

This month's alumni spotlight is on **Kimberly A. Gordon Biddle, EdS '90, PhD '93**

Dr. Kimberly A. Gordon Biddle (she/her) (pinkpearlwriting.com) is an emeritus professor of child and adolescent development (developmental science) and the author of four textbooks, three picture books, and middle grade novels currently in revision. Her work centers the emotional and developmental lives of children, especially those from underrepresented communities, with care, authenticity, and insight.

A proud alumna of Stanford University's Graduate School of Education, Kimberly was honored with the Excellence in Education Alumni Award in 2018 for her contributions to the field. Through all of her writing—academic and creative—she remains committed to illuminating the experiences of children with dignity, love, and truth.

Can you share your journey into the field of child development and early education?

My program at Stanford is now called DAPS, Developmental and Psychological Science. I have always been interested in how people grow and develop and why they do what they do. I have always wanted to help marginalized groups. Even when I was young, I was always asking, Why are they doing that? Or I would ask, Can I help you?

How have your own background and experiences shaped your perspective on the challenges faced by minority and underserved communities in education and child development?

I was born into poverty and raised by a single mom. When I was young, my mom and extended family protected me. I did not know I was “at-risk.” My mom also stressed the importance of education. In my later years in high school, I began to notice stark differences. In college and graduate school, it really became evident: I had fewer material possessions than others. Now, I am in the middle class. My education made that possible.

How did it feel to be nominated for the GSE's Alumni Excellence in Education Award?

Personally, I was very thankful for the AEEA. It was an accomplishment of a lifetime. Professionally, I was even more grateful. With a PhD and EdS from Stanford GSE, doors open that would otherwise be closed. My professional accomplishments have come because I was trained well by Stanford GSE professors and supported well by them. I see some of my professors as extended family. They were like distant uncles and aunts. It takes a village to raise a scholar.

In your opinion, what is the broader significance of awards like the Alumni Excellence in Education Award for future educators and scholars, especially those from underrepresented backgrounds?

When a marginalized person wins an award like the AEEA, it gives them more of a sense of community. They feel more supported. It also gives them more validity and credibility. In general, people listen to them more and see their scholarship and accomplishments in a new light. Their ideas are more valid and credible.

What qualities or contributions would you look for if you were nominating someone for this award?

People who work hard and have many accomplishments. Additionally, their heart has to be in the right place. What is the reason for their hard work and striving? Are they trying to help others in some way?

What projects or research are you currently pursuing?

I am continuing to write textbooks and children's literature. Right now, I have a picture book manuscript at the acquisition stage with a traditional publisher. I should hear soon if they are going to publish it. I also have another coauthored textbook at the acquisition stage. It is about caregivers enriching the spiritual development of children. One of my other coauthors is also a Stanford GSE alum. Her name is Dr. Diane Lee. She and I and a third coauthor are eager to have this book pass the acquisition stage and sign our contract for publication.