

Mary Ellen L. Simmons, MSW, Ed.D

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EDUCATION

Doctoral of Education, Leadership and Policy Studies – UVM

Burlington, VT

Masters of Social Work – Adelphi University

Garden City, NY

BS Business Administration, Marketing – Marist College

Poughkeepsie, NY

Associates in Humanities - Dutchess Community College

Poughkeepsie, NY

CERTIFICATIONS

- Kindergarten through Sixth Grade Teacher Licensure for Vermont Schools
- Mathematics Teaching Licensure for Middle Levels 5-9
- 7-12 Mathematics Teaching Licensure
- Online Teaching Certification
- Director of Curriculum
- Superintendent of Schools

RESEARCH

- Completed and ongoing research on the connection between literacy skills and mathematics achievement from elementary school through middle school.
- Initiated research based on a predictive model of academic success for students at Norwich University.

WORK EXPERIENCES IN EDUCATION

Lecturer, Student Teacher Supervisor

Jan 2022 – Present

UVM, Burlington, VT

- Taught education courses in early childhood and elementary education programs
- Provided field supervision for undergraduate and graduate level pre-service teachers in both elementary and middle levels.
- Gave constructive feedback and development support for students in school placements.
- Connected with mentor teachers in the school systems to support positive working relationships.
- Worked closely with seminar courses to support the portfolio process for students.
- Examined and developed the equity work students were using in their student teaching experience.

Director of Curriculum

Nov 2020 – December 2021

Barre Union Unified School District, Barre VT

- Provided leadership in multiple operations of the school systems.
- Facilitated recruitment and procedures for retention of educators.
- Developed curriculum, instruction and assessment framework for the district.
- Wrote grants and fiscally coordinated educational resources and priorities.
- Started the equity plan for the district involving anti-racism policy, procedure and professional development.
- Collaborated with the Agency of Education to assist in license committee for license and endorsements.

Director of Curriculum/Curriculum Coordinator

July 2016 –Nov 2020

White River Valley Supervisory Union, Royalton, VT

- Orchestrated professional development opportunities for faculty and staff.
- Taught pedagogical practices to teachers through graduate level college credits.
- Implemented cohesive aligned curriculum in all subjects PreK – graduation.

- Worked closely with the Tarrant Institute to implement middle level practices into the newly merged middle schools (three separate middle schools within one school system).
- Created collaborative learning environments for teachers to learn from each other.
- Developed a proficiency based learning and assessment framework for PK - graduation.
- Brought shared facilitation practices to the educators to broaden the leadership capacity amongst teachers.
- Initiated an equity plan starting with school level policy focused on anti-racism.
- Supported equity based practices in the classroom through professional development.

Curriculum Leader

Aug 2012 - 2016

U32 Middle and Senior High School, Montpelier, VT

- Supervised and coordinated student teachers and mentor teachers for the school.
- Provided leadership in the ongoing development, assessment and improvement of the instructional program for faculty development for the school.
- Created curriculum for new courses including a study skills course to promote student agency and academic success.
- Evaluated the strengths and weaknesses of curriculum, programs and instructional materials together in collaboration with teachers and administrators.
- Promoted instructional strategies that address issues of diversity and equity in the classroom.
- Facilitated and implemented the development of professional learning opportunities for faculty, staff and Department Heads.
- Utilized and taught *Understanding by Design*, UbD and *Universal Design for Learning*, UDL, format when documenting lessons and units in line with the Common Core State Standards and proficiency based priorities.
- Planned and implemented the new teacher orientation and provided ongoing support.
- Co-facilitated a professional development series based on Jo Boaler's mindset work.
- Taught as an online educator multiple years.
- Trained in Restorative Practices that resulted in improved school climate.

Academic Advisor

2011 - 2012

Goddard College, Plainfield, VT

- Advised preservice graduate level teachers working towards teacher licensure.
- Taught workshops on multiple educational topics at the summer residency.
- Supported the process of a digital portfolio to capture learning and to meet the requirements for Vermont teacher licensure.
- Created personalized learning plans for each student to meet the needs of the licensure related to their personal interests and passions.

Mathematics Network Leader

2007-2011

Vermont Agency of Education, Barre, VT

- Facilitated professional development with educators across the state.
- Created syllabus of pedagogical content for delivery to educators.
- Consulted for implementation of the Vermont Common Core State Standards.

Mathematics for Meaning

2009

University of Vermont, Burlington, VT

- Taught undergraduate level course for pre-service elementary educators.
- Developed syllabus and implemented activities to model mathematical pedagogy in the elementary education classroom.
- Researched reference materials to supplement mathematical pedagogy content.
- Integrated portfolio work for the teacher candidate into the learning objectives of the course.
- Utilized Task Stream as a technology tool to incorporate course objectives in electronic portfolio for teacher licensure.

Adolescent Learning and Development

2007

University of Vermont, Burlington, VT

- Co-taught graduate level course for pre-service educators.

- Assisted in the development of course syllabus and created environments for students to apply learning.
- Modeled pedagogy necessary for successful learning objectives in the classroom.
- Demonstrated knowledge of human development from young adolescent to adult.

Math Teacher/Interventionist

Jan 2004 - 2016

U32 School, Montpelier, VT

- Taught as a middle level educator on a team of cross discipline contents.
- Co-taught a section of middle level mathematics with a special educator.
- Utilized multiple approaches of delivery to improve students' understandings.
- Integrated technology into classroom activities for the delivery of content.
- Developed and modified existing curriculum for identified struggling learners.
- Implemented project based assessments as evidence of academic achievement.
- Instituted service learning opportunities to use mathematics to enhance student learning and to connect students to community partners.
- Advised 10 – 12 middle level/high school students annually as teacher advisor.
- Acted as strong proponent of equity in the educational system.
- Mentored multiple new teachers.
- Collaborated with and supervised student teachers in my middle level classroom.
- Served as middle level department head co-chair multiple years.

Long Term Substitute Teacher and Student Teacher

Jan-Dec, 2003

Roxbury Village School, Roxbury, VT

- Developed and assessed literacy skills to emerging readers.
- Integrated language and literature, science, mathematics, and social studies.
- Taught in multi-aged elementary school classrooms with all levels K-6, primarily 3 - 4.
- Innovated learning opportunities for low socioeconomic students using collaboration with community partners.
- Worked in connection with the special educator to provide optimum learning opportunities for learners with extra needs.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Barre Program Coordinator

1999-2002

The Family Center of Washington County, Barre, VT

- Coordinated multiple Early Childhood programs.
- Supervised staff of eight in addition to volunteer personnel.
- Coordinated and increased funding resources for the programs I served.

Home Visitor and Classroom Provider

1998-1999

CVCAC, Head Start, Barre, VT

- Assessed children's social, emotional, and educational needs.
- Planned and provided weekly activities for child and family to address goals as identified in assessments.
- Facilitated learning for low-income families with children.
- Experienced working with special needs early education population.

Investment Specialist

1997-1998

Northgroup Investment Services, and MDS Securities, Inc., Montpelier, VT

- Presented investment seminars to the public.
- Organized work schedule and utilized effective time management skills.

Preschool Play Based Therapeutic Social Worker

1992-1993

St Francis Preschool for Students with Language Needs, Poughkeepsie, NY

- Provided therapeutic play based therapy for preschool students
- Worked in inner city school to support social emotional learning of preschool age students.
- Taught parents developmentally appropriate discipline techniques.
- Integrated the students into the classroom in collaboration with speech pathologist and classroom teachers

- Advocate for racially diverse student population in requesting supports for families.

Functional Manager/Registered Representative

1985-1997

Prudential Financial Services, Montpelier, VT and Poughkeepsie, NY

- Supervised and trained registered representatives and clerical staff.
- Motivated staff to increase performance.
- Coordinated and taught multiple informational workshops.
- Explained financial fundamentals to the public.
- Maintained relationships with client base.
- Instructed adults on the use of computer software programs.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Experienced in trauma informed practices in teaching and learning.
- Immersed in equitable practices to implement in educational settings.
- Trained in adult facilitation skills through the School Reform Initiative.
- Participated in multiple grant writing training and opportunities.
- Completed Waddington Educational Leadership training part one and part two.

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

- Voice for low income students and first generation college students
- Traveler and invested learner of global cultures and international studies
- Active in biking, hiking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing and contra dancing