young Readers Soar to Success (co-written with Gina Pepin). Attendees will learn how to empower their schools and teachers in leading young students to love books and think positively, while at the same time preparing them for successful reading instruction. Eric models this energizing approach while telling his own original Pete the Cat books, as well as The Nuts and Groovy Joe. Attendees are fully engaged and have an unforgettable time. They also walk away with compelling ideas they can put to work in their classrooms the next day.*

October 26, 2022. **The Joy of Literacy. Keynote Speaker Live.** South Carolina Association of Title One Administrators: Building a Vision of Success 2022. Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

April 7, 2022. (3 Sessions) **Create a Joyful Reading Playground; Teaching Like a Reading Superhero; Higher Education - The Power of Joyful Reading: Help Your Young Readers Soar to Success. Workshop Presenter (Virtual).**

Celebrating Connections 2022- Better Together. West Virginia Early Childhood Training Connections and Resources. River Valley Child Development

Services.

November 17, 2021. **Literacy and Academic Language: The Power of Joyful Reading (Virtual Workshop).**

*Description: Award winning authors Eric Litwin and Gina Pepin share how to transform your classroom (and school) into a "reading playground" - a space in which children read along to, sing to, dance to, and celebrate words and texts. They will show that when young children are immersed in joyful and engaging shared reading experiences throughout the day, something wonderful happens. Students learn to love books, enjoy reading, and see themselves as readers. They also gain reading skills and knowledge, which prepares them for reading instruction. Dr. Pepin will discuss the connections between The Joyful Reading Approach, literacy and academic language*

NAECTE 2021: Interdisciplinary and Inclusive Practices in Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Teacher Education.

September 8, 2021. **The Power of Joyful Reading: Help Young Readers Soar to Success** (2020). **On Demand Workshop (Virtual)**. World Literacy Summit.

*Description: Dr. Gina gives you what you need to transform your classroom into a "reading playground" a space for children to read along, sing to, dance to, and celebrate words and texts. A space in which they experience the power of joyful reading.*

June 30, July 28 & August 18. **Great Start Collaborative Family Literacy Play & Learn Summer Sessions. Talking is Teaching; Sing! Read! Talk!**

VanCleve Park, Rapid River Park, Besse Park Escanaba, MI.

July 13, 2021. **The Power of Joyful Reading: Help Young Readers Soar to Success** (2020). **Keynote Speaker (Virtual)** with Co-Author Eric Litwin. Region 10 Now4Forever Conference, Texas.

July 13 & 14, 2021. **The Power of Joyful Reading: Help Young Readers Soar to Success** (2020). **Workshop Presenter - Teach Like a Reading Superhero & Create a Reading Playground (Virtual)** Region 10 Now4Forever Conference, Texas.

March 6, 2021. **The Power of Joyful Reading: Help Young Readers Soar to Success** (2020). **Keynote Speaker (Virtual)** with Co-Author Eric Litwin. Georgia Preschool Association Spring Conference.

February 1, 2021. **Transforming Your Classroom Into a Reading Playground; Cultivating Reading Lovers by Creating Joyful Reading Experiences (Webinar)**. Presented with Co-Author Eric Litwin

*Description: Bring Me A Book Hong Kong is pleased to partner with HKEdCity to organize a professional development training webinar on 2 Feb 2021 (Tuesday). Renowned authors Eric Litwin and Gina Pepin will share how to transform your classroom into a 'reading playground' with suitable teaching activities, empowering students to experience the joy of reading.*

January 30, 2021. **The Power of Joyful Reading: Help Young Readers Soar to Success** (2020). **Keynote Speaker** with Co-Author Eric Litwin. 35th Annual Harris County Department of Education Early Childhood Winter Conference

January 4, 2021. **The Power of Joyful Reading: Help Your Young Readers**



**Soar to Success. Professional Development-Full Day (Virtual) Part**

**II-Application.** Presented with Co-Author Eric Litwin. Laredo, Texas.

***Filling Your Joyful Reading Teacher Toolbox***

*Description: Award-winning authors Eric Litwin and Gina Pepin lead a follow-up interactive book study on The Power of Joyful Reading: Help Your Young Readers Soar to Success! This entertaining return engagement will build on the skills and knowledge learned in the first workshop. It will focus on demonstrating and providing ready-to-go joyful reading activities, lessons, songs, and stories that you can put to work in your classrooms right away. It will empower you to immerse all young readers, including your English Learners, in joyful and engaging reading experiences throughout the day—and help them build their essential reading foundation.*

November 3, 2020. **The Power of Joyful Reading: Help Your Young Readers**

**Soar to Success. Professional Development (Virtual).** Presented with Co-Author Eric Litwin. Plano, Texas - Region 10 Early Childhood Educators and Librarians.

*Description: Immersing early childhood students in joyful and engaging reading experiences throughout the day provides the needed reading foundation for children to love books, enjoy reading and see themselves as readers.*

November 10-24, 2020; September 24-October 10; August 4-13.

**Little Learners Reading Program. Family Literacy Workshops**

Great Start Collaborative- Virtual and Face-to-Face; Delta & Schoolcraft

counties, Michigan.

*Description: Two-week sessions provide opportunities for families to Learn, Discuss, & Engage: Watch customized videos to learn how to nurture essential literacy skills; Online Parent, Peer-to-Peer Discussions; and Fun hands-on family activities let you practice new skills and materials. Program focuses on: Sensational Skills Building, Joyful Shared Reading Experiences using the programs Read and Rise & Talking is Teaching.*

October 17, 2020. **The Power of Joyful Reading: Help Young Readers Soar to Success** (2020). **International Literacy Association NEXT Conference.**

**(Virtual)**. Presented with Co-Author Eric Litwin. Professional Interactive Learning - Learning Labs

<https://www.literacyworldwide.org/ila-next/program/learning-labs#saturday-october-10>.

August 12, 2020. **Early Childhood: Starting School on a Joyful Note. Webinar** (Scholastic Education). Presented with Co-Author Eric Litwin.

*Description: Joyful reading experiences can empower teachers and students by supporting their social and emotional needs. Interweaving joyful shared reading experiences into your daily routines, activities, and lessons throughout the day provides opportunities for students to love books, enjoy reading, and see themselves as readers.*

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/education/webinars.htm?webinar=6180798552001>.

August 20, 2020. **The Power of Joyful Reading: Help Young Readers Soar to**

**Success** (2020).

**Scholastic Webinar/Presentation Internal**. Presented with Co-Author Eric Litwin. For Jimmy Brehm, Vice President of Academic Planning & Solution Development Scholastic Education, and Team.

*Description: Customizing solutions for district partners.*

August 19, 2020. **The Power of Joyful Reading: Help Young Readers Soar to**

**Success** (2020). **Keynote Speaker** with Co-Author Eric Litwin.

Early Childhood Department of Calcasieu Parish - Lake Charles, Louisiana (Virtual).

*Description: When young children are immersed in joyful and engaging shared reading experiences throughout the day, something wonderful happens. They learn to love books, enjoy reading, and see themselves as readers. They also gain reading skills and knowledge, which prepares them for reading instruction.*

August 2020. **The Power of Joyful Reading: Help Young Readers Soar to**

**Success** (2020). **Scholastic Webinar/Presentation Internal**. Presented with Co-Author Eric Litwin. Sales Representatives, Account Executives and Dealer/Trade Representatives.

*Description: Provided background, framework, and workshops that can be offered.*

July 14, 2020. **The Power of Joyful Reading: Help Young Readers Soar to**

**Success. Keynote Co-Speaker and Workshop Breakout Session.**

Presented with Co-Author Eric Litwin. Laredo Independent School District

Early Childhood Program (LISD) Texas Region One: Early Childhood Symposium (Virtual). <https://www.esc1.net/Page/4031>.

**Keynote: The Power of Joyful Reading**

*Description: When young children are immersed in joyful and engaging shared reading experiences throughout the day, something wonderful happens. They learn to love books, enjoy reading, and see themselves as readers. They also gain reading skills and knowledge, which prepares them for reading instruction. Joyful reading gives you what you need to transform your classroom into a "reading playground" - a space in which children read along to, sing to, dance to, and celebrate words and texts in this interactive presentation*

**Workshop Breakout Session: Teaching Like a Reading SuperHERO.**

*Description: This workshop explores how to put the ideas in The Power of Joyful Reading to work in your classroom. Learn simple to use shared reading techniques to help your student develop their basic reading skills and knowledge and lead them to love books, enjoy reading, and see themselves as readers! Eric and Dr. Gina demonstrate how to interweave these experiences into your daily routines, activities, and lessons throughout the day, day after day, all year long, even in our virtual classroom. Over time these little changes have big reading outcomes.*

January 2020. **Read and Rise Family Literacy Workshop.** Webster Kindergarten Center; Escanaba, MI. Great Start Collaborative.

October 2019. **Looking at the Whole Child-Difficulty or Disability? The**

**Importance of Exploring All Variables (Part 1 & 2).**

Upper Michigan Special Education Conference - Workshop

Northern Michigan University; Marquette, MI.

June 2019. **The Impact of Vision on Reading and Learning.**

NMU/MARESA Summer Institute for Educators: Professional Learning 2-Day

Course Co-Presenter with Dr. Heidi Johnson, OD, FCOVD.

May 2019. **Examining the Struggling Student: The Impact of Vision on**

**Reading and Learning.** Upper Peninsula Doctors of Optometry Conference

- Professional Learning. Co-Presenter with Dr. Heidi Johnson, OD, FCOVD

Bay De Noc Community College; Escanaba, MI.

February 2018. **Michigan's 3rd Grade Reading Law and What it Means for**

**Your Children.** Presentation and Discussion; Delta County Great Start

Parent Coalition.

*Description: Continuation of Topic - Early Literacy: Why It's Important*

*& What You Can Do To Help Your Child Be and Stay on Track.*

February 2018. **Panel Presentation for Early Childhood & Literacy**

Michigan Teacher Leadership Advisory Council (MiTLAC)

Michigan Department of Education. Lansing, MI.

October 2018. **Read and Rise Family Literacy Workshop.** OSF Hospital;

Escanaba, MI. Great Start Collaborative.

October 2017. **Family Night Fun- Family Literacy Program.** Great Start

Collaborative. Bay De Noc Community College Library; Escanaba, MI.

May 2017. **Chalk Talk - An Unconference. An Informal Evening of**

**Storytelling, Performance, & Discussion on Early Literacy &**

### **Multi-learning Approaches**

Hosted by Eric Litwin and Dr. Gina Pepin. William Bonifas Art Center;  
Escanaba, MI.

September 2016. **Honorary Keynote Speaker at Educator's Rising Induction Ceremony.** Delta Schoolcraft Intermediate School District; Escanaba, MI.

### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

#### **2023-2024 Region 1 - Michigan Teacher of the Year.**

Nomination: **Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation**

(AAQEP). **Teacher Representative:** Board Member & Commissioner.

Nominated by Dr. Joseph Lubig, Associate Dean & Director of the School of Education, Leadership and Public Service; Northern Michigan University.

2018-Present. 2018-Present.

**Literacy Champion. *Bring Me a Book - Literacy Advocacy Toolkit.*** With Eric Litwin. **The Power of Joyful Reading.**

<https://www.bringmeabook.org/advocates/gina-pepin/> .

**The Power of Joyful Reading: Help Young Readers Soar to Success** (Litwin &

Pepin, 2020). Scholastic LitCamp Summer Series - Featured as 1 of 7

Strengths (Hope) Video Interview with co-author Eric Litwin and Dr. Ernest Morrell; Summer 2020.

#### **2018-2019 Region 1 - Michigan Teacher of the Year.**

### **ACADEMIC CONFERENCES - PANELIST**

March 8, 2021. **Michigan Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP Panel).**

Teacher Preparation in the New Normal Today - Higher Education; Rural

Education Needs - K-12.

February 11, 2021. **Marquette Branch of the American Association of University Women - Panel Member**. Rural Education: Teaching and learning in rural school settings.

February 23-25, 2021 **AAQEP Quality Assurance Symposium- Virtual. Presenter. School Needs Now & Teacher Preparation Now** - co presented with Dr. Doretha Allen.

In the immediate aftermath of school shutdowns due to COVID 19, schools have a new set of needs. Teacher preparation programs have had to respond to the shifts in real time practices. This session reflects the presenters' experiences as parent, teacher, central staff, and university professor.

**Accreditation Commission Panel Discussion** - **Panel:** Dr. Sylvia Read, Dr. Virginia Goatley, Dr. Joe Lubig, Dr. Rebecca Pelton, Dr. Deborah Rickey.

An overview of AAQEP's principles and standards supported by a conversation with a panel of leaders representing the Board of Directors, Accreditation Commission, and Quality Review Team members to discuss the accreditation process and its context.

February 27, 2020. **AAQEP Panel Presentations. Quality Assurance Symposium**. Georgia Tech University; Atlanta, Georgia.

**Refreshing the Accreditation Conversation: New Rules, New Roles**

*Panelists: Fritz Erickson, Northern Michigan University; Rebecca Pelton, Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education; Tom Bordenkircher, Higher Learning Commission; Gina Pepin, Escanaba*

*Area Public Schools*

Join the conversation with a panel of AAQEP Board members to discuss new directions from their unique roles and perspectives.

Meet the Accreditation Commission: Overview of the Decision-Making Process

*Joe Lubig, Northern Michigan University; Virginia Goatley, University at Albany; Rebecca Pelton, Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education; Gina Pepin, Escanaba Area Public Schools; Deborah Rickey, Grand Canyon University; Sylvia Read, Utah State University*

Panelists give an overview of the Accreditation Commission processes, such as a typical agenda, EPP role, discussion areas, and accreditation notations (commendation, comment, concern, condition).

**ACADEMIC VOLUNTEER SERVICE**

**Michigan Teacher Leadership Advisory Council (MiTLAC)**

Michigan Department of Education. 2017-2018; 2018-2019 & 2023-2034.

**AAQEP Accreditation Committee Chair** - 2022; Present. Rotation Chair

accreditation meetings with other commissioners.

**Michigan Dyslexia Handbook:** A Guide to Literacy Acquisition and Accelerating

Outcomes. Michigan Department of Education. 2022.

**MiCIP: Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process Team.**

Lemmer Elementary School. 2021-Present.

**Leader in Me Lighthouse Team.** Escanaba Area Schools. 2018-Present.

**Michigan Department of Education Diversity & Equity in the Educator**

**Workforce Advisory Group** 2021



**The Next Page Book Project.** 2021. 150 authors.

**Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP)**

Commissioner, Board Member, Nominating Committee & Governance Committee. 2019\* vary- to present.

**Editorial Review Board Member;** Michigan Reading Journal. 2018-Present.

**Peer reviewer** for International Literacy Association: The Reading Teacher

**Michigan Model Competency-Based Education** Workgroup

Michigan Department of Education. 2019 to Present.

**Standards for the Preparation of Teachers in Professional Knowledge and**

**Skills,** English Language Arts, and Mathematics in Middle Grades (5-9) and High School (7-12) Workgroup: Michigan Department of Education. 2019-2020.

**Survey Item Development Committee:** Teacher Candidate, Principal, K-12

Cooperating Teacher, Candidate Supervisor, & Year Out Surveys

Michigan Department of Education. 2019-2020.

**Teacher Leadership Framework Design** Workgroup:

Michigan Department of Education. Michigan Teacher Leadership Advisory Council. Teach to Lead Summit. Governor's Education and Talent Summit. Novi, MI. April 2018.

**Michigan Early Literacy Assessment Team;** Aligning Assessment tools for 1280f

& PA306; Michigan Department of Education. 2017-2019.

**Focus Group Regional Leader: Michigan MiLit Plan & Early Childhood**

**Framework** Michigan Department of Education. 2017-2018.

**Chair – Careers in Education;** Delta Schoolcraft Intermediate Schools. Advisory

Council. 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

**Careers in Education Practicum Placement Partnership; Educator's Rising**

Chapter. Leader in Me; Enrichment Leadership Program. Lemmer

Elementary School; Escanaba, MI. 2016-2017.

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS/MEMBERSHIP**

Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP)

International Literacy Association (ILA)

Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children (MIAEYC)

Michigan Education Association (MEA)

Michigan Reading Association (MRA)

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)

National Education Association (NEA)

National Network of State Teachers of the Year (NNSTOY)