The Sherman Center for Early Learning in Urban Communities Welcomes New Faculty

The Sherman Center for Early Learning in Urban Communities (https://shermancenter.umbc.edu/) is pleased to welcome two new faculty members, Dr. Karrie Godwin (PhD, Carnegie Mellon University, 2015) and Dr. Shana Rochester (PhD, University of Michigan, 2018) to UMBC. Dr. Godwin holds a joint appointment as research faculty with the Sherman Center and assistant professor with the psychology department. Dr. Godwin's research examines how cognitive and environmental factors shape children's development and learning in the laboratory and in the classroom, and has been published in top peer reviewed journals the field of educational psychology including *Child Development*, *Learning and Instruction*, and *Psychological Science*. Her specific research interests include the development of attention, executive function, and reasoning. Ongoing projects include the examination of individual differences in the development of attention regulation and executive function and how learning environments and instructional materials can be optimized to promote attention and learning. Dr. Godwin will work with early childhood educators to apply key findings from these projects through her joint appointment with the Sherman Center.

Newly appointed as a research associate with the Sherman Center, Dr. Rochester recently completed the inaugural AACTE/Holmes Postdoctoral Fellowship at Boston University's Wheelock College. Her research explores children's academic and social development in the context of early childhood classrooms, family-based educational programs, and informal learning spaces. At Wheelock, she engaged in scholarship focused on validating a classroom observational tool designed to assess equitable teacher-child and peer interactions in early childhood classrooms. She also collaborated on projects to understand how caregivers shape children's learning at museums and playgrounds. Dr. Rochester received the Dimond Best Dissertation Award from the University of Michigan School of Education for her dissertation, *Learning Together in Context: Attending to Culture in Early Childhood Family Engagement Initiatives,* which focused on the design, implementation, and evaluation of culturally responsive family engagement programs targeting families from racially/ethnically minoritized backgrounds. In 2019, Dr. Rochester was also selected for the prestigious American Educational Research Association/Society for Research in Child Development Early Career Fellowship in Middle Childhood Education and Development to expand research in the middle childhood field. In her position as research associate, Dr. Rochester will continue her current studies as well as conduct community-based research and provide professional development for Sherman Center partners and stakeholders.