



WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Board of Governors
September 29, 2023



MERRILL PALMER
SKILLMAN INSTITUTE
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute for Child & Family Development

Division of Research



The Freer House

- MPSI supports a full-time director
 - facilitates restoration projects
 - linkage to the community and to national scholars
 - educational programming on art & culture



History



- 1920: founded as the Merrill-Palmer Motherhood and Training School at the Freer House
- 1922: third nursery school in the United States
- 1981: joins Wayne State University as Merrill Palmer Institute
- 2005: Skillman Center for Children is integrated - forms MPSI
- *For over a century*, the Institute has trained generations of parents, teachers, students, and researchers across the nation and world



More history:

https://mpsi.wayne.edu/about/mpsi_then_now.pdf

<https://reuther.wayne.edu/node/10876>

Mission

The mission of the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute for Child & Family Development (MPSI) is to conduct state-of-the-art, **multidisciplinary research, education, and outreach** in the area of child and family development, aimed at improving the health and well-being of children, youth, and families across the lifespan.



Research

- 13 “core” faculty
- 8 “affiliate” faculty
- Represent range of departments:
 - Psychology
 - Social Work
 - Education
 - Public Health
 - Family Medicine
 - Psychiatry & Behavioral Neurosciences



15.8 million in research grants (last six years)



Thematic Research



Developmental Transitions

Biological and Environmental Risks and Protective Factors

Interdisciplinary

Interventions for Children and Families

Developmental Neuroscience



Lifespan

Training Programs

- MPSI Fellowship Program

- 9 multi-disciplinary graduate fellows
- 5 trainees (pre-candidacy)

- Infant Mental Health Dual Title

- First program of this kind in U.S.
- 34 multi-disciplinary students



Student Voices

Nicole Kouri: MPSI Fellowship Program

Hailey Briscoe: IMH Dual Title Program



Community Programs and Engagement

Making a Difference



Professional Development & Training



- **Explorations In Development:** 2-day conference, ~125 early childhood professionals
- **Baby Court:** training for ~125 professionals in family courts and child welfare
- **Hearts & Minds on Babies:** training for ~40 early childhood teachers and childcare providers
- **Integrated Pediatric Care:** training for > 600 healthcare providers



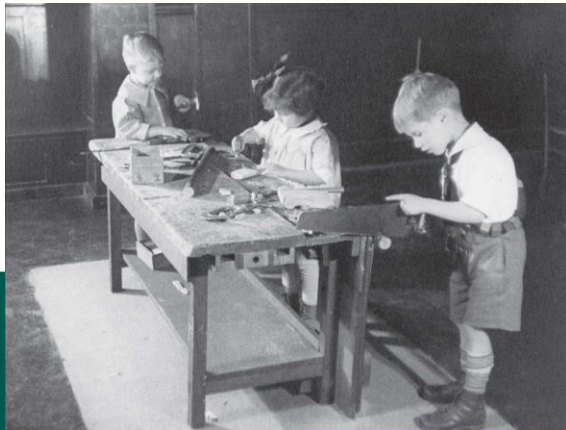
Support for Families and Youth

- **Parenting Moments:** digital newsletter for parents and caregivers; reaches >1,000
- **Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health:** professional services to assess and treat families with a variety of needs by 10 students in 8-10 community settings for 30+ families
- **Giant Step Teen Conference:** >200 teens plus ~50 school personnel from diverse backgrounds join annually to learn new perspectives



The Early Childhood Center

- On site 5-star accredited early childhood center
- 2 classrooms for preschool-age children (30-40 total)
- Training site for student assistants, educators, speech-language specialists, occupational therapists, and others
- Grants support **free attendance** for income-eligible families and Pell-grant eligible WSU student parents



THEN

NOW

Board of Governors



**>20
faculty**



**15+ million
in grants**



**MERRILL PALMER
SKILLMAN INSTITUTE**
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY



**~50 graduate
students**

**>50
undergrad
lab students**



**~3,000
professionals**

**>1,000
children-
families**

