

Jennifer Durham, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Education** 2010
George Mason University
Fairfax, Virginia
Major: Special Education, Minor: Arts Integration
Dissertation topic: *The Effects of an Arts-Based and Integrated Curricular Approach on the Cognitive Processes and Personal Learning Characteristics of Students with Learning Disabilities*
- Master of Arts** 1995
American University
Washington, DC Major: Learning Disabilities
Thesis topic: *A Psycho-educational Study of a Learning Disabled Student and their IEP*
- Bachelor of Arts** 1993
Austin College
Sherman, Texas
Major: Psychology

CERTIFICATIONS

- VA State Certification**
Postgraduate Professional License: Specific Learning Disabilities K-12 Expires: 2016
- The Kennedy Center**
Continued professional development integrating arts education:
120 hours: Level 4 Certificate of Study

EXPERIENCE

- The Lab School of Washington**
Washington, DC
Curriculum and Technology Coordinator 2010-Present
- Instruct and support master level classroom teachers on data driven instructional methodologies that include student-specific interventions, change in program interventions based on student data, and consultation with daily curricular implementation
 - Plan, develop, and manage student IEP's and ILP's (Individual Learning Plans) based on student specific strengths and needs for 25-30 families within the elementary program
 - Support master level teachers in special education classrooms that include observations and development of individual class curricular needs to improve teacher practice and student achievement
 - Consult and frequently implement strategies to address specific student needs identified at weekly faculty "staffing's"
 - Secure, implement, and maintain technology across the curriculum including I pads, laptops, apps, programs, and digital learning resources
 - Consult with parents to design curricular interventions that address specifics of their child's psycho-educational profile
 - Develop and maintain university partnerships that include: placement of student teachers and student observers, consultation with both placed students and supervising teachers, class tours, and collaboration with university/college faculty
 - Manage all aspects of both jurisdictionally funded students and those seeking eligibility through: organization of observations, referrals, multiple assessments, and required documentation; participation in and development of IEP's and subsequent meetings in both school and jurisdictional- based settings; data-based progress monitoring of jurisdictional funded students, and representation of The Lab School of Washington at formal eligibility hearings
 - Serve as the co-head of a Middle States Action committee for curriculum alignment through the development of a school-wide initiative that addresses: compilation of current curricular documentation

- of alignment activities, design of a school-wide alignment program that meets the unique needs of The Lab School of Washington, and reporting of all activity, plans, and final results to accreditation committee
- Interview and recommend candidates for teaching positions
- Present curricular overview to prospective families during monthly open houses
- Review, revise, and align curriculum in mathematics, language arts, science, arts and social studies to address and align with common core state standards
- Identify, research, and adopt teaching programs, materials, assessments, and professional development to support the needs of students and teaching faculty
- Drafted a curriculum overview of elementary courses for use in marketing and outreach to stakeholders
- Planned, implemented, and facilitated professional learning circles in order to educate and collaborate with faculty members to create curriculum maps that outline current practices and integrate all curricular areas
- School-Based Committees
 - Scientific Review Group
 - Middle States Action Plan
 - Co-Chair-Organizational Capacity Objective- Middle States
 - Ad Hoc Board Research and Development
 - Technology
 - Math
 - Elementary Leadership Team

American University

Washington, DC

Masters in Special Education Program Director
Adjunct Professorial Lecturer

2015-present
 2008-2015

- Developed EDU 792: In-service training project syllabus to include weekly professional seminar, development of teaching practices, clear learning goals, and assessments of new teacher practices aligned to CEC standards
- Supervise master level teaching interns in special education placements that includes observations, consultations, and development of individual learning goals to improve teacher practice
- Guide the relationship between The Lab School of Washington and American University as an university appointed liaison to meet both the instructional needs of Lab School students and American University pre-teachers
- Develop course specific CEC standards-based assessments and reporting tools for NCATE requirements
- Created syllabus for EDU 605: Psycho-educational assessment within the Masters of Learning Disabilities program to include standardized and informal assessments and procedures
- Instruct students on the administration, scoring, analysis, and write up of the Woodcock Johnson Tests of Achievement-III standard and extended batteries
- Structure assignments and class lectures to emphasis a diagnostic and prescriptive approach to evaluation in meeting the needs of diverse learners within classrooms
- Design and deliver one day comprehensive assessment workshop for alternate route certification elementary school teachers that included instruction in backwards design in planning, pre, formative, and summative assessment
- Created syllabus for EDUC 620-901U: Theories of Educational Psychology and Human Development to meet the specific learning needs and goals of 23 Teach for America elementary educators within culturally, academically, and economically diverse educational environments
- Craft and implement a variety of learning activities to engage, inspire, and connect with students in ways that allow them to learn both about their students and themselves
- Individualize assignments based on student interests and learning styles in order to increase student learning and commitment

George Mason University

Fairfax, VA

Graduate Research Assistant to Dr. Joan Isenberg

Associate Dean of Outreach and Professional Development

2007 - 2010

- Collect, analyze, synthesize, and present data collected over the course of evaluation
- Review research and draft 5 chapters in a college-level practical text on integrating the arts across the curriculum into pre-kindergarten through grade six classrooms
- Researched and authored "Curriculum Accommodations for Diverse Learners" in four book chapters: A section included in the fifth edition of *Creative Thinking and Arts-Based Learning: Preschool through Fourth Grade*
- Proofread and edited drafts of chapter content
- Evaluated, selected, and placed multimedia resources within chapters for use with the online textbook resource application

Arlington Educational Resources

Arlington, VA

Founder/Principal

1999 -2010

- Developed a private tutoring, testing, and consultation practice to meet the needs of parents and students in the North Arlington area
- Design and implement individualized teaching plans for 4 to 15 multi-aged students per week
- Utilize innovative teaching approaches to remedy "bad teaching" and increase comprehension in targeted skill areas
- Collaborate with client's content area teachers to implement strategies for improvement related to specific skills and concept remediation
- Administer and interpret non-formal and formal assessments; including the WJ-R III achievement and cognitive batteries
- Review and revise Individualized Education Plans (IEP's)
- Advocate for families struggling to obtain appropriate services within the public school system
- Attend school based IEP, eligibility, and student progress meetings

George Mason University

Fairfax, VA

Specialized Contractor: Professional Development and Outreach

2009-2010

- Collaboratively designed and presented a four day assessment workshop for 90 K-12 educators within the Catholic Schools Diocese
- Facilitated large and small group discussions and activities related to pre, formative, and summative assessment methods and strategies to incorporate learning diversity within classrooms

Pearson Educational Publishing

Columbus, OH

Author: Educational Online Learning Site

2008-2010

- Synthesize major ideas across 10 early childhood foundation and curriculum textbooks to create learning objectives aligned with NAEYC standards-based outcomes
- Create comprehensive on-line learning activities related to identified objectives to support study across areas of early childhood education
- Review and revise multiple-choice and essay test bank questions as part of the teacher's manual for the textbook, *Creative Thinking and Arts-Based Learning: Preschool through Fourth Grade*
- Generate and write skill-building exercises for an early childhood education online learning site, which are sequenced applications requiring student observation and interpretation of classroom video, children's artifacts, and author developed text related to specific topics

George Mason University

Fairfax, VA

Adjunct Professor

2007-2009

- Developed and implemented syllabus for EDCI 558: Integrating Fine Arts, Movement and Health in Elementary Education for a cohort of 15 Master's level educators
- Planned and delivered activity and project based instruction related to the integration of arts into non-arts subjects for elementary educators 14 hours weekly over three weeks
- Assessed student learning through cooperative performance based projects designed to develop knowledge, skills, and implementation of arts integrated strategies and lessons within an elementary classroom context
- Developed syllabus for EDSE 627: Psycho-educational Assessment for a cohort of 28 special educators in Fairfax County, VA and surrounding school districts
- Planned and delivered lectures, projects, group activities, assignments and tests four hours weekly over 9 weeks
- Individually supported student's needs through phone calls, emails, time before/after class, and pre-arranged meetings
- Created and maintained a Blackboard Site that provided class materials as well as supplemental documents for student access

George Mason University

Fairfax, VA

Graduate Research Assistant to Dr. Joan Isenberg and Jennifer McCreadie

2006 - 2008

Kennedy Center's Changing Education Through the Arts (CETA) Program Evaluation

- Developed assessment tools; including observation protocols, interview questions, focus group questions, and survey instruments
- Collected data through interviews, workshop observations, focus groups, surveys, study group meetings, classroom observations, and teacher discussions
- Interviewed teachers and administrators, on-site, in public schools that were enrolled in the CETA program
- Coded, interpreted, and analyzed both qualitative and quantitative data as it related to thematic development
- Developed and wrote descriptive case studies of selected participating schools
- Researched and compiled information regarding participating schools, arts integrated programs, and previous program evaluations
- Managed and co-authored final evaluation report for presentation to Kennedy Center and participating school stakeholders

Fairfax County Public Schools

Annandale, VA

Learning Disabilities Specialist

1995-1999

- Worked with students in grades K-5, who represented 28 languages and 37 countries, in multi-age settings in a pull-out/inclusive academic setting
- Collaborated with regular education teachers regarding instruction, delivery models, and co-teaching of special education students
- Administrated, interpreted, and presented non-formal and formal academic evaluations
- Provided school-wide consultation with teachers regarding at-risk children using development and implementation of intervention strategies
- Presented in-services to staff regarding Local Screening procedures
- Wrote and implemented IEPs
- Secured grant funding for a team of educators that attended continuing education arts integration courses at the Kennedy Center
- Produced and designed independent, grade-level appropriate language arts activities for "Summer Smart Program"

The Lab School of Washington
Washington, D.C.

Language Arts Summer Instructor

1995-1996

- Developed and taught six week language arts classes with a special focus on maintaining and strengthening expressive language skills
- Integrated the arts within the development of the curriculum
- Generated individual student progress reports in relation to IEP goals

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- Invited Panelist; DC Theater in our Schools -March 2014; *Putting the OUR in Theater in Our Schools*
- Presenter: LSW Parent Discussion Series-2013, 2014; *Technology Tools for Safety and Learning-What Every Parent Should Know*
- Presenter; The Power of Art: Robert Rauschenberg Foundation - 2011, 2012: *Arts Instruction and the Development of Knowledge, Skills, and Dispositions in Children with Specific Learning Disabilities*
- Presenter; Maya Angelou Public Charter Schools Professional Outreach- 2012: *Art is? Exploring the Connections between Achievement and Arts: Theory into Practice*
- Guest Lecturer, EDU 672 Reading Comprehension- 2011, 2012: *Administering, Scoring and Analyzing the Qualitative Reading Inventory*

PUBLICATIONS

- Isenberg, J. and Durham, J. (2014) *Creative Materials and Activities for the Early Childhood Curriculum*. Upper Saddle River, NJ. Pearson Education.
- Durham, J. (2010). Sally Smith's Arts-based and integrated curricular approach to educating students with learning disabilities. *Learning Disabilities: A Multidisciplinary Journal*, 16 (2), 59-61.
- Isenberg, J.; McCreddie, J.; Durham, J.; Pearson, B., (2009). *Changing Education Through the Arts: Final Evaluation Report 2005-2008*. http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/educators/how-to/arts-integration/a-model-arts-integration-program/~media/ArtsEdge/Images/Articles/Educators/how-tos/arts-integration/gmu_ceta_evaluation.pdf

RESEARCH SKILLS

- Knowledge of SPSS
- Knowledge of qualitative design and data analysis
- Knowledge of mixed methods research design, implementation, and analysis
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AFFILIATIONS

- Member, National Art Education Association (NAEA)
- Member, Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
- Member, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD)

REFERENCES

Dr. Joan Isenberg; Co-author *Creative Materials and Activities for the Early Childhood Education* (2014)
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Neela Seldin: Previous Head of Elementary, The Lab School of Washington
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