Curriculum Vitae

Dr. Sonja Ezell

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Education

Doctor of Education – Ed.D. - Curriculum and Instruction with a minor in Reading - Texas A&M University-Commerce- May 2013

Doctoral Dissertation Topic: Early Head Start, Curriculum Intervention and Outcome Measures

Master of Science in Reading – Texas A&M-Commerce University – December 2003

Region 12 Teacher Certification – June 1996

Bachelor of Social Work – University of Mary Hardin-Baylor – May 1995

Certifications:

State of Texas - Elementary Education Certification

State of Texas - ESL Certification

State of Texas - Early Childhood Education Certification

Professional Service:

International Literacy Association – Member

International Literacy Association – Teaching as a Research Profession – TRP – **Secretary** – 2016-2017

Kansas Reading Association – Member
The mission of the Kansas Reading Association is to promote learning through quality literacy experiences for all.

Flint Hills Council of the Kansas Reading Association – ***Past President*** – 2016-2017

Professors of Literacy Teacher Educators: PRTE – Member – 2016 - present

Flint Hills Council of the Kansas Reading Association – ***President*** – 2015-2016

Flint Hills Council of the Kansas Reading Association - ***President-Elect*** – 2014-2015

Flint Hills Council of the Kansas Reading Association - *Planning Committee* for the October 9-10, 2014 - ***KRA State Conference at ESU - Peace, Love, & Literacy***

Flint Hills Council of the Kansas Reading Association – *Summer Leadership Council* – July 12, 2014-2015
This yearly Summer Leadership Day is to inform and communicate with council officers, committee members and other leaders of KRA valuable information and plan for KRA's future. Leaders in KRA stand for commitment to helping all students read and write proficiently. The goal of this yearly summit is to work together to make KRA a visible and vibrant organization.

Flint Hills Council of the Kansas Reading Association – General Member – 2013-2014

Flint Hills Council of the Kansas Reading Association – General Member – 2012-2013

Kansas Reading Professionals in Higher Education – ***Secretary*** – 2014-2015

Kansas Association of Teacher Educators - Member

National Association of Professional Development Schools - Member

International Literacy Association – Teaching as a Research Profession – TRP – **Secretary** – 2015-2016

Flint Hills Council of the Kansas Reading Association – ***Past President*** – 2016-2017

Professors of Literacy Teacher Educators: PRTE – Member – 2016 -

Kansas Reading Association - *Bill Martin Jr. Picture Book Award – A KRA Voting Member*
This award was established in 1996 by the Kansas Reading Association to honor Bill Martin, Jr., an internationally renowned Kansas author of children's picture books. The purpose of the award is to promote in young children, an appreciation for good literature; to commend outstanding authors and illustrators of children's picture books; and to encourage involvement in promoting quality picture books.

Bill Martin Jr. Picture Book Award Winners:
2015 - **Bill Martin Jr. Picture Book Award Winner** – *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt.

2014 – **Bill Martin Jr. Picture Book Award Winner** – *Each Kindness* by Jacqueline Woodson

2013 – **Bill Martin Jr. Picture Book Award Winner** – *The Day Dirk Yeller Came to Town* by Mary Casanova

2012 – **Bill Martin Jr. Picture Book Award Winner** – *Snow Dog's Journey* by Loretta Krupinski

Awards and Honors:

Certificate of Excellence in Scholarly Research and Presentation, 2016, from the Organization of Teacher Educators of Literacy

Certificate of Outstanding Contributions, 2015, from The Latino Leadership Initiative Conference

Certificate of Outstanding Contributions, 2015, from The Black Leadership Initiative Conference

State Textbook Review Panel Member, 2010 - Texas Education Agency
Reviewed and Approved Instructional and Educational Technology Materials
Appreciation and Dedication Plaque, 2010, from the Texas Commissioner of Education

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Reviewed and Approved Instructional and Educational Technology Materials
Appreciation and Dedication Plaque, 2009, from the Texas Commissioner of Education

Trainer Certification –DISD Certified Trainer, 2006
Certified Reading Campus Coach, 2005
Professional Development Facilitator in the Area of Reading, 2005

Grants Received:

Entrepreneurship/Reading– ***Mini Society Grant*** - (2016-2017) – The purpose of this research project was to explore and develop entrepreneurial creativity coupled with reading engagement.

Read to Your Bunny – ***Katherine K. White Grant*** - (2016-2017) – The purpose of this research project was to fund the purchase of books and materials to support this local community initiative.

Read to Your Bunny – ***Saint Patrick's Committee Grant*** (2015-2016) – The purpose of this research project was to fund the purchase of books and materials to support this local community initiative.

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Publications and Broadcasts:

Ezell, S. (2017). The power of classroom libraries and pre-service teachers. *The Advocate,* 23(3), 28-33.

Ezell, S. (2016). Effective reading strategies for reading and understanding. *Kansas Journal of Reading, 32, 30-34.*

Ezell, S. (2015). Effective vocabulary instruction. *Kansas Journal of Reading, 31, 12-14.*

Douglas, P. S., Ezell, S., & Brooks, J. (2015). Mosaic: Teaching cultural competence. *The Advocate,* 22(3), 48-53.

Ezell, S. (2013). *Early Head Start, curriculum intervention, and outcome measures.* Lambert Academic Publishing.

Ezell, S. (2010). The McCuistion Program: The Impact of Media Violence on Reading. Public Broadcast Station (PBS) – KERA –Channel 13 – Dallas, Texas.

Presentations:

Pre-service Teachers, Children's Literature, and Classroom Libraries: Examining the Children's Literature Preferences of Pre-service Teachers - ***International Literacy Association – Organization of Teacher Educators in Literacy – OTEL–*** July 15, 2017 Orlando, FL.
This presentation focused on the literature preferences of pre-service teachers and its impact on their future classroom libraries.

Read to Your Bunny (R2YB): A Community Based Approach to Impact, Increase, and Enhance Early Literacy - ***International Literacy Association - TRP: Teaching as a Researching Profession –*** July 15, 2017, Orlando, FL.
This presentation focused on the research and findings of a community based literacy-focused project designed to encourage families to read to their newborns.

Pre-service Teachers, Children's Literature, and Classroom Libraries: Books and Tools to Promote Literacy Engagement- ***International Literacy Association – Poster Session –*** July 16, 2017 Orlando, FL.
This presentation focused on pre-service teachers and their utilization of literature and technology to engage with future elementary students.

Active Engagement: Literacy Strategies for Pre-service Teachers – ***International Literacy Association – PLTE: Professors of Literacy Teacher Educators - –*** July 16, 2017 Orlando, FL.

This presentation discussed engaging literacy strategies to motivate and impact the learning achievement of pre-service teachers.

International Literacy Association – PRTE: *Professors of Literacy Teacher Educators* - Pre-service Teachers, Children's Literature, and Classroom Libraries: Books and Tools to Promote Literacy – July 9-11, 2016 Boston, MA
This presentation focused on the literature preferences of pre-service teachers and its impact in the classroom setting.

International Literacy Association – *Organization of Teacher Educators in Literacy* – OTEL: Literacy Strategies for Pre-service Teachers – July 9-11, 2016 Boston, MA
This presentation discussed engaging literacy strategies to motivate and impact the learning achievement of pre-service teachers.

International Literacy Association – TRP: *Teaching as a Researching Profession* – Pre-service Teachers, Children's Literature, and Classroom Libraries – July 9-11, 2016 Boston, MA
This presentation focused on the research and findings of pre-service teachers and their genre preferences.

The ABCs of College Success– ***The Latino Leadership Initiative Conference***- March 12, 2015, Emporia, Kansas.
This presentation focused on the study skills and coursework that students need to be successful in college.

Literacy in the Multicultural Classroom: PDS as Window and Mirror – ***National Association of Professional Development Schools*** – March 8, 2015 - Atlanta, Georgia.
This presentation focused on the literacy development, research, and effective teaching practices that support how to effectively and equitable teach diverse populations.

How to Succeed in College - ***The Black Leadership Initiative Conference*** – February 9, 2015- Emporia, Kansas.
This presentation encouraged students to pursue higher education and to realize their full potential to be successful leaders of the future.

Recreational and Academic Reading: The Impact of Motivation and Attitude on Reading Performance – ***Kansas Reading Association*** – April 10, 2014- Emporia, Kansas
The students at the B.E.S.T Program are ready to share the results of their field experiences involving interviewing elementary students to gauge their attitude toward reading. Their findings are significant and reveal instructional practices that teachers should engage in to motivate their students to read more.

The Reader, the Text, and the Activity – The ***Michael Tilford Conference on Diversity and Multiculturalism*** – October 21-22, 2013 – Emporia, Kansas.
In this multifaceted hands-on demonstration workshop the participants will explore various activities and instructional strategies to actively engage the reader with the text.

Beginning Books at Birth - ***The 16th Annual Conference on Parent Education*** - February 14-15, 2008- The University of North Texas- Denton, Texas.
Beginning Books at Birth will provide participants with the opportunity to actively explore the world of early literacy. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the literacy needs for the youngest members of literacy community, infants 0-36 months.

Professional Staff Development Presenter – ***Academic and Reading Coach - Dallas ISD*** – 2004-2012.
Presented trainings and vital information regarding the core reading program, small group instruction and the utilization of student data to drive classroom instruction.

Recent/Current Research:
The 2015 Campus Climate/Diversity Survey – Under my leadership the Diversity and Inclusion Committee outlined and developed the 2015 student questionnaire that was distributed campus-wide to garner the perceptions and experiences of all students regarding diversity.

MOSAIC: Teaching Cultural Competence – To measure the effectiveness of MOSAIC, a multicultural leadership retreat, both qualitative and quantitative questions were created in two surveys to capture the participants' attitudes and norms surrounding cultural competency.

Institutional Service:
Advisory Leadership Committee – ALC – Faculty Representative – Fall 2017

Dean's Advisory Committee – DAC – Member – 2016-2017

The Teachers College Diversity Committee –Co—Chair - The charge of this committee is to develop and implement diversity initiatives in the Teachers College.

Faculty Senate Representative – TC/Faculty Affairs Subcommittee – (2014-2016)

EEO Officer - Director for Diversity Student Programs (2015)

EEO Officer - Executive Director for Kansas Literacy Center (2016-2017)

EEO Officer - Assistant Professor – Department of Physical Sciences (2016-2017)

EEO Officer - Assistant Professor – Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Delinquency Studies (2016-2017)

Diversity Education Committee - Office of Diversity and Inclusion – A Presidential appointed committee designed to provide a campus wide perspective on diversity issues, to coordinate and collaborate programming related to diversity and to recommend activities to continually enhance campus appreciation for all individuals and campus environment.

Chair- Diversity Education Committee -Presidential Award for Diversity–Office of Diversity and Inclusion. The Diversity Education Committee of Emporia State University selects and announces the Presidential Award for Distinguished Service to Diversity. The award recognized leadership, engagement, and service toward multiculturalism and diversity at Emporia State University and in the larger Emporia Community.

The Teachers College Diversity Committee – The charge of this committee is to develop and implement diversity initiatives in the Teachers College.

Kansas Literacy Center Committee – The Teachers College at ESU received a ten-year, multi-million dollar grant from a service organization in Kansas to develop a literacy center for the state. The Kansas Literacy Center will work toward improving literacy from birth through adulthood for the entire state and develop programs accordingly.

Mobilizing Literacy in Kansas Committee - A Campaign for Grade-Level Reading – The Jones Foundation/Trust and the ESU Foundation, have identified grade-level reading as an area of major concern and interest for focusing their collective efforts and resources. This is a ten-year, multi-million dollar grant. The task force assigned to this endeavor will concentrate on improving literacy rates for children from birth to third grade.

Facilitator - Mosaic of ESU: Diversity Leadership Retreat – Office of Diversity and Inclusion. The goal of Mosaic of ESU retreat is for students to gain knowledge and training on issues of multicultural education. All students leave the retreat with a personal impact statement that will allow them to promote and foster a stronger community.

Faculty Panelist Member - Pages for Change: A Diversity Book Club - Office of Diversity and Inclusion. This student organization is a dynamic book club geared towards current social justice issues and diversity topics. The purpose of Pages for Change is to keep the conversation lively, current, and continuous amongst students, faculty and staff on issues of race, religion, ethnicity, sexuality and gender. The book selection is a mixture of fiction and non-fiction literature that appealed to a variety of demographics. Featured titles included: *Hispanic, Choking on Silence, The New Jim Crow, and A Density of Souls.*

Faculty Guest Speaker – Diversity Film Festival – Office of Diversity and Inclusion. This film festival is to provide valuable exposure for students and community members who enjoy the learning curve of documentaries and independent short films.

Corky's Cupboard – A student organization designed to address the issue of food insecurity on the college campus and in the local community.

<u>Community Involvement:</u>
SOS – Service – Education – Advocacy - Board Member (2015-current): SOS Crisis Services, Child Advocacy Center, Child Visitation and Exchange Center

Read to Your Bunny – Is a literacy project inspired by Rosemary Wells, the author of *Read to Your Bunny*, and a local educator, who shared her idea of providing every family a copy of the

book and delivering the message of how important literacy is with little ones. This project is conducted at the local area hospital and volunteers read the book to the parents of newborns. The organization has delivered over 3,500 books and bunnies to new babies.

The Bunny Bee – A local hands-on volunteer organization supported by community members and ESU students to create soft fabric bunnies and packets to deliver to parents of newborns.

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library-Distribution of information and applications for community participation in this vital literacy initiative which provides children a free book each month until the age of five.

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library –The United Way of Flint Hills - Campaign Drive 2013 – Participation in a local initiative to raise campaign funds and awareness of the importance of early literacy.

Courses Taught:

Special Topics in Reading – EL 100 – *Emporia State University* – 2012-Current
Offers intensive individualized instruction in reading beyond, or in conjunction with, regular course work. Working in a lab situation, the student will have the opportunity to improve skills in particular areas of reading, e.g., speed reading, study skills, vocabulary development, comprehension improvement, critical reading, etc.

Adapting Curriculum for Diverse Learners – EL 310– *Emporia State University* – 2012-Current
An overview of issues which affect curriculum planning and developmentally appropriate interactions with students, parents and support personnel. Provides opportunities for students to examine their personal cultural background and the potential effects of their culture on teaching behaviors and decisions. The course also introduces the laws governing education of children with special needs and the role of the classroom teacher in implementing recommended practices.

Reading & Writing Connections – EL 312 – *Emporia State University* – 2012-Current
An introduction to the reading and writing connections in the elementary classroom, with emphasis on the composing process. Students will explore word study, fluency, poetry and emergent literacy. Balanced literacy, reading and writing workshop and literacy theory is also discussed.

Literacy in the Multicultural Classroom – EL 319 – *Emporia State University* – 2012-Current
This course focuses on the literacy development, research, and effective teaching practices that support emerging bilinguals (EBs) becoming literate in the elementary schools as well as how to effectively and equitably teach diverse populations.

Reading for the Elementary Teacher – EE 313 – *Emporia State University* – 2012-Current
An introductory course in the teaching of reading in the elementary school. Designed to give basic understanding in the areas of readiness skills, word analysis skills, comprehension skills

and study skills as these relate to the teaching of reading as used in basal reading programs. Opportunity is provided for active participation with children through a directed reading lesson. Emphasis is given to the educational needs of children in a multicultural society.

Teaching Language Arts in the Elementary Classroom – EE 315 – *Emporia State University* – 2012-Current
This course is designed to introduce students to the process of how language usage is learned by children. This process of learning is examined within the unique context of the English Language. Finally, classroom teaching/learning activities in the language arts are experienced directly through participation, modeling, demonstration, and other instructional modes. The course content, objectives, and student outcomes are designed to facilitate development of the "well-rounded professional" as a critical thinker, creative planner, and effective practitioner specifically in the area of languages arts instruction.

Application of Developmental Theories – EL 751- Graduate Course - – *Emporia State University* – 2012-Current
This course is for students who are practitioners in any educational setting from pre-K through secondary school. Course covers the main theories currently used as the foundation for quality education, pre-K through late adolescence and young adults. Effective practitioners can articulate the theoretical bases for teaching goals and strategies.

Characteristics of Early Childhood Special Education (for children birth to age eight) – CD 830 – Graduate Course – *Emporia State University* – 2012-Current
The purpose of this course is to provide an overview of early childhood special education, including historical perspectives; rationale; normal and exceptional development; identification and assessment; service delivery approaches; program models; teaming; working with families, including culturally diverse populations; research; and current issues in ECSE. Although the main emphasis is on infants and toddlers with special needs and their families (Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act - IDEA) and on preschoolers age 3-5 with special needs (Part B, **Section 619** of the IDEA), the course also includes information on children age 6-8 with disabilities (Part B for children and youth 6-18). This is due to the fact that ***early childhood*** encompasses a huge developmental spread--from birth to age eight.

Clinical Experience: Inclusive Early Childhood Practicum: Home Based Practicum Birth to 3 Years – CD 861 – Graduate Course – *Emporia State University* – 2012-Current
This course provides the opportunity for the student to work with families who have young children (birth to three) with disabilities or are at risk for disabilities. This field experience provides the opportunity to demonstrate competency in IFSP/IEP writing, selection and utilization of curriculum materials, instructional techniques, working with families and the ability to serve as a member of a multi-disciplinary team.

Guest –Professor/ Instructor - 2009
Texas A&M – Commerce University – Mesquite Metroplex
Early Childhood Education 536 – Literacy Development during the Early Years – August 4, 2009
Documented student attendance

Utilized rubric to provide feedback on chapter presentations:

- Phonics and Fluency
- Reading Comprehension

Collected note cards on comprehension

Guest-Professor/ Instructor - 2009
Texas A&M – Commerce University – Mesquite Metroplex
Early Childhood Education 560 – Early Childhood Curriculum Design – November 17, 2009
Documented student attendance
Utilized rubric to evaluate presentation of curriculum models:

- HIPPY
- Path Social Emotional Curriculum
- High/Scope Curriculum

Collected outlines due for next class session
Distributed and collected Exit Slips

Adjunct ESL Instructor - 2000
Mountain View College- Dallas, Texas
Course: English as a Second Language

Community Involvement:
Read to Your Bunny – Is a literacy project inspired by Rosemary Wells, the author of *Read to Your Bunny*, and a local educator, who shared her idea of providing every family a copy of the book and delivering the message of how important literacy is with little ones. This project is conducted at the local area hospital and volunteers read the book to the parents of newborns. The organization has delivered over 3,500 books and bunnies to new babies.

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The Dolly Parton Imagination Library-Distribution of information and applications for community participation in this vital literacy initiative which provides children a free book each month until the age of five.

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library –The United Way of Flint Hills - Campaign Drive 2013 – Participation in a local initiative to raise campaign funds and awareness of the importance of early literacy.

Technology:
Teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in the teacher preparation program in blended/hybrid online environments.

Expertise with Blackboard – A Learning Management System that promotes highly effective leaning in and beyond the traditional classroom walls.

Expertise with Canvas- A Learning Management System empowering instructors with tools to engage every learner. Instructional tools include – blogs, wikis, podcasts, conferences, collaborations, Panopto Recordings, chat, Google Docs, and Ether Pad.

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Hornet Connected Learning- This program was created by Elementary Education faculty and implemented in the curriculum to prepare future teachers to use mobile technology in instruction. Students are prepared to be a leader in connected learning and teaching.

iPad, iBooks, and MacBook Training – Extensive training and utilization regarding teaching and learner engagement with apps and other instructional digital tools – including Pages, Keynote, Numbers, iMovie, iPhoto, and Garage Band.

Google Educator Training

Fluent use of educational technological platforms and common office software packages.

Professional Conferences – Professional Learning - Professional Development:

- **The International Literacy Association 2017 Conference**
- ***Literacy Reimagined*** - Orlando, Florida – July 15- 17, 2017
- *This year conference focused on the theme "Literacy Reimagined." It asks you as an educator to set aside preconceived notions and explore the ever-evolving definition of literacy with fresh eyes. It asks you to be open to change-to making change- and to paving the way for new literacy ideas and innovative practices.*

- **The International Literacy Association 2016 Conference**
- ***Transforming Lives Through Literacy 2.0*** - Boston, Massachusetts – July 9- 11, 2016
- *This year ILA continues to Transform Lives Through Literacy by bringing educators and literacy leaders from around the world together so you can learn, think, and share with each other.*

- **The International Literacy Association 2015 Conference**
- ***Transforming Lives Through Literacy*** - St. Louis, Missouri – July 18- 20, 2015
- *We're celebrating the "Transforming Lives Through Literacy" theme at the conference with literacy educators from around the world who have come together to explore ideas, best practices, and resources for literacy education and advocacy, and to learn from each other.*

- **The 17th Annual Kansas Regional Reading Recovery and Early Literacy Conference** ***Celebrating 30 Years of Success*** - Emporia State University - November 17, 2014
- **Keynote Address – Barbara Honchell –** *Professor of Literacy Education at the University of North Carolina Wilmington and Director of Reading Recovery in 2003.*
- **"I've Taken the Running Record, Now What?"**
  Dr. Honchell's session focused on the power of careful analysis of the running record to improve teaching in Reading Recovery lessons, for small group teaching, or in the classroom.

- **The 16th Annual Kansas Regional Reading Recovery and Early Literacy Conference** ***Teach Like a Pro*** - Emporia State University – November 18, 2013
- **Keynote Address – Salli Forbes-** *Associate Professor in Literacy Education and Director of the Reading Recovery Center of Iowa.*
- **"Developing Professional Capital"**
  The expertise of the teacher is the greatest predictor of student achievement. Professional capital refers to the systemic approach to developing a high level of expertise in all teachers. The methods of developing professional capital have been features of Reading Recovery since the beginning, more than three decades ago. This session took a close look at those features and their roles in developing the expertise of all early literacy educators.

- **The 15th Annual Kansas Regional Reading Recovery and Early Literacy Conference** ***Working Together to Build Literacy*** - Emporia State University – March 4, 2013
- **Keynote Address – Mary K. Lose-** *Associate Professor in the Department of Reading and Language Arts and Director of the Reading Recovery Center of Michigan at Oakland University.*
- **"Selecting and Introducing Texts in Support of a Literacy Processing System"**
  Literacy teachers must preview and analyze texts to prepare a particular child for correct responding and to advance his literacy processing system. In this presentation we examined the challenges a child might encounter in the first reading of a new story as he uses several sources of information, constructs meaning (e.g. comprehends) and problem-solves while maintaining fluency.

The Michael Tilford Conference on Diversity and Multiculturalism

The Michael Tilford Conference provides an opportunity for faculty, staff, and administrators at Kansas Board of Regents institutions to approach diversity in higher education by examining the challenges and opportunities in Kansas.

- **The Michael Tilford Conference on Diversity and Multiculturalism**
  Cultivating Success: Why Belonging Matters - Pittsburg State University – October 24-25, 2016
- **Keynote Address: Dr. Terrell Lamont Strayhorn** – *The Director of the Center for Higher Education Enterprise at The Ohio State University and Professor of Higher Education in the Department of Educational Studies within the College of Education and Human Ecology*
- **"Cultivating Success: Why Belonging Matters"**
- Professor Strayhorn focused on student access and achievement, equity and diversity, impact of college on students, and student learning and development.

- **Plenary Session: Dr. Terrell Strayhorn** – *Dr. Strayhorn has faculty appointments in the Ohio State John Glenn College of Public Affairs, Department of African American and African Studies, and Education Policy, Engineering Education, and Sexuality Studies programs.*
- **"Cultivating Success, Navigating Culture: 3 Key Insights"**
  Dr. Strayhorn focused on major issues in education.

- **The Michael Tilford Conference on Diversity and Multiculturalism**
  Diversity Practices: Transforming Curriculum & Campus Life - Emporia State University – October 20-21,2014
- **Keynote Address: Dr. DeAngela Burns-Wallace** - *The Assistant Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies at the University of Missouri.*
- **"A Catalyst for Inclusion, Transformation, and Courageous Leadership"**
  It can be argued that 21st century diversity in higher education is about mission readiness, building trust, strengthening relationships, developing talent and creating high-performance team members and leaders. Are we there yet? How do we recognize where we are on the continuum? How do we play a role in ensuring inclusion, transformation and courageous leadership on our campus at every level?
- **Keynote Address: Dr. Bill Howe** - *The Program Manager for Culturally Responsive Education, Multicultural Education, Bullying & Harassment, Gender Equity and Civil Rights at the Connecticut State Department of Education.*
- **"Multicultural Curriculum Transformation: Practical Design & Implementation"**

Trying to transform a curriculum to be multicultural and putting it into practice can be a confusing and frustrating exercise. This talk is aimed at helping turn theory into practice.

- **The Michael Tilford Conference on Diversity and Multiculturalism**
  Embracing Diversity Through Shared Experience -Emporia State University – October 21-22, 2013
- **Featured Speaker: Carman Agra Deedy** - *has been writing for children for over two decades.*
- **"An Evening with Carmen"**
  Born in Havana, Cuba, she came to the U.S. as a refugee in 1964. She grew up in Decatur, Georgia, where she lives today. Her children's books have won numerous awards. *The Library Dragon* received various children's state book awards and has sold nearly half a million copies; *The Yellow Star* was the recipient of the 2001 Jane Addams Peace Association Book Award (Honor), presented to Ms. Deedy at the United Nations by Mrs. Kofi Annan; and *Martina the Beautiful Cockroach* was presented with the 2008 International Latino Book Award, among others. Ms. Deedy has spent the past twenty years writing and telling stories. She has been an invited speaker at venues as varied as The American Library Association, Refugees International, The International Reading Association, Columbia University, The Smithsonian Institute, TED, The National Book Festival, and the Kennedy Center.
- **Featured Speaker: Tia Brown McNair** - *is the Senior Director for Student Success in the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Student Success at Association of American Colleges and Universities.*
- **"Diversity, Equity and Student Success: Critical Questions, Promising Strategies"**
  McNair's research agenda focuses on equity in student learning outcomes for underserved students, student and institutional engagement, quality and assessment of high-impact practices, equity-minded data analysis for institutional change, and the alignment and quality of learning from school through two-year and four-year undergraduate education.

- **The Michael Tilford Conference on Diversity and Multiculturalism**
  Creating A Culturally Competent Campus - Kansas State University - October 29-30, 2012
- **Keynote Address: Dr. Loreto R. Prieto** – *Director of US Latino/a Studies Program at Iowa State University* -
- **"Defining and Assessing Cultural Competency: Models, Methods & Minefields"** –

Throughout this presentation, the importance for all of us to recognize ourselves as cultural beings -- cultural beings who generate a real and impactful presence within an environment of human difference -- will be repeatedly emphasized. Only from this personal, focal reality can we recognize, understand and ultimately appreciate others as cultural beings, and increase our ability to interact with one another in a culturally competent fashion.

- **Keynote Address: Dr. Wm. Gregory Sawyer** – *Vice President for Student Affairs at California State University Channel Islands –*
- **<u>"Think Differently: Creating a Culturally Competent Community"</u>**
  "Think differently" suggests that cultural competence, like diversity, is a source of both renewal and vitality. It may require recalibrating the institutional culture based on environmental values, beliefs, assumptions, traditions and customs. College and University cultures quite often mirror the predominant culture and therefore may not avail itself to the adherence of a culturally competent climate. This is the foundation for thinking differently. Building a culturally competent college and university environment requires intentionality, effective processes and procedures, core values and a desire and will to acknowledge, accept and transform.

- **<u>Kansas Academic Advising Network</u>**
  Advising for Attainment – Annual Fall Conference – Emporia State University – September 5, 2014
- **Keynote Address: Dr. Jennifer Joslin** – *Associate Director for Content Development in the NACADA Executive Office.*
- **<u>"Showing Foresight: Academic Advising and the National Dialogue on Student Success"</u>**
  An in-depth presentation and discussion focused on how to increase the retention and graduation rates of students.

<u>Bonner & Bonner Diversity Lecture Series:</u>
The Bonner and Bonner Lecture Series was established in 1992 by Drs. Thomas and Mary Bonner, ESU's first and second African American faculty members. In 2002, it received $400,000 from Pepsi and was renamed the Bonner and Bonner Diversity Lecture Series.

The series provides a valuable window to diversity, promoting tolerance and understanding on campus, in the community, and throughout the state.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

MLK Diversity Lecture Series – *Nina Turner – former Ohio Senator* – Emporia State University – January 20, 2017
Ms. Turner offers a powerful narrative of overcoming adversity. She was the Democratic candidate for Ohio's Secretary of State in 2014 and more recently a national surrogate for Senator Bernie Sanders during the tumultuous 2016 Democratic presidential primary. She has been recognized by *The Nation* magazine, which in 2011 named her "Most Valuable State Senator," by *The Root*, which listed her as one of the top 100 most influential African-Americans in the United States in 2014, and by Cleveland's *Inside Business Magazine* as one of the Top 25 most powerful people in Northeast Ohio for 2015.

Bonner & Bonner Diversity Lecture Series – *Coach Carter* – Emporia State University – October 29, 2014
When famed high school basketball coach Ken Carter literally locked his undefeated, state play-off bound team out of the gym and forced them to hit the books and stop counting on athletic potential as the only ticket out of a tough, inner city life, he sent a powerful message. The film, Coach Carter, based on the lock-out and starring Samuel L. Jackson as the Coach, is just one more testimony to the strength of his convictions. At the podium, Coach Carter scores with hard-hitting advice about accountability, integrity, teamwork, and leadership to succeed both on and off the basketball court.

Bonner & Bonner Diversity Lecture Series – *Michele Norris* – Emporia State University – September 25, 2013
Michele Norris is an award-winning journalist with more than two decades of experience. She is currently a host and special correspondent for NPR. Previously, Norris served as co-host of NPR's newsmagazine *All Things Considered*, public radio's longest-running national program. In September 2010, Norris released her first book, *The Grace of Silence: A Memoir.* It was called one of the best books of 2010 by *The Christian Science Monitor*. Using her memoir as a catalyst for conversation, Norris reflected on the importance of sharing historical triumphs and struggles with future generations.

Experience:

University Professor - *Emporia State University* – 2102-Current

- Teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in the teacher preparation program in both face-to-face and blended/hybrid online environments
- Supervising related practicum experiences
- Ability to use technology in the teaching and learning process
- Leadership in professional organizations
- Providing service to the university, community, and profession
- Serving on program, department, college, and university committees

Experience:

Academic Coordinator - 2010-2012
Dallas Independent School District

- Responsible for the development, planning, supervision, promotion, and logistical support of academic programs and projects
- Completed assigned reports and complied instructional assessments
- Assisted with the recruitment, training, and coordination of Group Excellence Tutors
- Conducted meetings and workshops with internal and external groups
- Scheduled and implemented outreach activities with community organizations
- Assisted with grant writing and data collection/ management
- Supervised, trained, and coordinated the work of staff, mentors, and assistants
- Assisted with Special Events Management
- Established and maintained effective working relationships with a wide variety of constituents

Reading Coach - 2004-2010
Dallas Independent School District

- Promote scientifically-based reading research to support reading instruction
- Assist classroom teachers with the improved delivery of the core reading program
- Assist classroom teachers with administering reading assessments
- Assist classroom teachers to effectively analyze assessment data to inform instruction
- Model the delivery of individualized instruction in reading
- Ensure that student assessment and progress data are current and accessible for lesson planning
- Provide ongoing professional development and support in the area of reading instruction to K-3 and special education teachers
- Coordinate extended day programming to provide students with additional reading intervention strategies
- Review and analyze benchmark and progress monitoring data with teachers throughout the school year
- Ensure teachers meet diagnostic, screening, and progress monitor requirements of the grant
- Schedule and document prescriptive staff development sessions for teachers based on observed need
- Provide classroom coaching to teachers

- Identify and apply intervention strategies
- Implement formative evaluation protocols to inform and guide teacher and student development
- Collect, analyze and compile program data
- Monitor and manage the campus level federal funds and budget
- Ensure 100% of purchases are completed in a timely manner and are in compliance with the grant requirements
- Administer the distribution of materials, services and resources
- Attend professional development

Classroom Teacher - 2004-1996

Dallas Independent School District

- Campus Instructional Leadership Team - CILT
- New Teacher Mentor
- Grade Level Chair
- Alternative Certification Trainer
- Site Based Decision Making Committee
- Extended Year TAKS Reading Coach
- ESL Educator
- Early Childhood Educator
- Extended-Year Teacher / After –School Teacher / Saturday- School Teacher
- Student Club Sponsor – Future Teachers of America and Girl Power