

Bakersville, NC 28705

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Philosophy

As an energetic and innovative person, I enjoy the challenge of coaching students to competency development and deep learning through inquiry, careful course planning, and integration of current research into course learning objectives.

Experience

August 2016- Current
Lees-McRae College

Director of Teacher Education
Teacher Education Department

Responsibilities include: Leading the department in creation of courses for new special education program, supervising full time and adjunct faculty in the creation and delivery of courses in elementary teacher education, theatre arts education, and special education, supervision of student teachers, committee participation and co-chairing as requested by LMC Provost.

August 2014- Current
Lees-McRae College

Associate Professor
Elementary Education

Responsibilities include: Creating face-to-face and online courses and providing instruction for Undergraduate degree students in the areas of: Reading and Social Studies methods, teaching Diverse Learners, and Children's Literature, advising students in the undergraduate Teacher Education Programs, Providing Technical assistance and resources to educators and administrators in local school systems focusing on Instructional programs, and serving on college administration committees.

May 2009- Current
Western Carolina University

Adjunct Professor
Jamaica Teacher Education Program

Responsibilities include: Developing courses and providing instruction for undergraduate students in Jamaica in the areas of: Early Childhood/Birth-Kindergarten programs, Assessment of students with Exceptional Needs, Inclusive Education, Diversity in Education, and Integrated Instructional Methodology.

December 1998- August 2014
RAE Educational Services, Inc.

Educational Consultant and
SES Tutoring Director
Preschool-Adult Education

Educational Consultant responsibilities: Designing and implementing professional development programs for schools systems, preschool centers, and private agencies which provide educational services for children; Assessing the needs of individuals and groups of students and matching their needs to growth-producing methodologies; Creating in partnership Inclusive programs for children

of all ages; Providing training in communication skills for students with autism and those with other developmental disabilities who are also nonverbal; In Positive Behavior Supports and Functional Behavior Assessments, Emergent Literacy and Numeracy Skills, and Skilled Test taking on High Stakes Tests. Creating programs to facilitate positive collaborative relationships between parents, school personnel, and community members.

Supplemental Educational Services Tutoring Director responsibilities: Trained tutors for Title I schools, coordinated tutoring services for more than 500 students over a 3 year period (renewed each year), and created pre and post tests to document tutoring progress, analyzed data to write Individual Tutoring Plans for each student and to alter plans as needed to ensure progress.

August 2002-May 2009 **Assistant Professor**
Western Carolina University **Special Education**

Responsibilities included: Creating face-to-face and online courses and providing instruction for Undergraduate and Master's degree students in the areas of: Assessment, Disability eligibility and characteristics, Instructional Methodology, and Supervising Internship I and Internship II students, advising students in the MAT and MA.Ed. Teacher Education Programs, Providing Technical assistance and resources to educators and administrators in local school systems focusing on Instructional programs, Adaptations and Modifications for students with IEPs.

August 2001- July 2002 **Visiting Assistant Professor**
Western Carolina University **Birth-Kindergarten Teacher Education**

Responsibilities included: Creating online and face-to-face courses and providing instruction for Undergraduate and Master's degree students in the areas of: Assessment of students Birth - Age 10, Disability eligibility and characteristics, and Instructional methodology; Supervising Internship I and Internship II students, Providing technical assistance and resources to preschools and child care agencies focusing on instructional programs, administrative expertise, and Adaptations and Modifications for students with Special Needs and/ or who are English Language Learners.

August 2000 — August 2001 **Educational Consultant, (PT)**
LRE for LIFE Program, UT-Knoxville, TN

Responsibilities included: Providing on-site technical assistance in the areas of Autism, Work Based Learning and Community Based Vocational Experiences at the high school level for individuals with severe/profound disabilities; co-facilitating a Positive Behavior Support team for a high school student with autism; facilitating the design and implementation of a balanced reading program for a student with learning disabilities in the 5th grade; preparing materials for and conducting a 5-day transition academy, and 1 and 2 day academies for teachers and administrators

Fall 2000 — August 2001 **Adjunct Instructor,**
Western Carolina University, **Special Education**

Responsibilities included: Preparing materials and facilitating classes for Special Education 240: Introduction to Special Education and SPED 310: Evaluation of the Exceptional Child.

1996 — December 1998 **Special Education Coordinator,
Maury County Schools, Columbia TN**

Responsibilities included: Facilitating formation of new classes for preschool children with special needs and for students with severe behavior challenges at the elementary, middle, and high school levels; training teachers in the areas of classroom management, behavior modification, positive behavior support, therapeutic crisis intervention, instructional and environmental modifications, and how to teach early communication skills, providing ongoing assistance to administrators in the areas of functional behavior assessments and positive behavior supports, and designing and facilitating interagency transition services for students moving from Birth-2 services to services within the public school system.

1992 — 1996 **Special Education Teacher,
Maury County Schools, Columbia, TN**

Responsibilities included: Initiating an inclusion program at J.E. Woodard Elementary School focusing on children with severe and profound disabilities; facilitating formation of an inclusion and school restructuring leadership team at Woodard Elementary; teaching children with severe and profound disabilities with an emphasis on inclusion in general education classrooms for two years, and teaching children with a variety of disabilities within a resource setting for two years.

1990-1992 **Special Education Teacher,
Metropolitan-Davidson County Schools, Nashville, TN**

Responsibilities included: Creating a class at Una Elementary School for children ages 3 through 12 with multiple disabilities; facilitating student acquisition of communication, cognitive, self-help and motor skills; facilitating a peer tutoring and friendship program between students with and without disabilities; facilitating formation of positive relationships between students with multiple disabilities, their parents, and faculty and staff at Una Elementary.

1989-1990 **Special Education Preschool Teacher,
Susan Gray School at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN**

Responsibilities included: Designing early intervention programs for children with a variety of disabilities; participating in research-practice studies through Vanderbilt University; facilitating parent support systems within the school and the community; and being a liaison for parents as they prepared to enroll their children in the public school system.

1982-1989 **Special Education Teacher,
Buncombe County Schools, Asheville, NC**

Responsibilities included: Initiating and implementing a program at Swannanoa

Middle School for children with severe emotional and behavioral challenges and for students with a cognitive range from moderate intellectual disabilities to above average cognitive ability; collaborating with 7th and 8th grade teachers to include students from this class in general education classes.

Education

**Jan.1998-Dec. 2002 Ed.D. in Educational Administration
Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN**

**1994-1996 M.Ed. in Preschool Special Education,
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN**

**1992, 1993: Summers Summer Institutes on Visual
Impairments Tennessee State University at Murfreesboro
(MTSU)
Murfreesboro, TN**

**1986-1987 A Certification in Emotional Disturbances
North Carolina State Department of Education**
Seminar courses provided by the State Department of Education to gain licensure in ED.

**1984-1986 A Certification in Learning Disabilities
Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC**

**1978-1982 B.S. in Special Education,
Presbyterian College, Clinton, SC**

**1992- August 2001 Ongoing training sponsored by the LRE for
LIFE program at UT-Knoxville in the areas of instructional modifications,
inclusionary best practices, teaming and collaboration strategies, therapeutic crisis
intervention, and positive behavior support**

N. C. License/ Certification

Birth through Kindergarten
Mentally Handicapped (K-12)
Behavior/Emotionally Handicapped (K-12)
Learning Disabled (K-12)
Elementary Education (K-6)
Intermediate Grades (4-6)
Middle Grades Language Arts (6-9)
Middle Grades Mathematics
Special Education: General Curriculum

Professional Affiliations

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
Alpha Delta Kappa Teacher's sorority (ADK)
North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA)
Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD)
President's Committee for Community-School Partnerships
Phi Beta Delta International Honor Society

Programs Sponsored **Great Britain: Special Topics Course** **Summer 2002**
Western Carolina University
Designed and sponsored a course to learn about special education services and preschool services in Great Britain. Accompanied nine students from the Special Education Department and the Birth – Kindergarten Department on a 16 day tour of schools in London. Great Britain.

STEP Centre, Jamaica **Spring, Fall 2013**
Creating an instructional program for developing cognitive, communication, and literacy skills for students with severe/multiple disabilities in the STEP program in Kingston Jamaica. Designing staff training modules for the director, teachers, and paraprofessionals focusing on evidence based strategies for teaching. Facilitating parent focus groups to assist in designing a parent support and training program to assist parents in integrating their child with disabilities into family and community based activities.

Courses Taught:

Undergraduate Literature for Elementary School Children
Creating and Managing the Classroom Environment for Diverse Learners
Beginning Literacy & Social Studies Strategies
English Language Arts and Social Studies Methods for Elementary School
Introduction to Birth-Kindergarten
Environments for Young Children
Adult-Child Interaction
Adaptations and Modifications for Young Children with Disabilities
Assessment of the Young Child
Interagency Planning
The Exceptional Child
Introduction to Cognitive Disabilities
Introduction to Learning Disabilities
Introduction to Behavior Disabilities
Evaluation of Exceptional Children
Developing Individual Education Plans for Students w/Disabilities
Teaching Methods for Students with Cognitive Disabilities
Teaching Methods for Students with Learning Disabilities
Teaching Elementary Students with Learning Problems
Teaching Adolescent Students with Learning Problems

Graduate Appraisal of Children with Exceptional Needs
Teaching Methods for Individuals with Intellectual/Cognitive Disabilities
Education in a Diverse Society
Programs for Students with Moderate Cognitive Disabilities
Teaching Students with Mild/Moderate Cognitive Disabilities
Internship I and Internship II Supervision

Presentations and Publications

National, International, Regional Conferences:

Vesely, P. (2000). *Emergent Literacy for Students with Severe Disabilities*, International TASH Conference, Miami, FL

Vesely, P. (2001). *How Do You Know that What. You Taught is What They Learned: Using Ongoing Assessment to Check Student Learning*. National Middle School Conference, Columbus, OH.

Vesely, P. (2001) *East Tennessee Regional Transition Academy*. June 12-15, Knoxville, TN

Sherlock, J. & Vesely, P. (February, 2005). *Pedagogical Tools to Assist Students in Becoming Dynamic, Independent Thinkers*. Lilly South Conference.

Refereed Conferences/Presentations:

Bloom, L., Dole, S., & Vesely, P. (2007). *On becoming a reflective practitioner*. WCU SoTL Faire presentation.

Vesely, P. & Gryder, N. (March, 2007). *Improving performance of students struggling with reading*. Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps Conference, XI.

Vesely, P. & Gryder, N. (April 2006, 2005). *How do you know that what you taught is what they learned: Making on-going assessment practical, NOT painful*. Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps Conference IX and X.

Vesely, P. & Gryder, N. (April 2006). *Improving reading comprehension performance for All students: Using the Integrated Thinking Process*. Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps Conference X.

Vesely, P. & Gryder, N. (April, 2005). *Using the integrated thinking process to improve writing performance for students*. Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps Conference IX.

Vesely, P. & Gryder, N. (April, 2005). *Using the integrated thinking process to improve student performance*. Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps Conference IX.

Vesely, P. & Gryder, N. (March, 2005). *How do you know that what you taught is what they learned: Making on-going assessment practical, NOT painful..* North Carolina Middle School Conference.

Vesely, P. & Gryder, N. (March, 2005). *Improving reading and math performance for ALL students: Using practical strategies that really work*. North Carolina Middle School Conference.

Vesely, P. & Gryder, N. (February, 2005). *Using the Integrated Thinking Process to Improve Student Performance*. Title I Director's Conference.

Vesely, P. (2003) *Providing positive behavior supports for students in the general education classroom*. North Carolina Association of Teacher Assistants conference, Raleigh, NC.

Vesely, P. (2001) *How do you know that what you taught is what they learned: Using ongoing assessment to check student learning*. National Middle School Conference, Columbus, OH.

Vesely, P. (2001) *Emergent literacy for students with severe disabilities*. The Joint Disabilities Conference, Nashville, TN.

Vesely, P. (1999) *Functional behavior assessments - IDEA '97 and regular classroom teachers*. 24th Annual Conference of the North Carolina Middle School Association, Raleigh, NC.

Hadley, P.V. (1999) *Teachers as agents of change and hope: Functional behavior analysis and positive behavior supports*. Alabama State Teacher's Conference, Mobile, AL.

Hadley, P.V. & Wanamaker, K.F (1999) *From fear to friendship: Initiating full inclusion in an elementary school classroom*, Alabama State Teacher's Conference, Mobile, AL.

Non-refereed Conferences/ Presentations:

Vesely, P. (2006). *Structuring the classroom environment for students with autism*. A 1 day workshop for South Toe River Elementary and Micaville Elementary Schools, Yancey County, NC.

Vesely, P. (2004). *Communication systems for students with autism: A 2-day workshop* . Camden County Schools, Camden NC

Vesely, P. (2003) *Using diagnostic information for instructional planning*. Teacher Support Program Key Conference. Asheville, NC

Vesely, P. & Gryder, N. (2003). *Successful techniques for working with students who are at-risk*. Currituck County Schools, Currituck, NC

Vesely, P. (2001). *Improving student performance in reading comprehension*. 2-day workshop, Rutherford County Schools. Rutherford, NC

Vesely, P. (2001). *Learning disabilities as processing disorders: Implications for educators*. 2-day workshop for Buncombe County Schools. Asheville, NC

Vesely, P. (2001). *Working with students with autism*. 2-day workshop. Camden County Schools, Camden, NC

Publications (Refereed and Non-refereed)

Vesely, P. & Gryder, N. (Spring, 2008). Info Imaging or Definition-Sentence Writing? *Academic Exchange Quarterly*, 12(1), 188-193.

Vesely, P. J., & Gryder, N. L. (2009). Word of the Day Improves and Redirects Student Attention while Supporting Vocabulary Development. *Intervention in School and Clinic*, 44(5), 282-287.

Vesely, P., Bloom, L. & Sherlock, J. (2007). Key Elements of Building Community: Comparing Faculty and Student Perceptions. *Journal of Online Learning and Teaching*, 3(3), 234-246.

Vesely, P. & Gryder, N. (Summer, 2007). Teaching Visual Imagery for Vocabulary Learning. *Academic Exchange Quarterly*, 11(2), 51-55.

Vesely, P. & Sherlock, J. (Spring, 2006). Pedagogical Tools to Develop Critical Thinking *Academic Exchange Quarterly*, 9(4), 155-160.

Vesely, P. (2002). A Comparison of Info Imaging and Traditional Reading Comprehension Instruction. Unpublished dissertation, Nashville, TN: Tennessee State University.

- Vesely, P. & Wanamaker, K. (March 2001). Curiosity- the Superhighway to Learning. *Follett Software Company*.
- Buttorworth, J.R., Brown, M.A., Stooksbury, J.L, Beasley, J.L., Christian, M. E., Keel, S. L., & Vesely, P.J. (May 2001). Transition from School to Work: Navigating the Transition Maze. *Knoxville, TN: LRE for LIFE*.

Grants

Teacher Support Network Research Grant (2006-2008). External grant; fully funded. Funding provided creation, administration, and synthesis of an online teacher support survey and 6 regionally located focus groups. The purpose of this grant was to determine teacher's needs for an online teacher support network in North Carolina.

Adventure of American Mind Grant (2007-2008). Internal grant; fully funded. Funding provided training and materials for using primary sources from the Library of Congress materials in planning lessons. My focus was preparation of demonstration lessons for the Education in a Diverse Society course.

Assessment Grant, Internal (2006-2007). Internal grant; Amount requested: \$2,075.00 to conduct research focusing on assessing the effectiveness of action research projects used in special education graduate courses. The grant was partially funded.

Tablet PC Grant and pilot study (2006-2007). Internal grant, fully funded. Grant provided a tablet PC and training to use the laptop and software for instructional provision. The focus of my project was to demonstrate effective instructional interventions for reading and math using highlighting and graphic organizers.

Instructional Improvement Grant (2005-2006). Internal grant; Funding request: \$500 and was fully funded. Focus was to create and upload common assignments into TaskStream electronic portfolio for SPED 620: Education in Diverse Society course.

Research Interests

Learning Strategies for Inclusive Environments

- Program development and evaluation in preschools and early child development programs
- Quality/ Existence of Transition Services for Birth-Kindergarten students
- The use of visual imagery to improve reading comprehension
- Design and Implementation of Curriculum Based Measurements to Assess Student Learning
- The use of technology to improve learning outcomes for students with disabilities
- Learning Strategies which support Students at risk, ESL students, and students with disabilities
- Using daily assessment information in designing appropriate modifications/ adaptations for student's with disabilities

Supporting Positive Learning Communities

- Community building in online courses
- Supporting and developing creative and critical thinking in higher education
- Research to Practice barriers and needed supports

Highlighted

Areas of Service:

- September 2014-Current NC- AACTE Steering Committee, North Carolina. Sub-Committee For NC Student Teacher of the Year Award.
- January 2015-Current Online Registration Committee, Co-Chairperson, Lees-Mc-Rae College
- May 2015-Current Strategic Planning Committee, College level, Lees-McRae College
- August 2014-Current **Magic Memory Therapeutic Horse Riding Club**. Marion, NC. Working with elementary-aged children with disabilities teaching horse riding skills, motor skills, cognitive and language skills within a therapeutic/ educational horse riding program.
- Spring 2013-Current **Volunteer: Mustard Seed Community**, Jamaica, West Indies: Working with children ages 2-15 in HIV/AIDS program, Working with students in Severe/Profound disability program
- 2012- May 2014 Doctoral dissertation committee member for student in Sociology program at UT-Knoxville
- Fall 2006 Jamaica Program Retreat: Faculty Handbook Committee
- 2004-2008 Crosswalks Training Grant Member (BK program)
- 2001-2008 Birth-Kindergarten Council, WCU
- 2004-Sum.2006 Birth-Kindergarten Council Search Committee Member
- 2003-2004 Birth-Kindergarten Council Facilitator
- 2003-2004 Evaluation of Administrator's Committee, Department Chair
- 2007-2008 Special Education Search Committee member
- August 2007 Co-created and Facilitated First Adjunct Faculty Retreat for Special Education Adjunct Instructors (1 day event)
- Fall 2006-2009 NCATE/DPI Special Education Program committee
- Fall 2006-2009 Co-coordinator for Master's level general curriculum license program
- 2003-2004 Textbook Coordinator for Full-time and Adjunct Special Education Faculty Program Coordinator: Isothermal & Blue Ridge Community Colleges 2 + 2 program
- North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Team member for NCATE/DPI re-accreditation at North Carolina Central University in Raleigh. (6 day event)