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**University of Nebraska-Lincoln**  
**Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education**  
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## **EDUCATION**

2008 Doctor of Philosophy  
Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas  
Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in English as a Second Language (ESL)  
Education and Literacy  
Dissertation: *A mixed study of the impacts of an IBA intervention on the vocabulary development of culturally and linguistically diverse students.*

1997 Master of Arts  
University of Central Missouri (formerly known as Central Missouri State University),  
Warrensburg, Missouri  
Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL)

1995 Bachelor of Science  
Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa  
Elementary Education  
Area of Specialization: English/Language Arts

## **Credentials**

Iowa Teaching Certificate, K-6, Elementary Education  
English as a Second Language Endorsement, K-12  
English/Language Arts Endorsement, K-6  
Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language  
Certified Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP) Trainer of Trainers  
Certified CLASS observer  
Certified InCLASS observer

## **ACAEMIC APPOINTMENTS/PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT**

### **Fall 2008-present**

**Position:** Assistant Professor, Elementary Education, Department of Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education, College of Education & Human Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska

**2005-2008**

**Position:** ESL/Dual Language Instructor, College of Education, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas

**Grant experiences at Kansas State University**

- Title III Grant Manager, Project PEER Spring 2008
- Title III Grant Manager, Project Making the Grade Spring 2007
- Title III Grant Manager, Dos Puentes 2005-2008

**Fall 2007**

**Position:** Adjunct Professor, English as a Second Language, College of Education, Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa

**2002-2005**

**Position:** English Language Learner Consultant, Loess Hills Area Education Agency 13, Council Bluffs, Iowa

**2004-2005**

**Position:** Adjunct Professor, English as a Second Language, College of Education, William Penn University, Oskaloosa, Iowa

**Summer 1999**

**Position:** Reading Supervisor, College of Education, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa

**1997-2002**

**Position:** K-2 ESL teacher, West Liberty Community School District, West Liberty, Iowa

**1996-1997**

**Position:** Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Power and Transportation, Central Missouri State University, Warrensburg, Missouri

**TEACING AND RESEARCH INTEREST**

- English Language Learners
- Vocabulary acquisition
- Language and early literacy
- Family literacy
- Pre-service teacher education

**TEACHING****Courses Taught at University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

**(F= fall semester; SP= spring semester; S= summer semester)**

- *Practicum in Teaching English Language Learners in Elementary Schools* (TEAC 297E)-F13
- *Reading Processes and Practices: Teaching Reading* (TEAC 811A)- F13, F12, F11, F10

- *Practitioner Inquiry III: Qual and Quant Research* (TEAC 930B)-S12
- *Content Area Reading: K-6* (TEAC 841)-S13, S12, S11, S10, F09
- *Emerging Reading and Language* (TEAC 817)-SP12, SP10
- *Language Arts: K-3* (TEAC 416A/816A)- SP14, SP13, SP12, SP11
- *Social Studies & Science: K-3* (TEAC 416B/816B)-SP14, SP13, SP11, S09
- *Educational Programs for Kindergarten Children* (TEAC 310)-SP12
- *Teaching ELLs in Elementary Schools* (TEAC 317)-F13, F11
- *Inquiry: Teaching & Learning* (TEAC 800)-S13, S12, S11, S10, S09
- *ELL: Assessment* (TEAC 413D)-F09
- *Content Area Reading Grades 4-12* (TEAC 441-841)-S09, F09
- *Learner Centered Classroom* (TEAC 351)-S09, F08

### **Courses Taught at Kansas State University, Manhattan**

**(F= fall semester; SP= spring semester; S= summer semester)**

- *ESL/Dual Language Linguistics* (EDCIP 733)-S08, F05
- *Curriculum Materials for Dual Language Learners; Multiculturalism* (EDCIP 740)-S08, F07, SP06
- *Assessment of English Language Learners* (EDCI 720)-S07, F05
- *ESL/Dual Language Methods* (EDCI 720)-S07, F05

### **Courses Taught at Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa**

**(F= fall semester; SP= spring semester; S= summer semester)**

- *ESL Methods* (EDUC 705)-F07

### **Courses Taught at William Penn University, Oskaloosa, Iowa**

**(F= fall semester; SP= spring semester; S= summer semester)**

- *Theory of Language and Linguistics* (EASL 202)-S05, F04
- *Teaching ESL K-6, 7-12* (EASL 370 & 376)-SP05
- *Language and Culture* (EASL 210)-S04

## **RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP**

### **Book and Journal Articles**

#### **Book**

Herrera, S. G., Pérez, D. R., Kavimandan, S. K. & Wessels, S. (2013). *Accelerating literacy for diverse learners: Strategies for the common core classrooms, K-8*. New York: Teachers College Press.

#### **Refereed Journal Articles**

Wessels, S and Trainin, G. (in press). *Bringing literacy home: Supporting Latino families' literacy learning*. Manuscript accepted by Young Children.

Wessels, S and Herrera, S. (2014, March; early view June, 2013). Drawing their way into writing: Culturally and linguistically diverse students finding voice through mini-novelas. *TESOL Journal*, 5(1), 105-118.

Wessels, S. (2013a). Science as a Second Language. *Science & Children*. 51(1), 50-53.

Wessels, S. (2012, Summer). The importance of activating and building knowledge. *The Kansas Teacher Education Advocate*, 20(1), 33-36.

Wessels, S. (2011). Promoting vocabulary learning for English learners. *The Reading Teacher*, 65(1), 46-50.

Wessels, S., Holmes, M., & Herrera, S. (2011). Beyond the obvious: Assumptions as barriers to culturally relevant pedagogy. *Multicultural Teaching and Learning*, 6(2),5.

### **Other Publications**

Wessels, S. & Trainin, G. (2014). Developing School-Based Literacy Practices for English Language Learners. *LDYC Newsletter*, 18 (2), 6-8.

Wessels, S. (2013b). Home visits: A way of connection with culturally and linguistically diverse families. *TEIS News*, December Edition.

### **Referred Articles Submitted for Publication (under review)**

Trainin, G. and Wessels, S. (under review). *Emergent literacy experiences of young Latino English learners*. Manuscript submitted to Early Childhood Research & Practice.

Wessels, S. (under review). *Implementing a bilingual family literacy program*. Manuscript submitted to School Community Journal.

### **Referred Articles currently in process (in preparation)**

Wessels, S. (in preparation). *The impact of a vocabulary instructional framework on the vocabulary development of English language learners*.

Reeves, J., Catalano, T., & Wessels, S. (in preparation). *The missing connection: Teacher learners in contact with English learners*.

Wessels, S. (in preparation). *Designing vocabulary instruction in science for English language learners*.

## **PRESENTATIONS/SYMPOSIA/WORKSHOPS**

### **Presentations**

*Developing School-Based Literacy Practices for Latino English Language Learners* (2014, May). Poster presented at the annual meeting of the International Reading Association, New Orleans, LA.

*Supporting Literacy Development of Latino Families Learning English.* (2013, April). Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association, San Francisco, CA.

*Developing Home Reading Practices that Serves the Needs of Spanish-Speaking Families.* (2012, December). Paper presented at the Literacy Research Association, San Diego, CA.

*Vocabulary Instruction for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students in Content Areas.* (2011, April). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New Orleans, LA.

*Vocabulary Instruction in Science for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students.* (2010, December). Paper presented at the Literacy Research Association, Forth Worth, TX.

*Developing English Language Learning Student's Vocabulary Knowledge.* (2009, November). Session presented at the 35<sup>th</sup> Plains International Reading Regional Conference, Branson, MO.

*Beyond the obvious: Assumptions as barriers to culturally relevant pedagogy.* (2009, April). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Diego, CA.

*Sociocultural vocabulary development: Vocabulary strategies that empower CLD students cultural and linguistic connections.* (2008, February). Session presented at the National Association of Bilingual Education, Tampa Bay, FL.

*Vocabulary and ELL students.* (2006, June). Session presented at Kansas Migrant Education Conference, Wichita, KS.

*A successful dual language program in action.* (2006, February). Session co-presented at the Kansas Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Manhattan, KS.

### **Invited Presentations**

Teacher Preparation. (2013, November). Invited co-facilitator at the Helen Kelley Symposium on early childhood educations, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE.

Storytelling Engages, Educates Children (2013, June). Invited radio presentation for NET News, Nebraska Public Radio, Lincoln, NE.

*Uneasy Welcome: Immigrant and Refugee Newcomers in Nebraska* (2013, May). Invited co-presentation for Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, VU University, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

*Elementary writing instruction for English language learners.* (2012, July). Invited presentation for OUR KIDS Professional Development Seminars, Iowa Department of Education, Des Moines, IA.

*Working with English Language Learners in Math* (2011, January). Invited presentation for NebraskaMath (Primarily Math), University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Omaha, NE.

*Story Retelling with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students.* (2010, August). Invited presentation for Celebrating Diversity Among Young Children, Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children, Des Moines, IA.

*English Language Learners.* (2010, July). Invited presentation for Kindergarten Conference: Planting Seeds for Success, Nebraska Department of Education, Kearney, NE.

*Native Language Support.* (2010, June). Presentation for OUR KIDS Professional Development Seminars, Des Moines, IA.

*English Language Learners* (2009, September). Invited presentation for student teacher seminar, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE.

*Writing instruction for English language learners.* (2009, June). Presentation for OUR KIDS Professional Development Seminars, Storm Lake, IA.

*Family Literacy* (2009, May). Invited presentation for volunteers, Lincoln Literacy Council, Lincoln, NE.

*Advice for Future Faculty* (2009, April). Invited presenter in a panel discussion for graduate students, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE.

*Elementary writing instruction for English language learners.* (2008, July). Presentation for OUR KIDS Professional Development Seminars, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA.

*Working with ESL students.* (2007, October). Presentation for Education Symposium, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS.

*Vocabulary instruction for English language learners.* (2007, August). Presentation for OUR KIDS Professional Development Seminars, Simpson College, Indianola, IA.

*Adult ESL education.* (2007, July). Workshop for ESL Instructors, Kansas Board of Regents, Salina, KS.

*Vocabulary instruction for English language learners.* (2006, August). Presentation for OUR KIDS Professional Development Seminars, Iowa State University, Ames, IA.

*Diversity in the classroom.* (2005, October). Invited presentation for pre-service teachers, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS.

*Guided reading and ELL students.* (2005, June). Invited presentation for reading teachers, Doane University, Omaha, NE.

*English as a second language.* (2005, April). Invited presentation for pre-service teachers, Mount Mercy College, Cedar Rapids, IA.

### **GRANTS: FUNDED**

Project Title: A View of Family Literacy in South Korean Homes

Role: Primary Investigator

CEHS International Seed Grant Program, University of Nebraska-Lincoln-\$5,850.00

Project Title: A Family Literacy Program for English Language Learning Families

Role: Primary Investigator

Layman Award, University of Nebraska-Lincoln-\$9,399.00

Project Title: Faculty Leadership in Writing Institute

Role: Collaborator

Kelly II Grant, University of Nebraska-Lincoln-\$46,542.00

### **GRANTS: UNFUNDED PROJECTS**

Project Title: Digital Storytelling with English Learning Families

Role: Co-Primary Investigator

Women Investing in Nebraska, University of Nebraska-Lincoln-\$75,000

Project Title: Digital Storytelling with English Learning Families

Role: Primary Investigator

Layman Award, University of Nebraska-Lincoln-\$20,000

Project Title: Educating Graduate Level Elementary Pre-Service Teachers

Role: Secondary Investigator

U.S. Department of Education-\$749,270

Project Title: Storybuilding with Wordless Picture Books on Vocabulary for Children who are CLD

Role: Primary Investigator

National Institutes of Health (Parent R03)-\$150,000

Project Title: Developing Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Children's Vocabulary through Parental Storytelling with Wordless Picture Books

Role: Primary Investigator

Changing Faces of America's Children-Young Scholar Program, Foundation for Child Development-\$149,982

### **EXPERT INSTRUCTIONAL DEMONSTRATIONS**

**Location:** Shawnee Mission Public School District, Shawnee Mission, Kansas, October 2007

**Experience:** (a) demonstrated for teachers how to implement best practices with targeted subgroups in the classroom setting, and (b) provided insights into the alignment of each of the strategies demonstrated with teacher's existing curriculum and state standards.

**Location:** Reading School District, Berks County, Reading, Pennsylvania, throughout the 2006-2007 school year

**Experience:** (a) demonstrated for teachers how to implement best practices with targeted subgroups in the classroom setting, (b) provided insights into the alignment of each of the strategies learned with teacher's existing curriculum and state standards, and (c) provided feedback for teachers on how to best implement the strategy to fit individual teaching styles.

## **INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Amsterdam, Netherlands	2014 (May) Co-supervised study aboard program for 10 undergraduate students.
Amsterdam, Netherlands	2013 (May) Invited co-presentation for Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, VU University
Chuncheon & Seoul, South Korea	2012 (June-July) Research study involving family literacy practices in South Korean homes.
Chihuahua, Chihuahua	2008 (June-July) Supervised study aboard program for 15 undergraduate students.
Patzcuaro, Michoacan	2005 (June) Toured public schools in Mexico with school administrators from Iowa.

## **ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### **National**

2014	Manuscript Reviewer for Journal of Early Childhood Literacy (1 manuscript)
2013-2014	American Educational Research Association <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reviewer of conference proposals</li></ul>
2012-present	Literacy Reading Association Field Council member for Nebraska
2012-2013	Manuscript Reviewer for TESOL Journal (3 manuscripts)
2012-2013	Manuscript Reviewer for Journal of Mixed Methods Research (2 manuscripts)
2011	Book Reviewer for Pearson Publishing
2011	Literacy Research Association <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reviewer of conference proposals</li></ul>
2010	American Educational Research Association-AERA-NAed DocStudy Participant
2008-09	American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Research Across Discipline Committee Member



## **State and Local**

- 2010 ELL & Bilingual AD Hoc Committee, Nebraska Department of Education
- 2008-present Nebraska Early Childhood Leadership Committee
- 2008-present Nebraska Reading First Leadership Committee
- 2006 KATESOL Spring Conference Committee, Kansas
- 2003-2005 State of Iowa Every Child Reads: Excellence in Teaching and Learning Professional Development Materials Work Team, developed Reading First Modules for ELL students
- 2003-2005 Iowa State-wide Reading Team (SWRT)
- 2002-2005 State of Iowa ELL Assessment Committee

## **University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

- 2013-present TLTE Curriculum Committee
- 2013-present MAet Selective Admission Graduate Committee
- 2013 Graduate AdHoc Areas of Emphasis Committee
- 2013-present Tech Sig Group
- 2013-present CEHS Scholarship Committee
- 2013 Graduate Committee
- 2012-present Graduate AdHoc MA+ Intial Certification Committee
- 2012 TEAC 351 Revision Committee
- 2011-present Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate (CPED) Faculty Member
- 2011-2012 College of Education & Human Sciences Search Committee Member
- 2011-2012 College of Education & Human Sciences Scholarship Committee Member
- 2011-2012 Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education Advisory Committee Member
- 2011-2012 Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education Scholarship Committee Chair
- 2009-2012 Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education Scholarship Committee Member
- 2011-2012 Elementary Teacher Education Program Recruiting/Selective Admissions Subcommittee member
- 2009-2011 Masters in Elementary Teaching Organization Committee Member
- 2008-present College of Education & Human Sciences Early Children Endorsement Committee
- 2008-present Elementary Teacher Education Program Faculty Member
- 2008-present Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education Graduate Faculty Member
- 2008-2012 Immigrant Families Research Interest Group Committee Member
- 2008-present Language, Literacy & Culture Faculty Program Member
- 2008-2010 Latino Research Initiative Committee Member
- 2008-2010 Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education Selective Admission for Graduate School Committee Member

## **SERVICE & CITIZENSHIP**

- 2013 Storytelling Presentation for NET News, Nebraska Public Radio
- 2008-2010 Family Literacy Program for Everett Elementary School, Lincoln, Nebraska
  - Developed a family literacy program for Latino English language learning families

## **FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS & AWARDS**

2011 Distinguished Teaching Award, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
2009 Research Development Fellows Program, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
2009 Scholarly Enhancement Program, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
2009 Children, Youth, Families and Schools Research Affiliate  
2008 College of Education Outstanding Graduate Student Nominee, Kansas State University