

From the Founders:

Towards a New Era of Excellence in Education

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It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the new volume of the International Journal for Talent Development and Creativity (IJTDC). This marks the beginning of the third decade of an innovative journey aimed at creating an international platform dedicated to fostering global excellence in basic-higher education through original research and critical discourse. We hope to advance future educational planning by sharing of best international practices through peer-reviewed articles, reports, and books. The IJTDC aims to bridge between theory and practice by fostering debate and intellectual dialogue. Our journal offers access to the latest developments in educational innovation and interdisciplinary knowledge mobilization. It plays a major role in global, cross-cultural networking and collaboration among scholars and educators from different parts of a rapidly changing world.

This volume features a diverse array of articles and research papers that reflect the nature of excellence and innovative education. Thanks go to all the authors, reviewers, and contributors who have shared their work with us. We highly appreciate your continuous support and contributions. Special thanks go to **Prof. Dr. Karen Magro** (Editor-in-Chief) whose leadership, valuable work, and continuous contributions have been instrumental in bringing the IJTDC to fruition.

In the year 2024, the ICIE will organise the 26th international conference on psychology, gifted education, excellence in education, creativity, and innovation (see: www.icieconference.net). It will be held from October 3 to October 6, 2024 in Bucharest – Romania. This dynamic and international conference is bringing together scholars, educators, researchers, and participants to network and explore the latest developments. We encourage you to join us at this transformative conference, to submit your proposal, and to share your expertise. The conference is currently accepting submissions for papers, presentations, symposia, and posters. We look forward to welcoming you in Romania.

The conference will provide an opportunity to engage with and learn from internationally renowned keynote speakers. There will be an opportunity to participate in hands-on workshops which are designed to provide tools and strategies for educators across the disciplines. There will be many opportunities to network with international colleagues and further engage in thought provoking discussions with experts and peers on critical issues facing all levels of education. This conference provides participants with valuable professional development opportunities and enables them to gain new insights and horizons.

As a centre for excellence and innovation, empowering individuals and educational institutions lies at the heart of our mission. Both the ICIE and Lost Prizes offer innovative capacity building programmes that encompass a range of strategies and transformative learning approaches. Creative thinking, critical thinking, creative problem solving, future problem solving, communication, and collaboration are global competencies highlighted. The

capacity building programmes designed and implemented by the ICIE and Lost Prizes aim to empower individuals and organizations to achieve their goals.

As pioneers in gifted education, talent development, and creativity, the ICIE and its international partners have the opportunity to advance knowledge in these areas. It is creativity and educational innovation that can lead to productive solutions to some of the pressing problems of our time: climate change, sustainability, access to education, equity and social justice, and working toward global peace initiatives. Learning initiatives take place within a larger global context and are vital for communication across the disciplines and geographic centres.

The ICIE has led the way in shaping the future of gifted education and nurturing the talents and potential of all learners. We are involved in the development of innovative curricula and instructional design. In addition, we are administering multiple criteria screening and identification processes to identify potentially gifted students from diverse backgrounds. We encourage inquiry-based learning, future problem solving, teaching for productive thinking, integrative activities and programmes, parenting, and counselling services. As a catalyst for collaboration at an international level, the ICIE continues to make a significant impact and inspire the next generation of educational innovators.

The ICIE international network plays a vital role in advancing excellence in basic-higher education worldwide. It facilitates the exchange of ideas, best practices, lifelong learning, and resources among educators, researchers, policymakers, and other stakeholders from around the world. This network fosters cultural understanding, appreciation, and respect among members from different countries and backgrounds. In addition, it amplifies the collective voice of researchers, educators, and advocates for positive change in policy, planning, and practice.

As we look towards the future, we are filled with optimism for what lies ahead. We have no doubt that the best is yet to come. Let us continue, with high commitment and responsibility, to make a better future.

We hope you find this volume thought-provoking and inspiring. Welcome to the IJDC.