EDUCATION

Certificate of Special Education Administration -Supervisor and Director (2015- Present Anticipated Completion Full Supervisor Approval-2017/Anticipated Completion of Full Director Approval-2018), Grand Valley State University, College of Education.

Teacher Leadership Initiative (TLI) (2013-2014), online through the NEA and CTQ.

Ph. D. in Higher Education (July, 2012), University of Toledo, College of Education

Major: Higher Education. Minor: Human Resources

Research Interests: Students with disabilities, accommodations/modifications in education, diversity in education, phenomenological research, mixed method research, elementary education, self-efficacy, learning disabilities, reading disabilities, special education, teacher education and evaluation, Underrepresented populations in education

Dissertation Title: Examining the Lived Experience of Students with Reading Comprehension Learning Disabilities and the Perceived Value of the Accommodations Received

Committee Members: Ron Opp (Chair), University of Toledo; Penny Poplin Gosetti, University of Toledo; Cynthia Beekley, University of Toledo; Richard Welsch, University of Toledo

- M. Ed. (July, 2005) in Special Education. Madonna University, College of Education. Area of Specialization: Learning Disabilities. Michigan Teacher Certification- Learning Disabilities (SM) K-12. Thesis Title: Different Models to Determine Learning Disabilities Eligibility. Summa Cum laude.
- **B. A. (July, 2002) in English/Speech.** Madonna University, College of Arts and Humanities/College of Education. Michigan Teacher Certification-Elementary K-5 all subjects (K-8 All Subjects Self Contained Classroom) Language Arts (BX) 6-8. Summa Cum laude.

EMPLOYMENT

Concordia University, Portland, OR

Assistant Adjunct Professor

2014-present

I teach graduate education students seeking a Master's degree in special education. The course that I teach focuses on the foundations and fundamentals of special education.

Madonna University, Livonia, MI Assistant Adjunct Professor 2013-present

I teach undergraduate education students the introductory course for education. Additionally, I work with these students on professionalism, resume building, and goal setting.

Livonia Public Schools, Livonia, MI

Educator

2001-present

Educate elementary aged students in all academic areas. Teach social skills, hygiene, human growth, and other daily living skills. Educate students from all academic backgrounds: special education (cross-categorical), gifted and talented, and general education. Conduct professional development regarding: Reading Workshop, Essential Elements, Paraprofessional training, Medicaid billing, Functional Behavior Assessments, Behavior Intervention Plan, Snap and Read, Bookshare, Writing Measureable Goals, American Sign Language, and Sexuality Education. Facilitate a district wide committee to develop and Assistive Technology Evaluation process. Collaborate with district employees to develop an plan for Focus Area 1 of the District School Improvement Plan.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association on Higher Education and Disabilities (AHEAD)
International Thespian Society
Kappa Gamma Pi
Kappa Delta Pi
Lions Club
Madonna Alumni Advisory Council
Michigan Institute for Educational Management

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

UNIVERSITY

Madonna University

Assistant Adjunct Professor

2013-present

EDU 2000: Introduction to Professional Education Experiences

Concordia University

Assistant Adjunct Professor

EDSP 510: Introduction to Special Education

2014-2015

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Livonia Public Schools 2013-present

Special Education Elementary Teacher Consultant

I service all of the elementary schools as the special education teacher consultant for the elementary educators. I work collaboratively with staff members to create behavior plans, conduct Functional Behavior Assessments, collect data, plan for students, and conduct IEPT meetings. Additionally, I service our elementary homebound students and have a caseload of hearing impaired and physically impaired students that I personally work with. I am a member of the DSIT for Focus Area 1. I provided professional development for staff regarding Snap and Read, Bookshare, Medicaid Billing, Paraprofessional roles and responsibilities, and Essential Elements. I organize and conduct all PAC meetings for Livonia Public Schools.

Johnson Upper Elementary

2012-2013

Taught 5/6 grades all subjects in a cross-categorical special education classroom. Served as the Interim Team Leader. One of the coordinators for MEAP testing at this building. Specialized in behavior plans, classroom management, visually structured teaching, and acted as the human growth advisor for the Center program. Active member of the Wayne County RESA committee on the Common Core State Standards.

Riley Upper Elementary

2009-2012

Taught 5/6 grades all subjects in a cross-categorical special education classroom. Specialized in Boystown Social Skills Curriculum, differentiation, and accommodations. Spearheaded efforts to earn the school the title of "Michigan Green School." Member of the Positive Behavioral Support committee.

Cooper Upper Elementary

2008-2009

Taught sixth grade students all subjects. Active member of the Courageous Conversations about Race committee. Involved in the district committee on Word Study.

Webster Elementary 2007-2008

Taught 3 /4 grade gifted and talented students all subjects at a magnet school. Students participated in a wide variety of hands-on learning opportunities. Incorporated the Friends of the Rouge program in my classroom to teach students how to physically and chemically monitor water quality.

Cooper Upper Elementary

2006-2007

Taught sixth grade all subjects. Organized sixth grade camp for students. Students participated in the AWIM program through SAE and won the gold medal.

Hoover Elementary

2005-2006

Taught sixth grade specializing in reading, writing, and social studies. Hosted an International Dinner for 90 families. Active member of the School Improvement Team.

Coolidge Elementary 2004-2005

Taught third grade all subject areas. Conducted a school wide Hurricane Katrina Relief Drive.

Hoover Elementary 2003-2004

Taught second grade students all subject areas. Served on the district Tier 4 committee for reading workshop.

Substitute Teacher 2001-2003

Taught grades K-12 in all subject areas including: physical education, music, art, and foreign language.

WORKSHOPS

Sciensational Workshops for Kids, INC., Troy, MI

Taught science workshops to K-8 grade students during a summer program. Students learned about the following topics: robotics, magnetic levitation, model airplanes, chemistry, and electronics.

American Sign Language, Livonia, MI

Taught beginner level classes to students ranging from K-6. Students learned basic signs, the alphabet, and numbers.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2014/2015/2016 Wayne RESA Forms Training: Wayne, MI (15 hours)
- 2013 Wayne RESA Learning Disabilities: Wayne, MI (6 hours)
- 2012 Steven Covey's "7 Habits of Highly Effective People": Livonia, MI (30 hours)
- 2012 Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (CPI) Refresher: Livonia, MI (8 hours)
- 2012 MIEM 2012 Educator Evaluations: Integrating Student Growth Data Conference: Lansing, MI (8 hours)
- 2012 AHEAD National Conference: New Orleans, LA (5 hours)
- 2011 Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (CPI): Livonia, MI (20 hours)
- 2011 AHEAD National Conference: Seattle, WA (24 hours)
- 2010 Michigan Green School Conference: Wayne, MI (6 hours)
- 2009 Boystown Social Skills Training: Livonia, MI (8 hours)
- 2008 Courageous Conversations about Race Training: Livonia, MI (6 hours)
- 2008 Differentiation Conference: Livonia, MI (6 hours)

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

National Report Reviewer

National Academy of Engineering and National Research Council. (2009). Engineering in K-12 Education:

Understanding the Status and Improving the Prospects. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

Professional Conference Presentations

National

Dodge, Katie M. (July, 2012). Examining the Lived Experience of Students with Reading Comprehension Learning Disabilities and the Perceived Value of the Accommodations Received. *Association on Higher Education and Disabilities (AHEAD) Conference*, New Orleans, LA.

Local

Dodge, Katie M. and Kieft, Jadie (August, 2014). Teaching the Essential Elements. *Wayne RESA Conference, Lincoln Park, MI.*

PROFESSSIONAL SERVICE

Livonia Public Schools

Common Core State Standards Committee
Sexuality Education Coordinator for the 5/6 Center Program
Research Committee
School Improvement Committee
Teacher Resource Committee
NCA Team
Enthusiasm Committee
Technology Committee
Positive Behavioral Support Committee
Behavior Committee
Sixth Grade Camp Planning Committee
Literacy Leader Committee (Tier 4)
Word Study Committee

Local School/Community Service

Seedlings Braille Books, Board Member

Functional Behavior Assessment Committee

2014-present

Coordinate fundraisers, monitor fund distribution and stocks, participate in outreach programs, maintaining annual budget, and help determine compensation for employees.

Madonna University, Livonia, MI,: Madonna Alumni Advisory Council

2007-present

Review scholarship applications, coordinate fundraisers, organize networking events, participate in alumni gatherings, and mentor undergraduate students.

Friends of the Rouge, Dearborn, MI: Water Quality Monitoring

2007-2013

Conduct water quality testing with students after I have adequately trained them.

Parlour Theatre, Northville, MI,: Performance Theatre

2004-Present

Perform plays at local nursing homes and independent living facilities.

AWARDS

Nominated as Livonia Public Schools Elementary Teacher of the Year (2009, 2010). I did not win the award but was deeply honored that a former student took the time to nominate me.

Recipient of the Lloyd Reuss Award for Teaching Excellence in Math and Science (2007). My teaching partner and I received this award through the A World in Motion (AWIM) program which is sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE). I became a trained Master Teacher for this program.

Nominated as WOMC 100.3 Teacher of the Year (2003). A former student nominated me for this award. A beautiful letter was read on the air detailing why he felt that I should win.