

EARLISHA J. WHITFIELD, PH.D.

Assistant Professor, Reading Education
University of Central Florida
College of Community Innovation and Education
School of Teacher Education
Email: earlisha.whitfield@ucf.edu

EDUCATION

- **Doctor of Philosophy**
Education: Curriculum and Instruction
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA
- **Educational Specialist**
Literacy Education
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA
- **Master of Arts**
Curriculum and Instruction
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA
- **Bachelor of Science**
Elementary Education
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

Educational Leader-LA State Department of Education -EDL 1 (570807)

Professional Teaching License- LA State Department of Education (523220)

Education Certification Areas:

Education Specialist

National Board Certification

Literacy: Reading- Language Arts/ Early and Middle Childhood

Reading Specialist Certification

Elementary Education

TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

**Assistant Professor of Reading; University of Central Florida, Orlando Florida
College of Community Innovation and Education School of Teacher Education;
Fall 2023 (Tenure Earning)**

**Assistant Professor of Education Professions; McNeese State University, Burton
College of Education; 2021-2023 (Tenure Earning)**

- Teaches 15 hours of coursework, advises, and supports various college initiatives including Early and Elementary Literacy.
- Provides observation, coaching, and support for 11 teacher residents in local district schools; acts as a liaison between the university and school district
- Provides online learning instruction utilizing technological instructional resources to improve engagement and retainment (Moodle, Zoom, Poll, Jam Board, SWIVL, etc.)
- Works closely with faculty members who teach literacy across various grade levels to create course curriculum
- Collect and provides major assessment data collection and analysis for national accreditation
- Advises students in course progression of Education Program, university resources and collegiate guidance
- Participates in university recruitment and retainment initiatives
- Develops curriculum and instruments based on current research of the Science of Reading
- Redesigned Master's of Arts in Education Final Comprehensive Exam
- Served as Master's Education Program Committee Member for Comprehensive Exams
- Served as Literacy and Special Education Curriculum Designer for Teacher Preparation at US Prep
- Trained in the Science of Reading
- Title XI Decision Maker
- C.A.R.E. Mentor in Mentorship Program
- Call Me MiSTER Program Director

Courses Taught

Undergraduate Courses:

EDUC 316- Reading Methods II
EDUC 316 - Reading Methods II (Online)
EDUC 351 - Educational Measurements

Graduate Courses:

EDUC 460 - Elementary Student Teaching Residency I
EDUC 460 - Secondary Teaching Residency I
EDUC 461 - Secondary Teaching Residency II
EDUC 462 - Elementary Internship Residency

EDUC 462 - Secondary Internship Residency
EDUC 469 - Field Study Project
EDUC 642 - Reading Methods in the Elementary School
EDUC 654 - Problems in Measurement
EDUC 680 - Elementary and Secondary Student Teaching Residency
EDUC 681 - Residency Performance Portfolio
EDUC 696 - Secondary Internship Residency II
EDUC 696 - Elementary Internship Residency I

Adjunct Professor, Louisiana State University, College of Human Sciences and Education 2020-2021 (Satisfactory Student Evaluations- 4.5/5)

EDCI 3000- Children's Literature

EDCI 3127- Social Studies Methods

- Teaches and supervises 3000 education level courses to college students in accordance with department learning goals (EDCI 3000- Fall 2020; EDCI 3127 -Spring 2021)
- Utilizes a variety of instructional strategies in order to engage students, including field-based learning
- Provided online learning instruction utilizing technological instructional resources (Moodle, Zoom, Poll, Atlas, etc.)
- Meets with academic department leads to develop courseware and curriculum
- Evaluates student performance promptly and accurately based on LSU's grading policy
- Maintains records of student attendance, involvement, and progress
- Participates in faculty meetings involving departmental updates

Assistant Principal/ Director of Instruction, Iberville Charter STEM Academy K-8 (Title I school in low socio-economic area with high proportion of disadvantaged subgroups) 2015-2021

- Recipient of **TOP GAINS awards 3 consecutive years** 2017, 2018, and 2019 from the Louisiana Department of Education (recognizes top schools with exceptional growth of school performance)
- Growth grade **from D to an A** in progress within two years and **maintained an A for two years**
- Designs and coaches the implementation of curriculum, instruction, and assessments
- Instrumental in the development and implementation of the data driven strategic plan, school improvement plan, handbooks, hiring protocols, budget, grants, and programs to improve the school's culture and academic achievement.
- Coordinates standardized test enrichment programs, and campus improvement
- Plans development and implementation with the principal, administrative dean, leadership team and department chairpersons
- Creates and presents PowerPoint presentations to faculty and parents detailing school report card and historical data generated from LEAP and other school data
- Interviews potential teacher candidates while attending district level recruiting events; assists principal with staff placement and orientation

- Mentors teachers, interns and administrators which includes lesson plan development, classroom management, teacher growth plans, and achievement monitoring
- Conducts lesson observations/ walkthroughs to ensure education quality for improvement and ratings for teacher effectiveness
- Monitors building and school yard for safe and positive interactions for students, faculty and visitors
- Constructs master school and teacher class schedules; School Year Calendar; Handbook; Monthly Newsletter “Hawks Digest”; Coordinates school website
- Facilitates and conducts Monday Morning Meetings; Morning Announcements; “Morning Minute”; Morning Meditation with Tier 2 behavior group “Morning Mantra” as the School Behavioral Interventionist
- Supervises Athletics and athletic events as well as other activities including Performance Arts, academic events and special family and community sponsored events

West Feliciana Parish, Bains Lower Elementary, Literacy Specialist

Early Childhood Education; *Birth- 1st Grade, 2012- Present;*

Teacher Leader; District Leadership Team Member 2013- 2016

- **Ranked top 3 in the state (Louisiana) for Kindergarten Readiness in Literacy 2012-2015 for 3 consecutive years.**
- Developed an RTI plan to meet the needs of all students
- Supervised reading interventionists and teachers in grouping, scheduling, and providing interventions for students by interpreting literacy assessment data
- Facilitated Professional Learning Communities for Head Start, Pre-K, Kindergarten, and 1st grade teachers (data talks, professional development)
- Supervised the administration of DIBELS *Next* and TELD3 assessments and progress monitoring
- Interviewed and assisted in hiring decision for reading specialist and special education paraprofessional
- Managed a budget of approximately 100,000 for SRCL grant requirements
- Assisted administrators and teachers in designing appropriate intervention programs for students at risk of reading failure.
- Mentored teachers and provided demonstrations in the areas of literacy instruction.

**East Baton Rouge Parish, Ryan Elementary, Teacher/Reading Specialist
(Title I school in low socio-economic urban area with high proportion of
disadvantaged subgroups)**

Pre-K- 5th Grade, 2005-2011

Reading Specialist 2011-2012

- Administered DIBELS *Next* 2011 and other assessments
- Supervised administration of DIBELS *Next* and Progress Monitoring for grades K- 3
- Organized Literacy Night for students and parents
- Provided demonstrations of new methods and materials for teaching ELA
- Mentored teachers in the areas of literacy instruction.

**TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) Summer School
Coordinator 2010**

Kindergarten- 3rd grades, East Baton Rouge Parish, Ryan Elementary

- Supervised teachers in curriculum, management, and extra curricular activities
- Organized and submitted time certifications, lesson plans, and reported to governing agency
- Worked collaboratively with other coordinators, project manager, and community agents to ensure appropriate development of students
- Secured and managed materials and supplies for teachers
- Organized a culminating parent/ community showcase event

Elementary School Teacher PK-4

- Pre- K-1st Teacher, 2012-13, West Feliciana Parish (Highly Effective Rating)
- 2nd - 4th Grades, 2004-2011, East Baton Rouge Parish
(Effective Rating, EBR Teacher of the Year, School Blue Ribbon Award)
Grade Level Chair 2010-12, East Baton Rouge Parish
Parental Involvement Liaison K-5th 2009- 2011)

Summer and After School Remediation Programs, K-5th Teacher

- West Feliciana Parish
- East Baton Rouge Parish
- Joy Corporation

Mentor Teacher for student and new teachers, 2008- Present

LSU, Southern University, Teach for America, East Baton Rouge, West Feliciana Parish

PENDING PUBLICATIONS

Whitfield, E. J. (2024). *Defy odds in schools and communities: The rise from low expectation to high achievement*: Palmetto Group.

Whitfield, E. J. (2024). Chapter 2: The Science of Reading. *Foundations of Reading*. Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana Department of Education

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

International / National Presentations

Whitfield, E. (January 2023). *Beyond Literacy: An Investigation into the Literacy Intervention Practices of Effective Teachers* (IAFOR International Conference) Honolulu, HI

Whitfield, E. (November 2019). *An investigation into school leaders position teachers as change agents: Overcoming Barriers in Subaltern* (University Council Educational Administration Conference), New Orleans, LA

Whitfield, E. (October 2018). *Creating a Community of Writers in Schools to increase Student Achievement: The impact of literacy leadership: Cultivating Effectual Writing Teachers and Building* (International Literacy Association Conference), Austin, TX

Regional Presentations

Whitfield, E. (June 2022). *Reading Methods: Addressing Unfinished Learning Utilizing the Science of Reading Approach* (McNeese State University MPACT on Education Conference), Lake Charles, LA

Whitfield, E. (February 2022). *Utilizing Technological Educational Resources* (Unlock Education Regional Conference), Lake Charles, LA

State Presentations

Whitfield, E. (October 2022). *Teacher Preparation: Addressing the Needs of Unfinished Learners with the Science of Reading*. (Louisiana Reading Association) New Orleans, LA

Whitfield, E. (April 2022). *Philosophy Meets Practice: Prioritizing Culturally Responsive*

Teaching in Clinical Experiences for Preservice Teachers (LA NAME Conference), New Orleans, LA

Local Presentations

Whitfield, E & McCrary J. (January 7, 2020) Responsive Teaching Seminar: Scaffolding instruction to support struggling students (South La Foundation Charter Schools) Baton Rouge, LA

Whitfield, E., & Dumas S., (October 2015). *Determining the Measurement of Early Reading Skills; Train the Trainer Assessment DIBELS. NEXT*; South Louisiana Charter Foundation Schools, New Teacher Conference Baton Rouge, LA

AWARDS & HONORS

- Louisiana Leading Leaders, Award Recipient, 2022
- Outstanding Principal Award, Iberville Charter Academy, 2020
- Leadership Recognition, 8th Grade Class of Iberville Charter Academy, 2020
- The Vision Award, Presented by the Sponsors of ShE Leaders, 2019
- Charles Harrington Graduate Student Award, Nominee 2015
- LSU Graduate School Tuition Scholarship Award, 2014 -2016
- Phi Delta Kappa Emergent Leader, 2012
- LA State Finalist- EBR and Regional Teacher of the Year, 2011
- Perfect Attendance Award, Monetary Stipends, 2008-2009, 2009-2010
- National Society of Collegiate Scholars, 2007
- National Writing Project & Consultant, 2006-Present
- Kappa Delta Epsilon Honors Fraternity, 2003
- LSU Black Scholars Award, 2003
- Phi Delta Kappan, 2009-2012

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS, SERVICE, & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- ETS Science of Reading Standard Setting Study and LA Dept. of Education, June 2023
- McNeese Call Me MiSTER Director, August 2022-Present
- Prime Time Reading Coordinator, Spring 2022, 2023
- Dr. Seuss Reading Day, Calcasieu Parish Schools, March 2022
- McNeese CARE Mentoring Program, 2022- Present
- LSU BRidge Program Teacher and ELA Curriculum Developer/ Writer; Ages 6-15, Volunteer, June 2020
- LSU Alumni Association, 2007- Present
- LSU Black Alumni Association Member, 2019- Present

- LSU Black Alumni Scholarship Committee Member, 2021- Present
- Holiday Toy Drive Coordinator- Youth Oasis Homeless Shelter, 2018-2020
- Winter Drive-Plaquemine Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Home, 2017-2020
- International Literacy Association, Member 2010-Present
- Phi Delta Kappan, Member 2009- Present
- National Association of Multicultural Education-LA, Member 2021- Present
- ShE Leaders Underprivileged Girls Empowerment, Founder and Mentor 2019-2021
- Bains Lower Girl Scouts, Daisy Troop Leader (K-1) 2014-15
- Story Time at Sweet Dreams, Sweet Dreams Homeless Shelter, 2012-2015
- United State Department of Education Critical Conversations, PDK, Washington D.C., 2012
- Ryan Elementary Cheerleader Sponsor 2010-2012
- EBR Superintendent's Advisory Board 2010-2011
- Phi Delta Kappan, 2009-2012
- ExxonMobil Science and Math Academy (Afterschool Tutoring) 2009- 2015
- Grades Reward After School Tutoring Coordinator 2005- 2007
- LSU Black Graduate Student and Professional Association, 2005-2007;2019-2020

FUNDED GRANTS

- Shearman Family Academic Professorship (Minority Males in Education) 2022-2023 (\$6,918)
- Louisiana Department of Education Block Grant 2018-2019 2019-2020- Minority Girls' Mentorship Program (\$4,847)
- ExxonMobil STEM Grants 2010-2019 schools in underserved communities & or students in Baton Rouge, LA (\$30,000+)
- Seeds of Hope Grant- Earth Day Strong Roots Project, 2016 (\$250)
- Greater Baton Rouge Area Realtors Grant Recipient, 2010 (\$3,500)
- Deborah Rochelle Grant Recipient, 2009 (\$2,500)
- Academic Distinctive Fund Grant Recipient, 2008 (\$2,000)