

ESTEE AIKEN

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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO, Greeley, CO

Doctor of Education in Educational Studies, 8/12

Cognate: Gifted and Talented; Literacy

Dissertation: *A Case Study Approach to Examine Gifted Children's Perceptions of Friendship and Play and Their Impact on the Development of Self*

COLORADO COLLEGE, Colorado Springs, CO

Master of Arts in Teaching Elementary School, 8/02

Thesis: *The One-Room School House as a Model for Modern Education*

MACALESTER COLLEGE, St. Paul, MN

Bachelor of Arts in Music, 5/01

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor, Department of Education, The University of Montana Western, 8/11-present

Courses taught:

- EDU 222: Educational Psychology and Child Development (online)
- EDU 233: Literacy, Language and Texts (face-to-face, hybrid, and online formats)
- EDU 234: Reading and Writing Connections K-8 (partner program with Blackfeet Community College on the Blackfeet Reservation)
- EDU 352: Field Experience K-8 (online and hybrid formats)
- EDU 382: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (face-to-face and online formats)
- EDU 397A: Integrated Arts Methods K-8 (face-to-face)
- EDU 397L: Language Arts and Social Studies Methods K-8 (face-to-face satellite program)
- EDU 481: Content Area Literacy K-12 (face-to-face)
- EDU 489: Professionalism and Research in Literacy Education (face-to-face)
- EDEC 108/109: Introduction to Early Childhood and Lab (face-to-face)
- EDEC 210: Meeting the Needs of Families and Lab (face-to-face)
- EDEC 215: Culturally Diversity in Early Childhood (face-to-face and online formats)
- EDEC 230: Positive Child Guidance and Management with Lab (face-to-face)
- EDEC 247: Child and Adolescent Development and Lab (face-to-face)
- EDEC 265: Leadership and Professionalism in ECE and Lab (face-to-face)
- EDEC 273: Curriculum and Environments with Lab I (face-to-face)
- EDEC 275: Curriculum and Environments with Lab II (face-to-face)
- EDEC 281/282: Early Childhood Curriculum I and Lab (face-to-face)
- EDEC 283/284: Early Childhood Curriculum II and Lab (face-to-face)
- EDEC 291: Developmentally Appropriate Practice in Early Childhood (face-to-face)
- EDEC 332: Science and Social Studies for EC (K-3) (face-to-face with summer camp)
- EDEC 391J: Introduction to Elementary Education (online)
- EDEC 450: Literacy in the Early Childhood Classroom (online)

Instructional Management System:

- Moodle

Contributions:

- **Faculty Senate:** department-elected Senator; Senate-elected vice-chair (8/14-5/16)

- **Teaching Development Committee** (chair): address faculty-selected areas of focus, including linked classes; coordinate First Friday activities; organized first campus-wide Professional Learning Communities (PLCs); coordinated PLCs for three years with both continuing and newly-formed groups; facilitated Open-Door Classes for faculty to visit each other's classes; facilitated yearly Fall Conferences for all faculty; co-coordinated Faculty Forum speaker series (8/12-present)
- **Alignment Committee** (chair): worked to align content taught throughout Education (EDU and EDEC) coursework in order to support continuity and integration of key concepts and understandings; created shell syllabi for all core courses; organized training in participatory decision making for the Education Department in order to support more efficient and effective decision making (8/14-5/16)
- **Education Department Speaker Series** (co-organizer): created and continue to organize speakers (up to eight per year) to address a variety of topics pertinent to education students and educators in the community (Fall '13-Spring '16)
- **Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability, and Reform (CEEDAR)** (State Leadership Team): wrote and currently implementing a plan for shared professional development between university faculty and local elementary and middle school teachers around content-area literacy, Universal Design for Learning, and responsive teaching (grant-funded through the CEEDAR Center, 9/13-present)
- **Student, Teacher and Alumni Recognition (STAR) Committee** (inaugural year chair): created and helped to organize *Night of STARS*, an evening of alumni and student recognition (1/12-5/14)
- **Wellness Committee and Campus Fitness Instructor—Yoga** (1/12-5/14)

Additional Responsibilities:

- **Interim Director**, Curious Minds Early Learning Center (campus pre-school, 8/15-5/16)
- **University Supervisor**, student teachers (in- and out-of-state) for the University of Montana Western and The University of Montana, Missoula
- **Advisor**, average load of 40 advisees per semester
- **Degree Design and Implementation**, B. S. PreK-3 licensure program

Trainer, Montana Region IV Educational Service Agency, 5/12-present

Facilitate numerous in-service trainings about gifted education and differentiation for K-12 educators

Instructor & Administrative Support, Young Child Summer Enrichment Program (YCSEP), University of Northern Colorado, 7/15 & 7/16

Instructor, School of Teacher Education, University of Northern Colorado, 8/08-5/11

Courses taught:

- EDEC 460: Language Arts and Social Studies Methods, Early Childhood
- EDEL 320: Teaching with Writing
- EDEL 350: Emergent Literacy, Pre-K through Grade 3
- EDEL 450: Social Studies and Math Methods, Elementary
- EDRD 410: Effective Reading Instruction Development

Online platform:

- Blackboard

Recognition:

- College of Education and Behavioral Science Scholar, 08-09 & 09-10
- Scholarship for Elementary Education Graduate Student, 09-10

Contributions:

- **Miguel Project—Meeting Individual Children’s Needs:** contributing author with expertise in gifted education on critical document for all Early Childhood students
- **UNC Early Childhood Speaker Series** (coordinator): organized numerous speakers each year to address a variety of Early Childhood topics
- **Early Childhood Newsletter** (editor): wrote and edited a bi-yearly newsletter about happenings in the Early Childhood department
- **“Waste Not” Food Program:** volunteered weekly to redistribute left-over food from the campus, as well as local middle and high schools, to the Salvation Army and elementary school children and families
- **Campus Fitness Instructor—Yoga**

Differentiation Coach, Meridian Elementary & Coyote Ridge Elementary, Adams 12 Five Star Schools, Thornton, CO, 10/08-08/11

Facilitator: Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted, 09/08-05/11

Teacher, 1st grade and 5th grade, Meridian Elementary, Adams 12 Five Star Schools, Thornton, CO 11/05-5/08

Teacher, 1st/2nd grade and 3rd grade, Highly Gifted/High Achieving, Carson Elementary, Denver Public Schools, CO, 8/03-5/05

Recognition: Most Valuable Teacher, Denver Public Schools, Southeast Area, 03-04

Teacher, 4th grade, High Plains Elementary, Colorado Springs, CO, 8/02-5/03

Intern, 1st grade, Explorer Elementary, Colorado Springs, CO, 8/01-5/02

LICENCE

Colorado Teaching License, Elementary Education, 2001-2015 and 2017-present

PUBLICATIONS

- Howard, V. & **Aiken, E.** (2015). *Assessing Learning and Development in Young Children*, Bridgepoint Education, Inc.
- Cruse, J. & Hall, M. (2015). Contributing Editor **Aiken, E.** *Serving Montana’s High Ability/High Potential Students*, The Montana Office of Public Instruction.
- Howard, V., Williams, B. F., Miller, D., & **Aiken, E.** (2014). *Very Young Children with Special Needs: A Foundation for Educators, Families, and Service Providers*, Pearson.
- Peer-reviewed essay in Thompson, S. C. & Williams, K. N. (2009). *Telling Stories with Photo Essays*, Corwin.

PRESENTATIONS

- *Crossover the Counts: Using Best Practices in Early Childhood Education to Support Young Gifted Learners*, National Association for Gifted Children, Fall 2017
- *Differentiation Grab Bag: Fifty Strategies in Fifty Minutes*, Montana Education Association and the Montana Federation of Teachers Educators’ Conference, Fall 2017
- *Differentiation in the K-3 Classroom: Guiding Academics and Behavior through Whole Group Strategies & Learning Centers and Differentiation: A Deeper Dive*, Montana Behavioral Initiative Summer Institute, invited speaker, Summers 2016 and 2017

- *Multiple Needs? Multiple Options: Working Together to Meet the Needs of Multi-Exceptional Students*, Montana Council for Exceptional Children, Spring 2017
- *Gifted in the early grades: Identifying and meeting the needs of gifted students in first through third grades*, National Association for the Education of Young Children, Los Angeles, CA, Fall 2016
- *Young Gifted Children in the Regular Classroom*, Montana Education Association and the Montana Federation of Teachers Educators' Conference, Fall 2016; Montana Association for Gifted and Talented Education, Spring 2016
- *Gifted from the Get Go*, Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented, Fall 2016
- *Twice Exceptional Students: Who are they and how can we support them?* Montana Council for Exceptional Children, Spring 2016
- *Socratic Discussions: Seminars to Circles to Fishbowls and Beyond*, Montana Education Association and the Montana Federation of Teachers Educators' Conference, Fall 2016; Montana Association for Gifted and Talented Education, Spring 2015; National Association for Gifted Children, Fall 2014
- *Getting Gritty: How Perseverance and Passion Support Gifted Learners*, Montana Education Association and the Montana Federation of Teachers Educators' Conference, Fall 2014; Montana Association for Gifted and Talented Education, Spring 2014
- *Gifted Education and Basic Differentiation*, Montana Education Association and the Montana Federation of Teachers Educators' Conference, Fall 2013
- *Doable Differentiation in the Elementary Classroom*, Montana Association for Gifted and Talented Education, Spring 2013
- *Beyond Simply Managing: Interactive Feedback for Student Videos*, Extended Learning Institute—Montana University System, Spring 2013
- *Using Questioning and Discussion Strategies to Engage Learners and Promote Critical Thinking and Gifted Children and Friendship: Finding Balance Between Research and Reality*, National Association for Gifted Children, Fall 2012
- *Building Engagement, Comprehension and Thinking Skills through Debate*, Colorado Council International Reading Association, Spring 2012
- *Using Socratic Seminars in Any Classroom*, Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented, Fall 2011
- *Differentiation for Every Classroom*, Adams 12 Five Star Schools, multiple sites, Spring 2011
- *Using Question Answer Relationships: Asking Better Questions to Get Better Answers*, University of Northern Colorado, Academic Excellence Teaching and Learning Fair, Spring 2011
- *Socratic Seminars in the University Classroom*, University of Northern Colorado, Academic Excellence Teaching and Learning Fair, Spring 2010; University of Northern Colorado, Graduate Student Professional Development Series, Spring 2011
- *A Case for Case Study*, University of Northern Colorado Research Day, 2010
- *Success for All through Socratic Seminars*, University of Northern Colorado, Classroom Management Speaker Series, Fall 2009
- *Using Socratic Seminars in Early Childhood Education*, University of Northern Colorado, Early Childhood Education Speaker Series, Fall 2009
- *Identifying Young Gifted Learners in the Regular Education Classroom*, Montana Association for Gifted and Talented Education, Spring 2013; University of Northern Colorado, Early Childhood Education Speaker Series, Spring 2009; Colorado Association of Educators of Young Children, Spring 2009; Nebraska Association of the Gifted, Spring 2009; Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented, Fall 2008
- *Perceptions of Learning Experiences of Gifted Visual-Spatial Learners*, University of Northern Colorado Research Day, Spring 2009

SERVICE

- Higher Education Consortium (HEC) of Montana, co-chair (participant since 5/12; co-chair 5/16-present)
- Canvas Early Learning Center, co-founder and trustee (08/17-present)
- Dillon School District #10, trustee, Dillon, MT (05/17-present)
- *Roeper Review*, reviewer (05/15-present)
- Special Education Advisory Panel, State of Montana—Representative to Higher Education (appointed by the State Superintendent of Education) (09/15-present)
- Montana Association of Gifted and Talented Education, president (03/17-03/19), president elect (04/15-03/17), newsletter editor (08/14-10/15), public relations chair (04/12-08/14) and mini-grant coordinator (09/12-present)
- Professional Development Task Force (appointed by the State Superintendent of Education) (05/15-05/16)
- Southwest Montana Arts Council, recorder (09/15-present)
- ARM Title 10, Chapter 58, Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards—coordinated the work group focused on gifted and talented education in making recommendations to the Board of Public Education

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Kappa Delta Pi, 2002-present
- National Association for the Education of Young Children, 2011-present
- National Association for Gifted Children, 2011-present
- Montana Association of Gifted and Talented Education, 2011-present
- Colorado Association of Gifted and Talented, 2004-present
- Nebraska Association of the Gifted, 2008-2011

TRAININGS

- Community at Work: Participatory Decision Making Facilitator Training, 2014
- Ethics in Research, 2011
- Registered Yoga Teacher, 2010
- Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG), Facilitator Training, 2008
- Project Wild, 2001