

Lissanna M Follari

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Collaborative Partner ♦ Flexible Creative Thinker ♦ Passionate Student-Centered Educator ♦ Relationship Builder

Professional Summary: *Teacher education faculty and program administrator (F2F and online), 13 years*
Extensive experience building school district-college partnerships
Published author, two Pearson Higher Education textbooks
Child care center/lab school administrator, 2.5 years
Classroom teacher, toddlers, preschool, and 4/5th grade, 4+ years
Grant projects leader and team member

Education

Ph.D. in Education, Honors, 2005

Capella University, Minneapolis, MN

Research areas: early intervention, constructivist learning theory, emergent curricula

Dissertation: Impact on Head Start teachers' practice of training on arts-based curriculum

M.Ed. in Early Childhood/Elementary Education, 2000

Rutgers University Graduate School of Education, New Brunswick, NJ

Study areas: creativity in early childhood, EC language arts development

B.A. in Psychology & Administration of Justice, Honors, 1997

Rutgers University, Rutgers College, New Brunswick, NJ

Continuing Education

- College Teaching Certificate, Teaching Enrichment Center-Colby-Sawyer College, 2013
- NH DOE/ AIR Common Core & RtI train-the-trainer seminars, Summer 2012
- High/Scope Preschool COR online training course, 1/2010

Publications **Valuing Diversity in Early Childhood**, Pearson Higher Ed, 2014

- This text takes a social justice perspective in developing professionals' cultural competence and ability to engage children in exploring and appreciating diversity.
- Chapter topics: What is diversity?, Teaching for social justice, Spectrum of responses to diversity, Language & Nationality, Race & Ethnicity, Religion, Socioeconomics, Families, Abilities, Learning and Thinking Styles

Foundations and Best Practices in Early Childhood Education: History, Theories, and Approaches 3rd Ed., Pearson Higher Ed, 2014 (2006, 2011)

- This text presents foundational theories and approaches to early childhood education as well as exploration of influential models for working with children and families.
- Chapter topics: Becoming a Professional, History of ECE, Professionalism and Best Practices, Diversity, Constructivism, Bioecological Model, Individualizing, Montessori, Waldorf, Reggio Emilia, Project Approach, Head Start, High/Scope

Academic Employment History

Early Childhood Education Assistant Professor

Colby-Sawyer College, NH

- Full time faculty in Early Childhood Education- N-3rd Teacher Certification program

- Courses include: First Year Seminar: Mind, Body, Soul, Diversity in EC, Language Arts in EC, Literacy Instructional Strategies K-3rd, Foundations of Education, Differentiated Instruction, EC Math Teaching Methods, Intro to EC

August
2011 -
Present

- Create differentiated learning experiences and assessments to ensure student success
- Place and supervise student teachers in Kindergarten through 3rd grades (5-9 students/year)
- Guide student teachers' professional development using the Danielson Framework Rubric and original Dispositions Evidence Instrument
- Initiate and maintain strong partnerships with area schools
- Collaborate daily with on-campus lab school

Early Childhood Education Faculty and Program Coordinator (tenured)

Sheridan College Education Department, Sheridan, WY

August
2006 -
August
2011

- Full time faculty for courses in Psychology, Education, Early Childhood Education
 - Courses included: EC Math, Science & Social Science, Language Arts Birth -8, Child Development, Intro to EC, Practicum, Creativity, Diversity in ECE, Infant and Toddler Development and Programs, EC Curriculum, Marriage and the Family
- Developed new ECE degree programs and courses aligning with NAEYC standards
- Created and taught new online courses using BlackBoard
- Placed and supervised practicum students
- Hired, supervised, and scheduled adjunct faculty and all program courses
- Planned and implemented annual Week of the Young Child community events

Education Director (within my role as Sheridan College faculty)

Hand in Hand Early Care and Education Center/Sheridan College, WY

- Designed curriculum for infant-school age ECE lab school (serving 100 children)
- Trained and mentored teaching staff (25+) on innovative philosophical inspirations (Reggio Emilia, Project Approach, Waldorf, High/Scope, others)
- Designed and implemented center-wide assessment plans
- Ensured state licensing and NAEYC accreditation criteria were met in daily operations

Early Childhood Education Assistant Professor (visiting)

East Stroudsburg University, East Stroudsburg, PA

August
2003 -
June
2006

- Full time faculty in Early Childhood Education
 - Course topics included: Child Growth and Development, Intro to ECE, Creativity in EC, Curriculum I (infant/toddler) and II (preschool) , ECE Seminar
- Coordinated ESU- Head Start Teacher Advancement initiative
 - Instructed off-campus courses for Head Start teachers
 - Advised Head Start teachers on their path towards BA degree
 - Coordinated university outreach program with Head Start administrators
- Assisted with NAEYC/NCATE accreditation process

Early Childhood Education Faculty and Department Coordinator (tenure-track)

Raritan Valley Community College, Somerville, NJ

January
2002 -
August
2003

- Full time faculty in ECE, covering both suburban and urban campuses
 - Courses included: Child Growth and Development, Methods of Teaching Young Children, Teaching the Language Arts, Music, Movement and Art for Young Children, Children's Literature, Infant and Toddler Programs
- Selected and supervised adjunct faculty
- Developed new transfer degree and revised certificate program
- Developed and taught new online courses

Classroom teaching experience: toddlers (1.5 years); mixed age preschool group (3 years); 4th/5th French teacher (6 months)

Child Care Center Director (2 years)

Program Coordinator, Social Services Administration: family services; individuals with disabilities (3 years)

Grant Work

WY Workforce Development Grant, 2010, \$24,500.

- Secured grant to provide intensive multi-day team-building seminar for 20 ECE staff

Hand in Hand, The Sheridan Early Childhood Education Center, 2007-2011, \$3 million

- Collaborated with community team to design new model early care and education center/teacher education lab school
- Created and promoted project philosophy and mission, curriculum and policies
- Ensured all aspects of state and NAEYC accreditation guidelines were met in design

EC Assessment Plan and Implementation, Sheridan College Faculty Grant, 2009, \$3,000.

Sheridan College, AS to BS Articulation, Principal Investigator, 2007, \$130,000.

- Designed and coordinated B.S. completion on-site with regional university partner in collaboration with area schools

Community Involvement

NH Department of Education Common Core Training Group, 2012

Wyoming Kids First Advisory Council member, 2009-2010

WY Department of Education ECE Standards Review Committee, 2008

Center for a Vital Community Board Member, 2007-2009

Sheridan Quality Child Care Initiative, Inc. Board member, 2007-2009

Sheridan Civic Project Community Leadership Institute participant, 2007

Sheridan Early Childhood Association Board Member, 2006-2011

Committee Work:

Colby-Sawyer College Distance Education Committee, 2012-

Colby-Sawyer College Teacher Education Committee, 2011-

Colby-Sawyer College Child Development Program Review, 2012-

Colby-Sawyer College Cultural Events Committee, 2012-

Sheridan College Curriculum Development Committee 2009-2011

Several Hiring Committees

Standards and Accreditation working groups

Professional Engagement

Select Trainings and Conference Presentations

Proposal submitted: NAEYC PDI, 2014

- Using Learning Trajectories to Bridge Practices Across the Early Years

Proposal Submitted: Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Conference, 2014

Colorado AEYC, Presenter, 2013

- DAP and the Common Core: Finding Connections

- Culture Belongs to Everyone: Celebrating Diversity in EC Classroom

NAEYC Professional Development Institute, 2013

- DAP and the Common Core: Finding Connections

Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Conference, Presenter, 2013

- Culture Belongs to Everyone: Celebrating Diversity in EC Classrooms
 - The Incredible Infant Brain (And What We Do About It)
- Colby-Sawyer College Teaching Enrichment Center- Faculty Development Presenter
- Unintentional Arrows: Uncovering Microaggression in the Classroom
- Newport Montessori, Newport NH, Spring 2013 Symposium
- Valuing Diversity in the Classroom
- NH Department of Education Training for Area Administrators, 2012
- RtI and the Common Core
- NAEYC Professional Development Institute, Presenter, 2010
- Inspiring Risk-Taking Thinking in the Classroom
- WY STARS Early Childhood Teacher Training 2006, 2007, 2008
- Multicultural ECE; Brain Research in Action: What EC Educators Need to Know; Inspiration from Reggio Emilia; Inquiry-based learning for young children
- Conference Presenter at the 2003 Early Childhood Conference, RVCC
- Project Approach; Children's Literature; Family-Friendly Teaching

Memberships

National Association for the Education of Young Children
Learning and the Brain Society

References

- Dr. Sachi Horback, Psychology Faculty
South Puget Sound Community College, (former colleague at Colby-Sawyer College)
2011 Mottman Rd SW, Olympia WA 98512
610-574-6192; horbacks@gmail.com
- Dr. Kevin Drumm, (President, Sheridan College -through 1/2010)
President, Broome Community College
P.O. Box 1017, 907 Front St., Binghamton, NY 13902 607-
778-5100; drummk@sunybroome.edu
- Rachel Ensign, Director Windy Hill Early Childhood Lab School
Colby-Sawyer College, 541 Main St., New London, NH 03257
603-526-3695; Rachel.ensign@colby-sawyer.edu
- Virginia "Ginny" Harmelink, Early Childhood Education Department Chair
Pima Community College
5901 South Calle Santa Cruz, Tucson, AZ 85709 520-206-
5107; vharmelink@pima.edu
- Dr. Jon Connolly, VP of Academic Affairs
Sheridan College
3059 Coffeen Ave, Sheridan, WY 82801
307-674-6446; jconnolly@sheridan.edu
- Maria Montano, Pre-K -12th Spanish teacher Holy Name School, former student
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