

# Education Innovation Immersion

Exploration of the Innovative MOF Methodology & Reggio Emilia

Appropriate for ALL educational levels

20 CPDU's (Illinois)

Urbania, Urbino & Bologna, Italy • June 20–28, 2026

\$3,595 (double occupancy) + airfare

Deadline to reserve your spot: January 15, 2026

[Learn More & Apply](#)

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# Witness Education Innovation in Action

Join us for an immersive nine-day experience where you'll step inside real educational programs — from Pre-K through higher education — and explore how the Finnish-inspired MOF (Modello Organizzativo Finlandese) methodology is transforming Italian education. You will also visit the heart of the Reggio Emilia movement and engage with global education innovators. This isn't just theory; it's innovation in practice.

Italy serves as a living laboratory where Finnish core principles — learner-centered pedagogy, flexible learning structures, and inclusive assessment — are adapted and tailored to a distinct cultural context. You'll observe, participate, and engage directly with educators who are reshaping what school can be.

## Program Highlights

- Real educational observations and participation
- Interactive workshops with MOF and Reggio Emilia educators
- Hands-on learning experiences
- Global peer collaboration
- Cultural immersion in Urbania, Urbino & Bologna

# Meet Your Facilitators



## Dr. Denice Love

Associate Professor of Elementary Education at Millikin University with over 30 years of experience spanning special education teaching, corporate training, and curriculum development. Her research focuses on fostering achievement for students with special needs and effective elementary instruction.

She earned her Ed.D. in Human Development & Psychology from Harvard Graduate School of Education and brings deep expertise in creating inclusive, effective learning environments.



## Julianne Shields

Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship and a passionate advocate for joyful education. With 15 years implementing impactful programs for youth and adults, Julianne brings experience as a tech entrepreneur, educational innovator, and nonprofit executive.

She holds an MBA from Millikin and is currently pursuing a master's certificate in Artificial Intelligence, combining entrepreneurial thinking with cutting-edge educational practice.



# The Three Pillars of MOF Education

The Finnish-inspired MOF methodology rests on three transformative principles that place learners at the center of their educational journey.



## Learner-Centered & Holistic

Students actively participate in shaping their learning through collaboration, choice, and personal growth. Education extends beyond academics to nurture the whole person — intellectually, emotionally, and socially.



## Flexible & Integrated Structure

Fewer subjects per day allow for deeper exploration and meaningful connections. Interdisciplinary lessons break down traditional barriers, enabling hands-on, project-based learning that mirrors real-world complexity.



## Inclusive & Formative Approach

Cooperation replaces competition. Formative feedback guides continuous improvement, and student well-being is prioritized. Every learner is supported to reach their potential in an environment that celebrates diversity and individual progress.

# Program Details & Investment

## What's Included

**Dates:** June 20–28, 2026

**Location:** Urbania, Urbino & Bologna, Italy

**Cost:** \$3,595 per person (double occupancy)

- Comfortable lodging throughout your stay
- Ground transportation between sites
- Exclusive access to MOF and Reggio Emilia visits
- 10 curated meals showcasing Italian cuisine
- Interactive workshops and materials

*Airfare not included. Early registration encouraged — space is limited.*

## Who Should Attend

This transformative experience is designed for:

- Classroom teachers seeking innovative practices
- School administrators and leaders
- Education policymakers and advocates
- Community stakeholders invested in educational excellence
- Anyone passionate about reimagining learning



**Important Deadline:** December 15, 2025

Secure your spot with a \$1,000 deposit.

# Be the Changemaker in Education

Where Finnish innovation meets Italian creativity — and you bring the future of learning home.

01

## Observe & Participate

Enter authentic MOF and Reggio Emilia programs and witness transformative pedagogy firsthand through direct engagement with students and educators.

02

## Learn & Collaborate

Engage in interactive workshops and connect with a global community of educators committed to innovation and excellence.

03

## Transform & Implement

Return home with practical strategies, renewed passion, and a toolkit to create learning environments where every student thrives.

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Ready to join us? Visit [millikin.edu/education-innovation-immersion-program-urbania-bologna-italy](https://millikin.edu/education-innovation-immersion-program-urbania-bologna-italy) or contact Julienne Shields at [jshields@millikin.edu](mailto:jshields@millikin.edu) for more information.

Register Now

Ask Questions