



# UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

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## CONNECTICUT

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*The School for Young Children at the University of Saint Joseph presents:*

## **The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Keefe-Bruyette Symposium**

### **“Nature Deficit Disorder” — How and Why We Need to Reconnect Young Learners to Nature**



WEST HARTFORD, Conn. (February 23, 2014) – The School for Young Children at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) will host its 12<sup>th</sup> annual Keefe-Bruyette Symposium on Early Learning on Monday, March 17, 2014. The event begins at 8:15 a.m. (registration followed by the keynote address at 9:00 a.m.) in the Bruyette Athenaeum’s Hoffman Auditorium, located on the University’s West Hartford campus at 1678 Asylum Avenue.

Focused on Math and Science for young children, this year’s symposium looks at “Nature Deficit Disorder” – specifically, how and why we need to reconnect young learners to nature. The day-long symposium draws early childhood educators from throughout the state who participate in workshops led by their peers.

The featured keynote speaker is Erin Kenny, J.D., a leader in the Forest Kindergarten movement and founder of the nature-based Cedarsong Nature School in Washington state. She is also the author of *Forest Kindergartens: The Cedarsong Way*. Kenny’s keynote address, “Nature Deficit Disorder,” will explore the impact of indoor education, the field of ecopsychology, and ways in which educators can participate in nature immersion. In addition to the keynote address,

participants at the Keefe-Bruyette Symposium select a morning and afternoon workshop from an expansive menu. Topics include: Beyond Bubbles-Exploring Science Through Process Investigations, Math and Science in Nature, The Toddler's Mathematical Mind; and more.

**Registration is required.** The price of the morning session, which includes Erin Kenny's keynote address, morning workshop and lunch, is \$65. The afternoon session, which includes lunch, the afternoon workshop and a tour of the School for Young Children, is \$65. Full-day price is \$80; full-time students pay a discounted fee of \$50. To register, contact Sue O'Donnell, laboratory school coordinator at 860.231.5561 or [sodonnell@usj.edu](mailto:sodonnell@usj.edu).

The Keefe-Bruyette Symposium on Early Learning is made possible by the generous support of Gene F. Bruyette H'04, P'81; Kathleen Barry Bruyette '49, H'04, P'81; the late Harry Keefe and his wife, Anita Keefe – longtime education philanthropists.

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*The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of graduate, undergraduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with a focus on service. Coeducational graduate master's and doctoral degree programs are taught on the University's two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Undergraduate programs for women and for coeducational adult students take place on our beautiful suburban campus and include more than 22 majors and six pre-professional programs, each of which provides personal attention in a caring environment. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. To learn more, view our website at [www.usj.edu](http://www.usj.edu).*

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