



## Dr. Bweikia Foster Steen

Dr. Bweikia Foster Steen, EdD, is associate professor and internship coordinator in the early childhood education program in the College of Education and Human Development at George Mason University. She received her doctoral degree from the University of San Francisco in international and multicultural education. Dr. Steen has over 25 years of experience in early childhood education. Previously, she taught children from birth through age 8 in the San Francisco Bay Area and on the collegiate level at California State University, East Bay; New York University; and Trinity Washington University. Her research focuses on promoting social, emotional, and academic success among children of color during the early years and providing early childhood educators with developmentally appropriate practices and strategies that will enable this success.

Recently Dr. Foster Steen authored a new book titled *Hear Our Voices! Engaging in Partnerships that Honor Families*. The book highlights the voices of diverse families as they navigate the school system with their young children and establishes why reciprocal family partnerships are essential to child development and learning.

“Recognizing that the voices of those who have been silenced are powerful is the important first step of meeting the developmental and learning needs of the whole child,” she writes. Dr. Foster Steen believes families have voices that are waiting to be heard—it’s time to listen.



### Conference Sessions

Thursday, April 26

8:00 –10:00 AM

Hear Our Voices!: Engaging in Partnerships that Honor Families

1:00-2:30 PM

Starting Young: Countering Preschool to Prison Pipeline with UDL Principles