

Michael Patrick O'Connor
Augusta State University
Augusta, Georgia 30904
(706) 667-4505
moconno2@aug.edu

Education

2006 Ph.D., Special Education, University of Kansas
2002 M.Ed., Louisiana State University-Shreveport
1993 B.A., Special Education and Secondary English Education, Louisiana State University-Shreveport

Professional Experience

2006- present Assistant Professor of Special Education, Augusta State University
2005- 2006 Graduate Research Assistant, KU Online TransCert Program, Transition Coalition, University of Kansas
2002- 2005 Graduate Research Assistant, Institute for Educational Research and Public Service, University of Kansas
1996- 2002 Special Education Teacher, grades 6-12, Cotton Valley High School, Cotton Valley, Louisiana
1994-1996 Secondary English Teacher, Mansfield High School, Mansfield, Louisiana
1993-1994 Secondary Resource Room Teacher, Caddo Oaks Hospital, Shreveport, Louisiana

Awards and Scholarships

2009 College of Education Faculty Research Award, Augusta State University
2003 Grace M. Phinney School of Education Scholarship, University of Kansas
2002 University of Kansas, Interprofessional Transition Education for High Incidence Disabilities Personnel Preparation Project Scholarship
2002 University of Kansas, Transition Leadership Personnel Preparation Program Scholarship
2002 Outstanding Master of Education Student, Louisiana State University-Shreveport

Professional Organizations

Council for Exceptional Children
Teacher Education Division
Division on Career Development and Transition
American Academy of Special Education Professionals
National Service-Learning Partnership
Georgia Educational Research Association
Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
Pi Lambda Theta
Beta Club sponsor, Cotton Valley High School (1996-2002)

Conference Presentations

International

- O'Connor, M. (2004). *Service-Learning with At-Risk Kids: A Case Study of an Alternative High School*. International Consortium for Experiential Education Joint Conference 2004, Miami.
- O'Connor, M. (2003). *Service-learning as a transition strategy*. CEC-DCDT International Conference, Roanoke.

National

- O'Connor, M. (2008). *Students with Learning Disabilities in College: An Emerging Success Story*. 27th Annual Conference on the First-Year Experience, San Francisco.
- O'Connor, M. (2007). *Increasing Student Engagement Through the Use of Differentiated Instruction and Service-Learning*. 1st Annual Civic Learning Conference, Coastal Carolina University, Conway, South Carolina.
- O'Connor, M. (2004). *Teacher Perceptions of Service-Learning at an Alternative High School*. 15th Annual National Service-Learning Conference, Orlando.

State

- O'Connor, M. (2008). *When Failure is Not an Option: Response to Intervention in K-12 Schools*. 33rd Annual Meeting of the Georgia Educational Research Association, Savannah.
- O'Connor, M., & O'Connor, R. (2007). *Co-Teaching in an Urban Middle School Mathematics Classroom: A Case Study*. 32nd Annual Meeting of the Georgia Educational Research Association, Savannah.
- O'Connor, M. (2006). *A Qualitative Study of the Use of Service-Learning with Students At-Risk Due to Behavior Problems*. 31st Annual Meeting of the Georgia Educational Research Association Conference, Savannah.
- O'Connor, M. (2003). *Transition Outcomes: Transforming the IEP Process for Success*. 23rd Louisiana Superconference on Special Education, Baton Rouge.

Regional

- O'Connor, M. (2009). *Advocacy and Policy Change: Service-Learning in a Graduate-Level Special Education Course*. Southeast Regional Association for Experiential Education Conference, Hampton, Georgia.

Local

- O'Connor, M. (2007). *Strategies for Successful Collaborative Teaching*. Impacting Student Learning Partner School Conference, Augusta State University.
- O'Connor, M. (2005). *Transition, Disability, and Service-Learning*. Kansas University Professionals for Disabilities 1st Annual Conference, University of Kansas.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- O'Connor, M.P. (2009). Service works! Promoting transition success for students with disabilities through participation in service-learning. *Teaching Exceptional Children*, 41(6), 12-17.
- O'Connor, M.P., Liss, J.M., & Thompson, A. (in press). *When failure is no longer an option: Response to intervention in today's schools*. In Deering, T. (Ed.). Good news from America's schools. Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall Hunt.
- O'Connor, M.P. (2008). A qualitative study of students with behavioral problems participating in service-learning. *Journal of the American Association of Special Education Professionals (JAASEP)*, Fall 2008. Online journal, accessed at www.jaasep.org
- O'Connor, M.P. (2008). *Inclusion and Collaborative Teaching: Changing signposts in the evolution of special education policy and practice*. In Deering, T.E., (Ed.), *Becoming a teacher: Thinking like a professional*. Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall Hunt.
- O'Connor, M.P., Huette, C., & Elder, D. (2007). Making connections: The role of service-learning in building social capital and education for the 21st century. *Community Education Journal*, 30(4), 12-16.

Grant Development

Elliot, M.P., O'Connor, M., & Crawford, G. (2002). *Training Trainers to Individualize Professional Development for Alternatively Certified Teachers in the Kansas City Kansas Public Schools*. Selected by the Kansas Board of Regents as a model grant proposal. Composed all sections except Personnel and Budget sections. Funded for \$50,000 in May, 2003.

Grant Review

- Served as Panel Member, read and scored grants for the Kansas After-School Enrichment Grants. July, 2005.
- Served as Panel Manager, read and scored grants for the 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) Kansas state grant competition. May, 2004.

Grant Evaluation

- Conducted focus groups with pre-school teachers, test administrators, pre-school administrators, and parents with the Early Reading First program in Junction City, Kansas, and prepared a qualitative summary of the results. Also wrote and presented qualitative assessments based on observations and informal interviews with the staff of this program. September-November 2005.
- Conducted focus groups and interviews, analyzed and reported the findings for the Smaller Learning Communities grant in Junction City, Kansas. 2002-2005.
- Wrote *Qualitative Evaluation Report for the Smaller Learning*

- Communities Grant in Junction City, Kansas.* 2003-2004.
- Conducted annual focus groups and survey administration for 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) programs in elementary and middle schools in Wichita, Junction City, and Lawrence, Kansas. Compiled and reported quantitative and qualitative data from these focus groups and surveys. 2002-2004.
 - Wrote *Qualitative Evaluation Report for the Smaller Learning Communities Grant in Junction City, Kansas.* 2002-2003.
 - Co-wrote, with Nancy Harper, Ph.D., the *2002 Annual Performance Report for the Smaller Learning Communities Planning Grant* at Lawrence High School, Lawrence, Kansas. December, 2002.

Professional Development.

- Gave a presentation entitled *Co-Teaching in K-12 Schools* to teachers and administrators at Hephzibah High School, December 2008.
- Hosted roundtable discussion on co-teaching and inclusion with teachers at Wheelless Road Elementary School on the topic of inclusion, Spring 2007.
- Conducted teacher training, qualifying, and tester monitoring in evaluation instruments and assessment techniques used in the Early Reading First grants in Junction City, Kansas, and Topeka, Kansas. Compiled, analyzed, and reported quantitative and qualitative data from training and testing sessions for use in further program and professional development. August-November 2005.
- Gave presentation entitled *Service-Learning in an Alternative High School.* Summer Transition Institute, University of Kansas, 2004.
- Gave presentation entitled *Service-Learning for Students with Disabilities.* Summer Transition Institute, University of Kansas, 2003.
- Presented training session entitled *Transition Best Practice* to two groups of special education teachers for the office of the Director of Special Education in Webster Parish, Louisiana. April 2002.

Service to Faculty

- Guest lecture on special education for Dr. Charles Jackson's EDUC 2120 course, Summer 2009.
- Guest lecture on special education for Dr. Charles Jackson's EDUC 2120 course, Spring 2009.
- Guest lecture on special education for Dr. Charles Jackson's EDUC 2120 course, Fall 2008.
- Guest lecture on special education for Ava Bedden's graduate class in Education Law for Leadership, Spring 2008.
- Guest lecture on special education for Ava Bedden's EDUC 2120 course, Spring 2008.
- Guest lecture on special education for Dr. Tom Deering's EDUC 2120 course, Spring 2008.
- Guest lecture on special education for Dr. Charles Jackson's EDUC 2120, Spring 2008.

- Co-presented three short musical performances for Dr. Barry Thompson's undergraduate education classes, as a demonstration of multiple intelligence theory, Spring 2008.
- Guest lecture on special education for Dr. Tom Deering's EDUC 2120 course, Fall, 2007.
- Guest lecture on special education for Ava Bedden's EDUC 2120 course, Fall 2007.
- Guest lecture on special education for Dr. Charles Jackson's EDUC 2120, Fall 2007.
- Provided consultation to the following faculty on special education questions: Dr. Barry Thompson, Dr. Gordon Eisenmann, Dr. Tom Deering, and Ava Bedden, 2007-2008.
- Guest Lecturer on service-learning for Dr. Jackie Tobias' EDTD 6221 course, Fall 2006.
- Provided consultation with Dr. Gordon Eisenmann and Dr. Barry Thompson regarding specific questions they had regarding special education, 2006-2007.

Service to Department and College

- Chair, Committee for the Development of Online Courses in the College of Education, Spring 2009- present.
- Committee for Advanced Teacher Program NCATE Accreditation member, Fall 2008.
- Departmental committee to review and revise the Student Satisfaction Survey member, Spring 2008.
- Served as member on three Search Committees for positions in the Counseling program, 2007-2008.
- Assisted in the program and course planning and development of a proposed specialist's degree in special education, including the creation of program and course development documents, 2007-2008.
- Search Committee for a special education position member, 2006-2007.
- Search Committee for an early childhood position member, 2006-2007.

Service to University

- Faculty Policies Sub-Committee on the Review of Course Evaluations member, 2009.
- Committee on Faculty Support for Involvement in P-12 Schools member, 2008-2009.
- Scholarships and Financial Aid Committee member, 2008-2009.
- Scholarships and Financial Aid Committee member, 2007-2008.
- Represented Augusta State University College of Education at the Area F Classes Conference in Macon, Georgia, February 2007.

Service to Community

- Assisted First Baptist Church of Evans with the Interfaith Hospitality Network activities of Jan. 5-12, hosting homeless families at the church. Stayed overnight at the church as host on Jan. 5, and Jan. 8, 2009.
- Assisted First Baptist Church of Evans with the Interfaith Hospitality Network activities of Sept.14-21, hosting homeless families at the church. Stayed overnight at the church as host on Sept. 14, 2008.
- Helped chaperone and serve drinks and snacks at Langford Middle School Reward Dance, May 18, 2008.
- Assisted First Baptist Church of Evans with the Interfaith Hospitality Network activities of May 4-10, hosting homeless families at the church. Stayed overnight at the church as host on May 6, 2008.
- Assisted First Baptist Church of Evans, hosting homeless families as part of the Interfaith Hospitality Network. Stayed overnight at the church as a host in May, 2007, and again in January, 2008.
- Participated as a volunteer worker at the registration desk for the CSRA Environmental Science Education Cooperative's Eco-Meet on May 4, 2007.
- Participated in monthly meetings of the CSRA Environmental Science Education Cooperative, 2006-2007.

Service as Interface between ASU and Community

- Participated as a judge in Richmond County 5th Grade Social Studies "We Are the People" Constitutional Education Project, Fall 2008.
- Contributed an interview to a journalist from The Bell Ringer regarding my role in the development of online courses at ASU, Spring 2008.
- Gave a presentation to potential students at the College of Education Open House, Fall, 2007.
- Gave a presentation to Langford Middle School students on "European Culture and Architecture," Spring 2007.
- Hosted one week of an online discussion board session as guest speaker for an online special education graduate course offered at the University of Kansas, Fall 2007.

College Teaching Experience:

- SPED 4002: Teaching Students with Disabilities in the General Education Classroom. Augusta State University. An introductory course for general and special educators, covering laws and regulations impacting special education, pre-referral and referral procedures, definitions, litigation, and characteristics of individuals with disabilities and students with multiple abilities, research-based instructional methodologies, strategies, and techniques, and collaboration/consultation. 30 hours of field experience required.
- SPED 3001: Policies and Procedures in Special Education. Augusta State University. An introductory course on federal, state, and local rules and regulations, basic policies and procedures in special education, landmark legislation and litigations impacting the education of individuals with disabilities, and current issues and trends in special education. 20 hours of field experience included.

- SPED 6405: Practicum in Special Education. Augusta State University. Practicum in special education for candidates who are required to take more than one semester of internship. This supervised course provides a concentrated field experience and introduction to teaching in the special education classroom. Practicum precedes the internship for candidates who are not teaching and or have not taught in a special education classroom. 150 hours of field experience included.
- SPED 6406: Internship in Interrelated Special Education. Augusta State University. A field-based internship for graduate students who have previous experience in public schools. The students gain first hand experiences working with students in an inter-related public school class; the emphasis is on writing and implementing lesson plans. 150 hours of field experience included.
- SPED 6001: Policies and Procedures in Special Education (Online). Augusta State University. Course provides extensive coverage of federal and state laws, as well as administrative and civil court actions pertaining to the status of children with disabilities. The role of executive, legislative, and judicial bodies were examined in relation to legal, ethical, and procedural parameters that provide direction for school practitioners and policy makers, including difficult policy issues and day-to-day professional decision-making dilemmas of current interest. Taught as a face-to-face course in 2006-2007. Fully online course in Spring 2008. 20 hours of field experience required.
- SPED 6009: Characteristics of Students with Mild Disabilities (Online). Augusta State University. A fully online course covering disability categories, the special education system, and current issues in special education identification and classification of students with mild disabilities. 20 hours of field experience required.
- SPED 6010: Methods for Teaching Students with Mild Disabilities (Online). Augusta State University. A fully online course covering best practices and current trends and issues regarding best practice for teaching students with mild disabilities, with specific emphasis on co-teaching research and practice, and differentiated instruction. 20 hours of field experience required.
- SPED 859: Interagency Services for Transition to Adulthood (Online). University of Kansas. Co-taught with Mary Morningstar, Ph.D. A fully online course regarding the utilization of interagency supports and services to improve the transition services and outcomes for students with disabilities. Using commercially available software applications in conjunction with the university Blackboard system, created online web pages with graphic and textual components, web links, and student interactivity. Collaborated with university technical assistance personnel to upload all digital course materials unto the university Blackboard site and secure site access for guest online speakers.