

Education

Ed.D. Liberty University November 2018
Curriculum & Instruction

Dissertation title: “A Phenomenological Study of the Experiences of Middle School Teachers
Working with Girls with High Functioning Autism”
- *Graduate with Distinction*

M.A. Liberty University Projected Graduation August 2021
Applied Psychology – Developmental Psychology

M.Ed. Liberty University December 2015
Teaching and Learning – Special Education
Graduate Certificate Autism Education
- *Graduate with High Distinction*

B.S. Tennessee Technological University May 1997
Multidisciplinary Studies – Several Subjects (1-8 education)
Minor: Pedagogy

Educational Leadership Experience

New Independence Academy – Director August 2014 - Present
Director for a private, nonprofit school for K-12 students with high functioning autism
Provide instruction for all grade levels and subject areas as needed
Manage all campus operations and work directly with the Board of Directors
Hire, manage, evaluate, and coach all instructional staff
Evaluate instructional effectiveness, curriculum, and instructional delivery
Oversee accreditation requirements and implement school improvement processes
Establish and maintain family relationships and expectations
Maintain community and organizational involvement and memberships
Develop and present professional development and community education seminars
Encourage a positive school image and growth within the community
Research instructional theory and teaching methodologies

Sylvan Learning – Director October 2002 – August 2014
Director for multiple supplemental educational centers
Manage all daily operations
Hire and manage instructional staff and conduct staff evaluations and coaching
Oversee all program delivery
Institute the development of digital delivery models as a pilot center
Develop and implement instructional programs
Create and deliver seminars, parent workshops, and community outreach presentations

Publications

- Alves, K. & McKeithan, G. K. (in progress). Practical application of evidence based practices for females with high functioning autism.
- Alves, K. & Claxton, B. L. (in progress). The experiences of middle school teachers working with girls with high functioning autism.
- Underhill, G., McKeithan, G. K., Masters, P., Streander, M., Maikis, M., & Alves, K. (in progress). Communication characteristics of females with high functioning autism.

Presentations

- ***Implementing the Principles of Universal Design for Learning for All Learners*** professional development workshop for North Carolina Council for Exceptional Children Virtual Professional Development Series, 2020
- ***Implementing the Principles of Universal Design for Learning with ASD & Neurotypical Learners*** presentation at the North Carolina Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities Virtual Spring Mini-Conference, 2020
- ***Teaching Girls with High Functioning Autism*** presentation at the 33rd North Carolina Council for Exceptional Children's Conference in Greensboro, NC, 2020
- ***Understanding Autism: Characteristics and Practices for Challenging Behavior*** presentation at North Carolina Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities Fall Mini-Conference in Wake Forest, NC, 2019
- ***Inclusive (Evidence Based) Practices for Students with Disabilities*** presentation at North Carolina Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities Fall Mini-Conference in Wake Forest, NC, 2019
- ***Understanding Autism: Characteristics and Practices for Challenging Behavior*** presentation at North Carolina Council for Exceptional Children Mini-Conference in Zebulon, NC, 2019
- ***The Experiences of Middle School Teachers Working with Girls with High Functioning Autism*** presentation at Liberty University Research Week in Lynchburg, VA, 2019
- ***How Autism Impacts Students in the Classroom*** presentation for Wayne County Public Schools in Goldsboro, NC, 2018
- ***Autism: Understanding and Accepting the Individual*** presentation for the Eastern North Carolina State of the Child Conference at the University of Mount Olive, in Mount Olive, NC, 2017
- ***Digital Learning and Classroom Resources*** presentation for Wayne County Public Schools STEM Conference at the University of Mount Olive in Mount Olive, NC, 2013
- ***Digital Learning*** presentation for Sylvan Learning National Conference in Orlando, FL, 2012

Research Experience

Doctoral Dissertation
Qualitative Methodology
Research Methods and Statistics in Psychology
Graduate Statistics and Research Methods
Educational Research and Assessment

Teaching Experience

University of Mount Olive, January 2020 – Present
College of Arts & Science, Division of Education Adjunct Instructor – Special Education
New Independence Academy, August 2014 – Present
Life Skills, Social Skills, All Subjects – as needed
Sylvan Learning, August 2001 – August 2014

General education, Autism, Learning Disabilities, Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, – All Subjects
Plateau Mental Health/Endeavor Program, January 2002 – October 2002
Special Education Behavioral & Emotional Disorder – All Subjects
Genesis Academy, August 2000 – June 2001
Special Education Behavioral & Emotional Disorder – All Subjects
Child & Family, Inc./Creekside Residential Center, May 1998 – August 2000
Special Education Behavioral & Emotional Disorder – All Subjects

College Courses Taught

EDU 365 – Introduction to Exceptional Children
EDU 375 – Teaching Exceptional Learners
EDU 475 – Assessment and Evaluation

Professional Service

2019 – Present, North Carolina Council for Exceptional Children, Regional Representative
2019 – Present, North Carolina Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities, Vice President
2019 – Present, North Carolina Council for Exceptional Children Advisory Board
2020 – Present, Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities Committee Member
2020 – Present, Wayne County Chamber of Commerce, Board Member
2020 – Present, Autism Society of North Carolina, Wayne County Chapter, Co-Leader
2020, United Way of Wayne County Days of Service Planning Committee Member
2020, North Carolina Council for Exceptional Children, Professional Development Committee
2020, North Carolina Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities, Spring Mini-Conference Planning Committee
2019, North Carolina Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities, Fall Mini-Conference Planning Committee
2018 – 2019, North Carolina Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities, Regional Representative
2017 – Present, Freelance manuscript editor
2017 – 2018, AdvancED, External Accreditation Review Team Member
2015 – 2019, Crisis Prevention Institute: Nonviolent Crisis Intervention, Instructor

Affiliations/Memberships

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities (DADD)
Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE)
Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) International Honor Society
Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD)
Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE)
American Mensa
Wayne County Chamber of Commerce

Areas of Interest

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)
Asperger Syndrome (AS)
Females with ASD/AS
Sensory Processing Disorders
Brain Based Learning
Action Based Learning

Disability Theory
Critical Autism Studies
Educational Technology
Universal Design for Learning
Differentiated Instruction
Professional Development
American Sign Language
Self-Determination

Skills

Communication

- Public speaking
- Speaking engagements with community organizations, parent groups, and boards
- Creating and delivering workshops, seminars, professional development, and presentations
- Exceptional writing skills

Leadership

- Managing instructional staff
- Maintaining morale among instructors as well as providing for further development through ongoing training, coaching, and evaluating performance.

Teamwork

- Setting reasonable goals, determine the best personal program to meet their needs, and manage expectations and outcomes.
- Participating in volunteer activities as a team to accomplish a common goal.

Technology

- Developing parent seminars, professional presentations, and staff development workshops
- Proficiency with the major components of the Microsoft Office Suite, such as Word, Excel, and PowerPoint
- Experience with qualitative and quantitative research software packages NVivo and SPSS
- Experience with BlackBoard, SharePoint, Moodle, Zoom, and Canvas
- Online course development
- Facilitating digital curriculum

Other Skills

- Fundraising
- Marketing
- Behavior management
- Community outreach