



# IGS Pathways

May 2015

Sharing the Path

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Apply NOW for one of the programs beginning this summer!

Dear Friends,

May is just about one of the busiest times for people in education. School is winding down, teachers and parents are making plans for summer, and school administrators are finalizing plans for next school year and getting ready for summer school or camp.

As a teacher preparation organization, we are making the final calls for applications for enrolling in the upcoming cohort groups, finishing this year's updates to course catalogs, manuals, and syllabi, and scheduling interviews with our applicants.

May is also one of the prettiest times of year. Nearly everyone has flowers and trees blooming by now, and many, if not most of those who garden have those well underway.

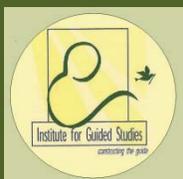
In this beautiful time of new growth, what are you doing for yourself, your home, your school or community? Is it time to arrange a refresher course or retreat for your staff? Maybe you're ready for your next challenge and want to add a certification level or even start your own school. How about that special substitute teacher who almost never says "no"—is it time to offer her a full time



position and sponsorship of Montessori training? Have the parents at your school been wishing for an Infant or Toddler environment?

Take a look around—and inside yourself, too, and see what needs pruning or planting, fertilizing, and careful nurturing. It's that time of year.

Mary Helen, Beth, and Kristie



## NEW PATHS

Please like us on Face Book for updates and NEWS! **Visit us and LIKE us!**

Take our Workshop Survey

MEPI Summer Seminar

Sarasota University

For more information click here.



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## DOWN THE PATH This Month's Professional Development Opportunity

This month we invite you to take part in our 8 question workshop survey. Let us know what topics you're interested in, how far you would travel, and other things you find important about workshops and staff retreats.

## AROUND THE BEND

MEPI will have a Summer Seminar at Maria Montessori Academy in North Ogden, UT July 18. Presenters will include IGS staff members. Registration is open now! See the brochure here for more information.

## ONGOING PROGRAMS

Are You a IGS Graduate wanting to add a Master's degree?

IGS and Sarasota University (SU) have an articulation agreement for IGS graduates to receive up to eighteen credits towards a Masters of Arts Degree in Montessori Education or Montessori Leadership.

More information about enrolling in the program can be found at [www.sarasotauniversity.org](http://www.sarasotauniversity.org) or at [info@sarasotauniversity.org](mailto:info@sarasotauniversity.org).

## BACKWARDS GLANCES

Personal Development for IGS participants has always been a primary focus; in fact, the organization was founded on the principle of "The First Essential." Talking with others in IGS on this topic recently, led me right down Memory Lane to 27 years ago when I began my first teacher preparation classes in Houston and Dallas, Texas. Hired as National Montessori Education Director by La Petite Academy, I began the first classes that summer. Montessori Unlimited, the newly formed arm of the company, and the National Montessori Education Director for Montessori Unlimited was off and running, well, flying! Soon Atlanta and Boca Raton, FL were added to my destinations. My main responsibilities included preparing teachers and assistants in four locations where new Montessori Unlimited schools were being opened (four years, sixteen 4-classroom schools).

In all four locations, students and I began our classes in the same way:

1. Greetings, creature comfort matters, distributions of books and/or materials;
2. Warm-up Exercises with a Jane Fonda cassette tape;
3. Guided Imagery (Inside or Outside);
4. Written Reflection (Journaling); and
5. Sharing Reflections.

We quickly learned (and my belief was reinforced) that when we included these activities our class times were significant, and when we incorporated them on a daily basis into our very busy lives, our lives were more fulfilling.....we filled our "tanks" and had more to give to those with whom we worked and/or guided.

Are these activities part of your training sessions? Part of your daily lives? If not, I suggest you embark on a journey of self-discovery and renewal by including such activities into your schedules. Make this gift to yourself a priority and incorporate self-care opportunities in your lives and classrooms!

Sheryl Sweet Miller, always living with gratitude