Cynthia Sue Serfass

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Educational Background

- Completed Ed.D. program in Special Education specializing in Emotional/ Behavioral Disorders at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln 12/2009
- Endorsed in Assessment Leadership 8/2007 from UNL
- Trained in the Kansas Learning Strategies curriculum (District offerings from 84-98). Have taught using PENS, DISSECT, I-PLAN and Paragraph writing several times each year.
- Endorsement in Early Childhood Education received 8/96 from UNO
- Masters degree in Teaching of Emotional Disabilities received 5/88 from UNO (K-12)
- Endorsements in Mild/Moderate Special Education and Elementary Education received 12/82 from UNO (K-9)

Work Experience

- 32 years successful teaching experience at all grade levels Pre K-College
    - Currently teaching at Westside High School. This is my 17th year. I have supervised the "Freshman Study Center" for the last eight years. This program supports our at-risk population. The previous 9 years I spent working in the Special Education Department.
    - Taught "Critical Issues in Special Education" and "Behavior Management" for Doane College Summer 2010 through present
    - Taught "Early Childhood" class for Peru State College 1/2008
    - Taught "Special Education for Classroom Teachers" for UNL" Fall 2008
    - 1 semester at Sunshine Day Care as a preschool teacher.
    - 11 years at the elementary level (Westgate Elementary (4) Hillside Elementary (7)
    - 5 years at the Westside Middle School

Professional Activities and Leadership Roles

- Was awarded the 2013 National Education Association Foundation Grant to provide service learning opportunities for Study Center students.
- Serve on the Nebraska Professional Practices Commission

- Worked with Nebraska Department of Education writing a model evaluation system
- Completed dissertation entitled, "Addressing Behavior Needs By Disability Category"
- Worked with the Nebraska State Department of Education in writing Nebraska Teaching Standards
- Published article in *Teaching Exceptional Children* on computerized IEPs.
- Presented at professional conferences (MSLBD and APBS)
- Worked on the district's FAST (Feedback and Support Team) Team, which monitors IEP compliance, provides workshops and designs IEP newsletters.
- Saw a need at Westside Middle School for a different structure for providing Special Education services. Wrote a proposal to include Resource staff in each block inside the middle school structure. This is a practice which is still in effect at Westside Middle School
- Was sent to Hillside Elementary to implement inclusion of behaviorally disordered students in regular classroom settings. Discovered a need for a different model. Wrote a proposal to team-teach while at Hillside. Used a model of "Class Within a Class". We used the model for four years in both the 3rd and 4th grades.
- Presented the "Class Within a Class" model at Nebraska Conference of Instructional Practices in '93.
- Past President for the Westside Education Association
- Was elected to the Metro Area Board of Directors for Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA) served from 8/05-8/08
- Was elected for a three-year term on the Nebraska State Education Association Board of Directors. 8/05-8/08
- Have been elected as a delegate to NSEA's Delegate Assembly for the last 13 years
- Have been elected as a delegate to the National Representative Assembly for 5 years.
- Have coached 15 Odyssey of the Mind and Destination Imagination Teams. This is a program to develop creativity in problem solving. Sent many groups to State.
- Am President of ADK, a women educators' sorority