



WHAT INSPIRES YOU AND BRINGS YOU TO WORK EVERY DAY?

"Early childhood education chose me, and I found my calling here. Every day I wonder, "What do my children and families need from me today?" And I look forward to learning the answer."

- Veronica -

"I love conversations with children and how those conversations help children feel heard and seen. I know how hard it is to grow up feeling invisible."

- Teri -

"Relationships with children and knowing that our interactions with them today help build foundations for good in their future."

- Christine -



6646 Vernon Avenue University City, MO 63130

Thank you for helping us continue to nurture relationships.

UCCC

We partner with families of diverse backgrounds to nurture the growth and development of their children through inclusive, innovative, high quality care and education.

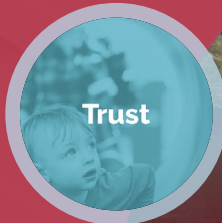
LUME

The Lume Institute transforms the way families, educators, and communities inspire young children to learn, grow, and thrive.

- 2021 -

UCCC & LUME annual report

DECADES OF NURTURING RELATIONSHIPS





Strategic Plan Progress

The LUME Institute and University of Missouri-St. Louis research partnership, funded by the Missouri Foundation for Health, completed their research design, with data gathering beginning in early 2022. Findings from the five-year research project reveal the impact of adopting a relationship-based approach and support our efforts to advance early childhood education nationwide.

ucc.org/strategy

Moments That Fuel Progress

LUME staff launched Connecting:We to engage family-facing organizations in understanding and practicing relationship building for advancing organizational goals and in adopting Vroom as a family-engagement tool. This effort is funded by the Bezos Family Foundation.



bettogetherstl.com/vroom

Be Well, Be Together

LUME and UCCC staff launched BeTogetherSTL with funding from the Children's Services Fund. This series of community events, family activities, and online resources help children and families thrive through and beyond the challenges of the pandemic.

bettogetherstl.com



UNIVERSITY CITY CHILDREN'S CENTER

Masked Faces, Open Hearts

UCCC found answers to questions such as: How can we hold children's hearts and souls despite masks and other COVID-related intrusions? How can we build trust with families and ensure everyone feels physically and emotionally safe?

ucc.org

Teach With Purpose

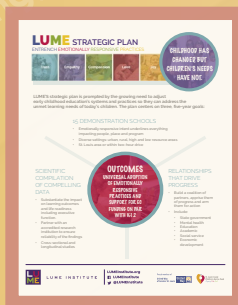
Confronted with staffing shortages reflective of early childhood providers nationwide, UCCC launched its Teach With Purpose campaign to find educators well-suited to teaching young children.

ucc.org/blog

Purpose Demonstrated

UCCC's Teach With Purpose campaign and focus on relationships are parts of being a demonstration school. Visiting educators can observe and immerse themselves in learning about relationship-building and its importance to early childhood development. UCCC is vital to the UCCC/LUME strategic plan.

ucc.org/strategy



Being Heard, Seen, and Understood

Zoom made many things possible during the pandemic, but virtual connections can't replace eye-to-eye contact, hugs, and handshakes. Honoring the need for human connections and relationships was the central theme of our annual event, which we titled: Take Me Off Mute. Featured guest, Ryan Speedo Green, is a living example of the life-long impact of student-educator relationships.

ryanspeedogreen.com

50% OF UCCC FAMILIES RECEIVED TUITION ASSISTANCE

2021 INCLUDED NEARLY

1500

LUME/EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR ENGAGEMENTS

UCCC SERVED FAMILIES FROM

40

ST. LOUIS-AREA ZIP CODES

