

VITA 2012

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Earned Degrees:

Ed.D. Special Education - May 1985

West Virginia University, Morgantown, W.Va.

Mental Retardation/Behavioral Disorders

M.A. Special Education/ Mental Retardation (1976) - West Virginia University

B.A. Secondary Education (1972) - Fairmont State College, Fairmont, W.Va.

Professional Organizations:

CEC - Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT), Division on Learning Disabilities (DLD), Early Childhood Special Education (DEC)

NCATE Board of Program Reviewers, 2011 – present

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

Council for Exceptional Children Finance & Audit Committee (2010 – 2011)

Treasurer – S.C. Division on Career Development and Transition (2008 – present)

Conference Planner – National Division on Career Development & Transition

Past President (2003-05), South Carolina CASE

Past President (2001), National DCDT Board, Council for Exceptional Children

Teaching Certification:

South Carolina Teacher Certification - Special Education Administration,

Mental Retardation (EMD/TMD), Emotional Disabilities, Learning Disabilities

Professional Experience:

Francis Marion University

(8/07-present)

Associate Professor

School of Education

1. Teach graduate courses in both the Learning Disabilities program and the Instructional Accommodations program. Teach EDUC 380 at the undergraduate level.
2. Supervise student teachers at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.
3. SPA NCATE Coordinator for the Learning Disabilities Graduate Program, School of Education
4. Lead Reviewer for NCATE/Council for Exceptional Children – Served as Lead Reviewer 2009 - present. Responsible for providing final written reports to

- Council for Exceptional Children and NCATE. Review NCATE SPA reports three times a year.
5. Development of two Early Childhood Special Education courses – Assessment of Young Children with Disabilities and Introduction to Early Childhood Special Education.
 6. Chair, Center of Excellence P-12 and Higher Education grants program
 7. Advisory Board, Center of Excellence
 8. School of Education committees – Graduate Committee, NCATE SPA Chair for the Learning Disabilities Masters Program.
 9. Francis Marion University Professional Development Committee
 10. Pearson Textbook Company – provide written review on revision for textbooks in the area of Learning Disabilities and Behavior Disorders, 2011-2012.
 11. Development of an online Transition Methods course for Spring 2010 in conjunction with the S.C. State Department of Education.
 12. Provide statewide transition training and technical assistance to schools and agencies who serve youth with disabilities as needed. Specific workshop and technical assistance provided to Bamberg One, Florence 2 and Florence 5 (2009)
 13. Assist school systems in curriculum development and best practices for transition in middle and high schools through the development of power point presentations.
 14. Coordinate state level trainings in the area of transition to assist educators, adult service providers and parents improve services for youth with disabilities.
 15. Conference Chair for the 2009 International DCDT conference in Savannah, Georgia. Also Chair of the 2008 national DCDT Workshop in Milwaukee
 16. Worked collaboratively with the Center for Excellence to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty in grant-writing and curriculum development which includes the Math Curriculum Pilot Project and Science Curriculum Pilot Project.
 17. Facilitated the Math Bridge Document technical assessment course for the Center of Excellence.

Darlington County School District
Director, Exceptional Education

(7/06 - 8/07)

1. Direct supervision for 150 staff members including teachers, assistants, speech therapists, physical & occupational therapists, audiologist, and psychologists.
2. Darlington County School District Two 504 Coordinator
3. Coordination of all programmatic services for the district's exceptional education classrooms in 22 schools.
4. Budget responsibilities of \$3.8 million (Federal monies for IDEA & Preschool)
5. Staff development coordination for Exceptional Education teachers, teaching assistants and related service personnel.
6. Attend IEP meetings as requested by special services staff
7. Recruitment and hiring for Exceptional Education teachers, assistants and related services personnel.
8. Responsible for all legal matters pertaining to Exceptional Education.
9. Serve on task force for S.C. Office of Exceptional Children's development of IDEA 2004 regulations.

10. Teach graduate level courses part-time for Francis Marion University: Introduction to Learning Disabilities, Methods for Learning Disabilities & Practicum for LD.

Richland School District Two

(8/98-6/06)

Director, Special Services

11. Direct supervision for 300 staff members including teachers, assistants, speech therapists, physical & occupational therapists, audiologist, psychologists and nurses.
12. Richland School District Two 504 Coordinator
13. Coordination of all programmatic services for the district's special education classrooms in 24 schools.
14. Budget responsibilities of \$3.8 million (Federal monies for IDEA & Preschool)
15. Development and supervision of Center for Achievement, a magnet school for students who are at-risk or have a learning disability.
16. Member, Superintendent's Cabinet
17. Staff development coordination for Special Services teachers, teaching assistants and related service personnel
18. Attend IEP meetings as requested by special services staff
19. Recruitment and hiring for Special Services teachers, assistants and related services personnel
20. Responsible for all legal matters pertaining to Special Services
21. Taught graduate courses in Mental Retardation for USC & FMU.
22. Planning and implementation of the S.C. CASE Spring Administrators Conferences, March 2005 – 2007.
23. Local Arrangements Committee and Silent Auction Chair, 1999 International Council for Exceptional Children's Conference, Charlotte, N.C., April 1999.
24. Co-Chair of the 1999 International Division of Career Development and Transition International Conference, Charleston, S.C., October 21-23, 1999.

University of South Carolina School of Medicine

(7/97 – 8/98)

Program Coordinator, Systems Change Grant

S.C. Collaboration for Systemic Transition of Youth with Disabilities Project

1. Provide statewide transition training and technical assistance to schools and agencies who serve youth with disabilities.
2. Develop and implement a comprehensive outreach program to youth and adults recruited and selected for employment.
3. Assist school systems in curriculum development for transition at all levels.
4. Assist Community Transition Planning Cooperatives as they are forming and provide support for their continuation.
5. Design training to empower students and families to more effectively participate in transition activities.
6. Assist school districts in the development of an Occupational Diploma program.

Martin County Schools

(8/93 - 6/97)

Director, Exceptional Children's Program

1. Direct Supervision for 75 teachers, assistants and related service staff which includes four speech pathologists, one physical therapist, one occupational therapist,

two occupational therapy assistants, four psychologists and one data manager.

2. Manage budget of \$1,000,000.00+.
3. Coordinator, 504 Program for Martin County Schools.
4. Monitor record compliance for all exceptional children within 13 schools.
5. Northeastern N.C. representative to PALS, a liaison group to the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, Division of Exceptional Children.
6. External Evaluator for Perquimans County Grant through the N.C. Systems Change Transition Grant, 1993-1994.
7. President for the N.C. Transition Council/N.C. DCDT (1996-1997).
8. Newsletter Editor for N.C. CASE (1996-1998).
9. Membership Chair for N.C. Council for Exceptional Children (1996-1998).
10. Conference Co-Chair for 1995 International Conference for the Division on Career Development and Transition, Raleigh, N.C., October 1995.
11. Provide computer consultation for educational programs for Exceptional Children's staff.

East Carolina University

(8/84 - 8/93)

Department of Special Education, Greenville, N.C.

Associate Professor - Mental Retardation/Behavior Disorders

1. Teach undergraduate/graduate courses in Mental Retardation, Severe/Profound Handicaps, Behavior Disorders, Assessment and Remedial Reading.
2. Supervise 7-9 student teachers per semester.
3. Faculty Committees served on: Clinical Field Experience (1986-1987), Long-Range Planning Committee (1987-1988), Teacher Exchange (1987-1988), Chairperson for two Special Education Search Committees (1987-1988) Special Education Search Committee (1989-1990), and Strategic Planning Committee for the School of Education (1989-1990).
4. Faculty Advisor - Student Council for Exceptional Children
5. Director of Environmental Design Group for Persons with Special Needs
6. Off-Campus Committee Memberships:
 - Training Committee for Eastern Regional Mental Retardation Services for the N.C. Department of Human Resources (6/85-6/97).
 - American Association of Mental Retardation, 1991-1992 Scholarship Committee (Summer 1991).
 - Planning Committee for First Statewide Self-Advocacy Convention, in conjunction with N.C. ARC (1988).
 - N.C. Citizens' Task Force on Persons with MR/MI (1987-1988).
 - Planning Committee for Regional and State Community Living Association's Conferences (1986-1989).
 - Southern Association Accreditation Team, Edgewood Developmental School, Goldsboro, N.C. (June 1987).
 - Executive Committee for the N.C. American Association on Mental Retardation (1986-1987).
 - Planning Committee for the State Conference for N.C. Infants and Families (1986).
 - Committee Chairperson for the Developmental Disabilities Eastern Regional Prevention Conference (1986).

West Virginia University

(8/80 - 8/84)

Department of Special Education, Morgantown, W. Va.

Doctoral Student and Research Assistant

Dissertation: *Comparison of Acquisition and Generalization Levels of Manual Signing with Moderately Retarded Persons*

1. Taught undergraduate/graduate courses in Mental Retardation, Behavior Disorders and Learning Disabilities.
2. Supervised student teachers in Mental Retardation.
3. Assistant Coordinator for Project SERC (Special Education for Regular Classroom Teachers)
4. Developed individual workshops for in-service purposes in areas of need for county special education teachers.
5. Member of W. Va. Governor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities (1981-1984)

Monongalia County Board of Education, Morgantown, W. Va.

Classroom Teacher - Severe/Profound Handicaps and Behavior Disorders (1981-1984).

Shawnee Hills Mental Retardation Center

(Kanawha Co. Schools), Charleston, W. Va.

Client Program Coordinator - May 1978 to August 1980

Mental Health Therapist, Emergency Services - May 1980 to June 1981

Bruceton Mills Elementary School

(8/75 - 12/76)

Bruceton Mills, W. Va.

Classroom Teacher - Mental Retardation/Learning Disabilities, Grades K-6)

Professional Development:

National CEC Conference, attended NCATE Reviewer workshop, Seattle, Nashville, Washington, DC, Denver - Spring 2009 – Spring 2012

National CEC Conference, attended the NCATE Workshop, Boston, MA (Spring 2008)

National Drop-Out Prevention Conference, Louisville, Fall 2007

International DCDT Conference, Orlando, Fall 2007

National Drop-Out Prevention Summer Institute, Clemson University, Summer 2007

Schools Attuned/All Kinds of Minds, University of NC-Chapel Hill, Summer 2005

S.C. Dept. of Education, Office of School Leadership, Executive Institute for District Administrators, Fall 2004 & Spring 2005

LRP National Institute on Legal Issues of Educating Individuals with Disabilities – Spring 1998 through Spring 2007

South Carolina Special Education Administrator's Conferences – Fall 1998 through Fall 2007

State Systems Change Directors' Conference (NTN) – Washington, DC, June 1998

Mediation Training – Atlanta Justice Center, July 1996

N.C. School Law Program – Administrator's Executive Training Program, UNC-Chapel Hill, May 1994.

Grants Written and Funded:

Center for Achievement Off-Campus Experience for Undergraduate Students, Francis Marion University QEP Grant, Fall/Spring 2012-13 Academic Year, \$3000.

Center for Achievement Off-Campus Experience for Undergraduate Students, Francis Marion University QEP Grant, Fall/Spring 2011-12 Academic Year, \$2000.

Center for Achievement Off-Campus Experience for Undergraduate Students, Francis Marion University QEP Grant, Fall/Spring 2010 Academic Year, \$1600.

Transition Assessment for Youth of Poverty: Making Good Choices for Career Goals, Center of Excellence for Teachers of Children of Poverty/FMU, Spring 2010, \$2,500.

Professional Development Grant, Francis Marion University, Attendance at the CEC National Conference to attend NCATE workshop and conference, Spring 2009/Spring 2010, \$1200/Spring 2011, \$1600/Spring 2012, \$2500.

Kidspiration: Summer Camp for Students with Learning Disabilities, Central Carolina Community Foundation, Summer 2004, Summer 2005, & Summer 2006, \$25,000.

Alternative Learning Program: Martin County Schools, 1995-1996, N.C. Department of Public Instruction, Safe Schools Grant, \$100,000.

OCCUPREP: A Model Transition Program for Martin County Schools, 1994-1995, N.C. Department of Public Instruction, Division of Vocational Education, \$50,000.

TRAC-N.C.: Transition Programming for Low Incidence Populations: U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. (5 year grant) 1991-1995, \$85,000.

Assessing the Vocational Interests of Students with Mild Handicaps: ECU 1992 Summer Stipend for Research, \$6,500.

Project SUCCESS: Providing Supportive Employment to High School Students with Disabilities, N.C. Council on Developmental Disabilities (3 year grant) 1991-1993, \$70,000.

Strengthening Transitional Services through Capacity Building: A Collaborative Grant Between East Carolina University and Pasquotank Schools, N.C. Department of Public Instruction, July 1992, \$20,000.

Project PARENTING: N.C. Department of Public Instruction Children's Defense Fund, 1990-1992 (Co-author with two people), \$19,500.

Project DIRECT: Developing Instructional Resources for Classroom Teachers: ECU Summer Stipend for Research and Creative Activity Grant, 1989-1990, \$5,000.

Functional Skills Screening Inventory and Training Program: ECU Teaching Effectiveness Grant, 1989-1990, \$791.

Impact of an Alternative Curriculum on the Involvement of Adolescent Mothers within the School System: Small School-Based Research Grants, N.C. State University/UNC Board of Governors, 1988-1989, \$9,196.

Project ADD: Aging and Developmental Disabilities: N.C. Council on Developmental Disabilities, 1989, \$5,000.

Articles Published:

Demystifying Transition Assessment, (*in press*) with Brookes Publishing – co-author of two chapters: Employment Assessment & Health Care Assessment. Publication date: Fall 2012

Darrow, M. & Nixon, C. *Transition Training Needs for Special Educators: Planned Change Through Local Capacity Building*. North Carolina Journal on Teacher Education. Vol. 5(2), November 1992.

Nixon, C., Causby, V., McCall, J., and others. PARENTING*: A Public School Curriculum for Adolescent Mothers.

Causby, V., Nixon, C., & Bright, J. *An Alternative Curriculum for Adolescent Mothers*. NCAST News. Fall 1990.

Causby, V., Nixon, C., & McCall, J. *The Impact of an Alternative Curriculum with Adolescent Mothers in the Public School System*, Social Work in Education, Fall 1989.

Estroff, S., Cameron, S., Nixon, C., & Franks, D. *Education & Training: Needs & Recommendations*. Citizens' Task Force Report on Community Services. October 1989.

Nixon, C. & Carmine, V. *Strange Bedfellows: The Community and the Institution Peek Under the Bedcovers at Each Other*, Experimental Education, Vol. 12(7), 1987.

Allen, C. & Thacker, R. *Development of Three 5-Bed Group Homes for Adults with Mental Retardation in Wilmington*. N.C. Division of Facility Services, Department of Human Resources. Awarded Certificate of Need/Construction September 1986.

Allen, C. Transitional Programming: A Resource Manual for Teachers. N.C. Department of Public Instruction. September 1987. (Consulting author).

National, Regional & State Presentations & Workshops (since 1993):

“Transition Assessment 101” – South Carolina Department of Education Research-To-Practice Summer Institute, (1 day workshop) Lugoff, July 2012

“Portfolio Assessment – Making It Work!” - South Carolina Department of Education Research-To-Practice Summer Institute, (2-day workshop) Lugoff, July 2012

“Making Portfolio Assessment Work for Your Classroom” – COE Summer 2012 Institute, June 2012

“Effective Strategies to Increase Teacher Knowledge in Supporting Student Self-Determination” - National Transition Conference, Washington, D.C., May 2012

“Making Transition Curriculum Work for All Students” – National CEC Convention & Expo, Denver, April 2012.

“Portfolio Assessment – Teaching Students Self-Evaluation” – S.C. Council for Exceptional Children’s Conference, Columbia, February 2012

“Find Funding for Great Transition Ideas” – South Carolina DCDT 2011 Fall Transition Conference, Myrtle Beach, November 2011.

“Effective Strategies to Increase Teacher Knowledge in Supporting Student Self-Determination” – DCDT 16th International Conference, Kansas City, Missouri, Fall 2011

“Writing Compliant IEP’s” – Cudahy School District, Cudahy, Wisconsin, Summer 2011

“Developing Transition Curriculum for High School Students with Disabilities” – Taunton School District, Massachusetts, Summer 2011

“Cudahy School District Special Education Program Evaluation” – Cudahy School District, Cudahy, Wisconsin, May 2011; School Board Presentation, August 2011.

“Developing Transition Curriculum for High School Students with Disabilities” – Marion School District One, Cherokee County School District, Orangeburg School District Five and Darlington County School District (2009-2011)

“Finding Their Way – Making Transition Work” – West Virginia Transition Conference Keynote address (November 3, 2010)

“Football as a Career Goal – Using Appropriate Transition Assessments for Diverse Populations” – DCDT National Conference, Mystic, CT (October 2010)

“Taking the Mystery Out of Grant-writing” – Center of Excellence Fall 2010 Workshop, Francis Marion University (September 2010)

“Using Indicator 13 to Develop Effective Transition Services” – S.C. DCDT Fall Workshop, Columbia, SC (October 2009)

“Indicator 13: Monitoring for Compliance” – S.C. Association for School Psychologists
Fall Conference, Columbia, SC (October 2009)

“How 2: Differentiating Instruction for Diverse Learners” – COE Fall 2009 Workshop

“Developing Effective Transition Plans” – S.C. Department of Education Summer
Research to Practice, Week-long workshop offering graduate credit through FMU,
(Summer 2008 and Summer 2009)

“Transition: Developing Plans for the Future” – S.C. Dropout Prevention Leadership
Summit (December 2008)

“Best Practices for Providing Transition Services to Youth with Disabilities” – S.C.
Department of Education’s New Special Education Directors Leadership Academy,
Columbia, January 2008

“Writing Measurable Transition IEP’s” – Marlboro County Schools, December 2007

“Finding Your Pot of Gold: How to Write Grants” – Center of Excellence’s “How-2 Fall
Workshop”, September 2007 and February 2008.

“Legal Issues in Transition: IDEA 2004” – Center for Disability Resources Statewide
Transition Coordinators Workshop, January 2006.

“Planning Transition Services for Youth with Disabilities’ – Family Connections,
Columbia, Spring 2002, Spring 2005 & Spring 2006.

“Providing an Alternative Diploma to Youth with Disabilities” – Council for Exceptional
Children’s International Conference, Kansas City, Spring 2001.

“Developing a Workable IEP” – Family Connections, Columbia, Spring 2001.

“Transition Services for All Students” – Family Connections Spring Conference,
Columbia, March 1999.

“Transition IEP’s – Making Them Work” – The ARC Annual Conference,
Columbia, October 1998.

“Transition Curriculum for Students with Disabilities” – South Carolina State
Transition Conference, Charleston, October 1998.

“Navigating the IEP Process” – ETV, Columbia, S.C., August 1998

“Basic Job Coach Training/Supported Employment” – Columbia, South Carolina,
June 1998 & Spartanburg, March 1998.

“Grant-writing Made Simple” – Assistive Technology Workshop, Columbia, May 1998.

“Self-Determination for Students with Disabilities: Using the NEXT S.T.E.P. Curriculum” – Horry County, April 1998 and Georgetown County, June 1998.
“Fair Labor Standards Act” – Orangeburg School District #4, April 1998.

“Assistive Technology and Transition Services” – Assistive Technology Expo, Columbia, Spring 1998.

“Providing Appropriate Educational Services for Youth with ED” – Continuum of Care, Florence, Charleston, Greenville and Columbia, SC, January/March 1998.

“Navigating the IEP Process” – Division of Disabilities & Special Needs, Whitten Center, March 1998.

“Suspension and Expulsion for Youth with Disabilities” – Continuum of Care, Florence, Charleston, Greenville and Columbia, South Carolina, March and January 1998.

“Grant Writing Made Easy” – South Carolina Council for Exceptional Children Conference, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, February 1998.

“Transition for Youth in Resource Settings” – Lexington County School District #2, Lexington, SC, February 1998.

“How to Write and Win a Grant!” – Project SIGHT Workshop, Columbia, Charleston & Greenville, SC, January 1998.

“Writing Appropriate Transition Plans and Providing Transition Services to Students with Sensory Impairments” – Spartanburg County School District #3, Spartanburg, SC, November 1997.

“Developing an Occupational Diploma for Students with Mild Disabilities” – DCDT International Conference, Scottsdale, Arizona, October 1997.

“Writing Individual Transition Plans” – Oconee County Schools, Walhalla, South Carolina, September 1997.

“Developing Appropriate Transition Plans” – Berkeley County Schools, Summerville, August 1997.

“Writing Appropriate Transition Goals” – Clarendon County School District #1, Summerton, SC, July 1997.

“Transition Services for Rural School systems in Eastern N.C.” – National Council for Exceptional Children’s Annual Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah, April 1997.