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## National educator at Brenau questions 'No Child Left Behind'

BY [JERRY GUNN STAFF](#)

GAINESVILLE - A nationally known educator speaking at Brenau University said Friday that the federal government's 'no Child Left Behind' program was the 'wrong way to go.'

Dr. Douglas Clements from the State University of New York in Buffalo was the afternoon keynote speaker at Brenau's Early Childhood Institute. Clements served on former President Bush's National Math Advisory Panel; he said 'No Child Left Behind' stresses testing, not teaching and learning.

"When you put all your attention into that test, then it bends teaching to just that test," Clements said. "I think the way No Child Left Behind went about it with the emphasis on standardized protocol and not an emphasis on children's thinking and the act of teaching and not enough financial support for professional development of teachers was the wrong way to go."

"It's putting too many resources in the wrong place."

Clements said 'No Child Left Behind' needs to be changed or scrap it and start over with similar goals.

Dr. Clements is a distinguished professor of education at S.U.N.Y. and also served on the National Academies of Sciences/National Research Council Committee on Early Childhood Mathematics.

His primary research interests lie in the areas of the learning and teaching of geometry, computer applications in mathematics education, and the early development of mathematical ideas. Clements has published over 90 research studies and six books in addition to contributing to 50 other books and 250 different publications.

The early education symposium also featured Dr. Constance Kamii, a University of Alabama-Birmingham professional who has worked in early childhood classrooms in the United States and abroad for more than 30 years. She delivered the morning keynote address.



(L-R) Dr. Douglas Clements, Dean Lora Bailey, Dr. Constance Kamii

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Kamii attracted worldwide attention in the 1990s with her assertion that traditional methods of teaching young children, the "Three R's", actually did more harm than good. She is professor of early childhood education at the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

Brenau University's College of Education is hosting close to 300 educators through Saturday for the Institute designed to help teachers improve their skills for teaching mathematics and sciences to younger pupils. The symposium is tuition free to Georgia public school teachers, who will also receive professional continuing education credits for attending at Brenau's Pearce Auditorium.

Brenau Education Dean Lora Bailey said the conference initially was scheduled to be held at Auburn University, where she was faculty and chair of the Early Childhood Program. But when she moved to Brenau in January, she brought the conference with her to the Gainesville campus.

"All teachers, including those in high schools and middle schools will benefit from attending," said Bailey, "but any teacher who works with young children will find this to be an especially rewarding experience."

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