

Teacher Feature



Woodland Park, 12/06/2023 — Dr. Jervaise Pileggi, Gifted and Talented Coordinator at Woodland Park School District (WPSD), took the stage as a guest speaker at the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) convention in Florida last month, highlighting the need for a paradigm shift in bibliotherapy for gifted students.

Dr. Pileggi's inclusion in the convention's lineup is no small feat. The selection process, outlined in the [NAGC blog](#), involves a meticulous review of proposals by a panel of experts. The NAGC convention boasts a competitive environment with only about a twenty-six percent acceptance rate for guest speakers.

During her presentation titled Rethinking Bibliotherapy: Beyond Biographies and Guided Discussions, Dr. Pileggi shared her dissertation research, including portraits of gifted adult readers reflecting on their lives using Halstead's Bibliotherapeutic Process. This process,

encompassing identification, catharsis, insight, and universalization, formed the crux of her advocacy for rethinking how bibliotherapy is presented to gifted students. Dr. Pileggi also explained her newest form of bibliotherapy—Self-Determining Bibliotherapy.

Her learning objectives included recognizing bibliotherapy in gifted readers' lives and supporting long-lasting relationships with literature, which resonated with the convention attendees.

"We are incredibly proud to recognize Dr. Pileggi's address to the NAGC convention," expressed Ken Witt, Superintendent of WPSD. "Her expertise shines a positive light on the innovative research-based practices we strive for in our educational community."

As Dr. Pileggi returns to our district, her insights promise to shape a more nuanced and responsive approach to addressing the needs of gifted students. Her recognition as a guest speaker at the NAGC convention reflects her dedication to the field and underscores the district's commitment to implementing research-based best practices for our gifted learners.