

Curriculum Vita

Benita G. Bruster, Ph.D.

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Educational Background

- 2002 University of the Pacific, Stockton, California Educational Leadership Certification
- 1991 Texas Woman's University Ph.D., Major: Reading Minor: Research
Doctoral Dissertation: *Scaffolded Instruction: The Effective Use of Teacher Student Dialogue*
- 1987 North Texas State University, M.Ed., Major: Reading
- 1981 Cameron University Lawton, Oklahoma B.S., Major: Elementary Education

University Academic Experience

- 2016 - Present Chair, Department of Teaching and Learning
- 2016 – Present Professor, College of Education, Austin Peay State University
- 2011 - 2015 Associate Professor, College of Education, Austin Peay State
- 2007-2011 Assistant Professor, College of Education, Austin Peay State University,
- 2007-2004 Adjunct and Instructor position at Florida Atlantic University
- 2004-2006 Adjunct Professor, Broward Community College, Fort Lauderdale, FL
- 1990-1998 Adjunct Professor, Department of Reading and Teacher Education, Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas

Graduate: University Courses Taught

- Reading in the Content Area – On-Line - Developed and Taught in Desire 2 Learn
- Understanding and Using Best Practices for Continued Literacy in Middle Grades - On-Line
- Developed and Taught in Desire 2 Learn, Tennessee Board of Regents RODP
- Reading in the Secondary Schools – On-Line - Developed and Taught in Desire 2 Learn
- Children's Literature
- Seminar in Reading
- Practicum in Literacy Development
- Linking Literacy Instruction with Technology – On-Line
- Assessing Literacy Progress
- Assessment of Reading Difficulties
- Teaching Language Arts and Literature
- The Reflective Practitioner
- Assessment and Evaluation

Trends and Issues in Reading and Language Arts
Reading Diagnosis and Practicum for Classroom Teachers

Undergraduate:

Assessment of Literacy Difficulties
Teaching Reading-Primary Language and Literacy
Literacy in the Upper Elementary Grades
Foundations of Education
Classroom Evaluation and Assessment
Assessment of Literacy Difficulties, Primary Language and Literacy
Reading in the Content Area
Diagnosis of Reading Difficulties, Language Arts and Literature: Birth-Grade 8
Foundations of Education

University Leadership Experiences:

2016	Chair's Leadership Program, Austin Peay State University
2014 – Present	Coordinated Efforts to Convert Reading Master's Program to On-Line
2013	Chair, College of Teaching and Learning, Summer, 2013
2013	Faculty Leadership Program Austin Peay State University
2012	Chair, College of Teaching and Learning
2012-2014	Residency I and Pre-Residency Coordinator
2012-Present	Coordinator of the Reading Specialist Master's Program

Educational Administrative Experience:

2002-2004 Elementary Assistant Principal, Tracy Unified School District, Tracy CA
1996-1999 Elementary Principal, Caldwell Elementary, McKinney Independent School District, McKinney, TX
1991-1994 Reading Recovery Teacher Leader, McKinney Independent School District, TX
Assistant Principal, Dowell Middle School, McKinney Independent School District, TX
Director of Federal Programs: Title I, Head Start, ESL, McKinney Independent School District
1988-1989 Supervisor of Student Teachers, Department of Teacher Education, Texas Woman's University, Denton, TX

Classroom Teaching Experience:

2000-2002 First Grade Teacher, Tracy Unified School District, Tracy, CA
1990-1991 First Grade Teacher, McKinney Independent School District, McKinney, TX
1989-1990 Sixth Grade Teacher, McKinney Independent School District, McKinney, TX
1987-1989 Fourth Grade Teacher, McKinney Independent School District, McKinney, TX
1985-1986 Title I Reading-Grades First-Eighth, Temple School District, Temple, OK

Corporate Experience:

2004-2006 - Curriculum Content Specialist for Reading and Language Arts, Pre-K-12, Compass Learning Cooperation, Weston, FL

Responsibilities at Compass Learning:

Designed comprehensive electronic curriculum for reading and language arts grades K-8
Trained teachers, reading specialists, and district level administration in literacy
Correlated reading and language arts curriculum to state standards
Researched new content for reading and language arts curriculum and activities
Developed assessment items for reading and language arts for grades three through eight
Presented and trained at cooperate events for sales and customers
Cooperate liaison to outside venders and companies developing reading content
Literacy liaison between companies in WRC Media, including Weekly Reader Publications

Academic and Professional Service:

2016 - Present	University Faculty Handbook Committee
2016	John Gardner's Foundation Committee Chair
2016	Chair's Leadership Program
2016	Graduate Assistance Task Force
2016	On-Line Program Collaboration Task Force
2016	QEP Assessment Committee
2016	College Lesson Redesign Task Force
2016	National Social Science and Technology Association Co-Vice President
2015 – 2016	University Faculty Misconduct Committee
2015 – Present	Tennessee Board of Regents – Faculty Representative Austin Peay
2014 – 2015	E ³ Grant Selection Committee
2014 – 2015	Faculty Representative Academic Council
2014	Search Committee for Generalists Faculty Position
2014	Chair Search Committee Early Childhood Committee
2014 - 2015	Internationalization Committee – Chair Focus Groups
2013 - Present	University Calendar Committee
2013 - Present	Faculty Senate Executive Committee
2013	Faculty Representative Dean's Council
2013	Chair for Search Committee, Early Childhood Faculty
2013	Chair for Search Committee, Reading Faculty
2012 - 2015	State Treasurer, Tennessee Reading Association
2012 - 2015	Search Committee Member, Early Childhood Faculty
2012 - 2013	AERA Co-Chair Conference Program for Division K SIG
2011 - 2013	Secretary for AERA Division K SIG
2011 – 2014	NCATE Committee Chair for Standard One
2011 – 2014	Institutional Review Board Committee Member
2010 – Present	National Social Science Association, NSSA, Journal Reviewer
2011 – 2013	National Social Science Association, NSSA, Editorial Board
2009 – 2010	Faculty Representative for Sustainability Committee
2009 – 2010	Faculty Representative for Green Committee
2010 – 2012	Treasurer for AERA Division K SIG

2009 – 2013	Editor of the Tennessee Reading Teacher Journal
2009 – 2012	Treasurer of Tennessee Association of Teacher Educators (TATE)
2009 – 2011	President of Mid-Cumberland Reading Council (MCRC)
2008 – 2011	International Reading Association Conference Program Reviewer
2008 – 2011	Block I Coordinator for Field Experience Placement
2008 – 2009	Redesigning Reading Instruction University Committee
2008 - Present	School of Education Program Review Team (K-6, 4-8, and Reading)
2008 – 2014	NCATE Committee Member for Standard One
2008 - 2010	Faculty Senate Committee and Academic Red Committee
2008 – 2009	Rubric/Lesson Plan Rubric Committee Chair
2008 - 2010	School of Education Search Committee for Reading
2008 - Present	Milestone Review Committee
2007 - Present	Reading Master's Graduate Committee Chair
2007 - 2010	Faculty Senate, Member University Committee
2007 - Present	Assessment Retention Committee, Chair, College of Education
2007- 2009	Social Committee, Chair, College of Education

Public School Academic Service:

1994 - 2004	School Site-Based Decision Making Leadership Teams
1994- 2006	Leadership Chair and Member for School Improvement Committee
2006	Chair of Five-Star Schools Committee
2002- 2004	Coordinator for Community Partners with Public Schools

International Presentations:

Bruster, B. (2017). *Using Reflection to Improve Literacy Practices of Pre-Service and Novice Teachers*. International Literacy Association, Orlando, FL.

Bruster, B., Peterson, B., and Stewart, T. (2014). “*The Reflective Reformer: How the Teacher Performance Assessment Fosters Educational Leadership,*” International Academic Research Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Bruster, B. and Deitrich, M. (2011). “*Strategies to Improve Reading Comprehension,*” International Reading Association Conference, Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Bruster, B. and Shutt, T. (2009). “Rigorous and Relevant On-Line Curriculum Supporting a Just and Peaceful Society,” World Council of Curriculum and Instruction, Canada.

Bruster, B. and Deitrich, M. (2009). “Vocabulario: Usando Lenguaje y Literatura en el Colegio, la Casa, y la Comunidad,” International Reading Association Conference, Guatemala City, Guatemala.

National Presentations:

- Bouton, B. & Bruster, B. (2017, Nov.). *Middle level reflective practitioners: Listening to the voices of our pre-service teachers*. Conference Presentation for the Annual Conference for Middle Level Educators. Philadelphia, PA.
- Bruster, B. & Bruster, B. (2017, April). *Computer programming impacts on Learning and motivation*. Conference Presentation for National Technology and Social Science National Conference: Las Vegas, NV.
- Bruster, B. & Peterson, B. (2016). *Professional Learning Communities to Improve Assessment Feedback*. Conference presentation for National Technology and Social Science and Technology Conference, St. Louis, MO. October, 2016.
- Bruster, B. (2016). *On-Line Course Development: Responsiveness to Students' Needs*. Conference presentation for National Technology and Social Science and Technology Conference, Las Vegas, NV. March, 2016.
- Lowe, C. and Bruster, B. (2016). *Meeting in the Middle: Engaging Culture to Promote Literacy Development in Immersion ELL Environments*. Conference presentation for National Technology and Social Science and Technology Conference, Las Vegas, NV. March, 2016.
- Bruster, B. & Elliott, C. (2016, February). *Using critical reflection to improve candidate assessment literacy and student learning*. Conference Round Table at the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Conference, Las Vegas, NV.
- McMahan, R., and **Bruster B.** (2015). *The Electronic Curriculum: Web Quests, Virtual Field Trips, Simulations, and Gaming to Learn Through Application and Development of Literacy Skills Using the World Wide Web as a Science Content Source*. Conference presentation. Center for Scholastic Inquiry, Charleston, SC.
- Bruster, B. (2015). *On-Line Course Development: Engaging and Retaining Students*. Conference presentation for National Technology and Social Science and Technology Conference, New Orleans, LA. Oct. 2015.
- Bruster, B., and Peterson, B. (2015). *Learning to Teach: Reflective Practice of Teacher Candidates*. Conference presentation for National Technology and Social Science Conference, Las Vegas, NV.
- Barron, L., **Bruster, B.**, and Hardin, C. "Using the edTPA for Program and EPP Improvement". AACTE, Atlanta, GA. Feb. 2015.
- Wang, L., **Bruster, B.** and Li, J. *Improving Reading Comprehension: Using Multi-Media Technology-Based Instruction to Teach Visualization*. American Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences (AABSS), Las Vegas, NV. February, 2015.

- Bruster, B. & Peterson, B, Stewart, T. *Game Change: Reflections on the use of Portfolios vs. Teacher Performance Assessment (TPA) in a Redesigned Teacher Education Program*. American Educational Research Association Conference, San Francisco, CA, April, 2013.
- Bruster, B., and Bruster, B. *Promoting Active Student Engagement: Using Reading Comprehension Strategies with History Texts*. Conference Presentation for National Technology and Social Science Conference, Albuquerque NM, October, 2012.
- Bruster, B. and Peterson, B. *Using teacher performance assessment (TPA) data to construct insight from student teacher's perspectives*. Conference presentation for National Technology and Social Science Conference, Las Vegas, NV. April, 2012.
- Bruster, B. and Peterson, P. "*Reflective Practice: Using Focus Groups to Improve Instructional Effectiveness*", American Educational Research Association, New Orleans, LA, April, 2011.
- Bruster, B. and Peterson, P. "*Using Focus Groups to Examine Reflective Practice*," Association of Teacher Educators, Orlando, FL, 2011.
- Bruster, B. and Peterson, P. "*Phases of Reflective Practice: Using Blogs and Journaling to Improve Instructional Effectiveness*", American Educational Research Association, Denver, CO. May, 2010.
- Bruster, B. "*Using Problem-Based Learning in On-Line Course Development*", National Technology and Social Science Association, Professional Development Conference, Las Vegas, NV. April, 2010. Conference Presentation.
- Bruster, B. and Peterson, P., "*Using Critical Questions and Prompts while Blogging to Improve Reflective Practice*", Conference Presentation. National Social Science Association, Professional Development Conference, Las Vegas, NV. April, 2009
- Bruster, B., Harris, A. and Peterson, B. "*Using visual metaphors: Exploring insightful reflections in teacher education*", Conference Presentation. National Social Science Association, Professional Development Conference, Alaska. August, 2008.
- Bruster, B. and Prikle, S, and Peterson, B. "*Enhancing Mentorship with Podcasting*", Conference Presentation. Conference Presentation. National Social Science Association, Professional Development Conference, Las Vegas, NV. April, 2008.
- Bruster, B. and Peterson B. "*Blogging: A New Tool for Reflective Practice*", Conference Presentation. National Social Science Association, Professional Development Conference, Las Vegas, NV. April, 2008.
- Bruster, B. "*Breaking Down Barriers to Student Success in Content Area Texts: Interests, Motivation, and Comprehension*", Conference Presentation. National Social Science Association, Professional Development Conference, Mexico, August, 2007.

Bruster, B. “*Reading in the Content Area*” and “*Using Assessment to Inform Instruction*”, University of North Carolina: New Teacher Academy, Charlotte, NC. July, 2006. Guest Lecturer.

Bruster, B. “*Historical Impact of Louise Rosenblatt: The Transactional Theory of Reading*”, Conference Presentation. International Reading Association Conference San Antonio, Texas. March, 2005.

Regional Conference Presentations

Bruster, B. and Peterson, B., “*The reflective reformer: How the teacher performance assessment fosters educational leadership*”. Mid-South Education Research Association (MSERA), Knoxville, TN, November, 2014.

Bruster, B. and Wang L, “*Effective literacy strategies for ELL learners – From the language acquisition perspective*”. Southeast Regional Association of Teacher Educators, SRATE, Charleston, SC, Oct. 2014.

McMahan, R, and **Bruster, B.** *Redefining diversity: Building a bridge from pedagogy to practice, a model implementing an initiative*, SRATE. Charleston, SC, Oct. 2014.

McMahan, R, and **Bruster, B.** “*Merging Literacy into Science Instruction through Problem-Based Learning STEM Activities*”, Charlotte, NC, Nov. 2013.

McMahan, R. and **Bruster, B.** “Language Arts: Engagement and Delivery of Common Core Standards Content and Skills Through Problem-based Learning in Science”. Southeast Regional Association of Teacher Educators. Sarasota, FL, October, 2013.

Bruster, B. and Peterson, P. “*Constructing Insight from Student Teachers’ Perspectives*,” Southeast Regional Association of Teacher Educators. Savannah, GA, October, 2011.

Bruster, B. and Linda Davis, “*Improving the Writing Skills of Undergraduate Students*”, Round Table Session, 58th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Regional Association of Teacher Educators, Nashville, TN. November, 2010.

Bruster, B. Barrett, B. and Deitrich, M. “*Global Perspectives and Literacy*”, 56th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Regional Association of Teacher Educators, Louisville, KY. November, 2009.

Bruster, B. “*Using Assessment Data to Diagnostically Close the Literacy Achievement Gap*”, 55th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Regional Association of Teacher Educators, Myrtle Beach, SC. November, 2008. Roundtable Session.

State Conference Presentation

Bruster, B. *Interactive Writing for Young Children*. Early Childhood Conference. Austin Peay State University. June, 2012.

Bruster, B., *“Milestones, Portfolios, Artifacts, and Rationales: Capturing Student Knowledge Through Reflective Writing”*, Cheatham County Staff Development, Ashland City, TN. October, 2009. Guest Lecture.

Bruster, B. and Wells, L. *“Vocabulary: More than a Definition”*, Tennessee Reading Association Conference, Cool Springs, TN. March, 2007.

Professional Development:

2016 Parent Conferences and Working with Military Families. Residency I, Austin Peay State University.

2013 Working with Struggling Students in Grades 3-5. Montgomery County School System. Professional Development Day.

2012 - 2011 Comprehension, Reading in the Content Area, and Phonics, Stewart County, TN

2001-2005 “Redirecting Children’s Behavior”, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

2001-2005 National Trainer for Tribes: “Building a Learning Community”, Broward County Schools, Fort Lauderdale, Florida and Tracy, California

2001-2005 “Curriculum Mapping for Classroom Teachers in Grades K-5: Using State Standards, Assessments, and Curriculum to Improve Teaching and Learning”. Broward County Schools, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and Tracy Unified School District, Tracy, California

1999-2005 “Teacher Mentoring Program”, Florida, California, and Texas

1996 Gallup System for Teacher Selection Interviews Process

1991 Reading Recover Teacher Leader Trained and Mentored by Dr. M. Clay

Professional Publications

Bruster, B. (2015). *On-Line course development: Engaging and retaining students*. Southeastern Regional Association of Teacher Educators. 24, (2), 1-7.

Bruster, B. (2016). Section 15, Managing Conflict, In Dorothy Balancio (Editor), *Conflict Management: An Introspective Approach to Negotiating Skills*. San Diego, CA: Cognella Academic Publishing.

Bruster, B. (2016). Responsiveness to student needs in on-line courses. *National Social Science and Technology Journal*. 5 (1).

- Bruster, B. & Nelson, N. (2015). *"Poetry and Writing: Improving Fluency and Motivation for Students with Developmental Dyslexic Traits"*, Reading Improvement, 52(3), 93-99.
- Peterson, B. & **Bruster, B.** (2014). *Inquiry into reflective practice of teacher candidates*, International Journal of Social Sciences and Education.
- Bruster, B., & Peterson, B. (2012). *Using critical incidents in teaching to promote reflective practice*. Reflective Practice. International and Multidisciplinary Perspectives Journal. Nov. 1-13. DOI:10.1080/14623943.2012.732945
- Harris, A., Bruster, B., Peterson, B., and Shutt, T. (2010). *Examining and facilitating reflection to improve professional practice*. MA: Roman and Littlefield, Inc.
- Bruster, B. & Luck, D. (2009). *Partnering with parents*. Tennessee Reading Teacher Journal, 37 (1), 41-44.
- Bruster, B. (2009). *Breaking down barriers to student success in content area text*. National Social Science Association Journal, 31(2) 26-30.
- Bruster, B. (2008). *Service learning: Family literacy projects involving pre-service teachers*. Tennessee Reading Teacher Journal, 36(1), 2-6.
- Bruster, B. (2006). *Reading and Language Arts White Paper: Research and Theoretical Support for Literacy Products*. Compass Learning, Austin, TX.
- Bruster, B. (1994). *Reading Recovery Site Report Year 3: A Study of Reading Recovery students across North Texas*, Texas Woman's University, Denton.
- Bruster, B. (1993). *Reading Recovery Site Report Year 2: A Study of Reading Recovery students and students involved in small group instruction*, Texas Woman's University, Denton.
- Bruster, B. (1992). *Reading Recovery Site Report Year 1: A comparative study of students in the Reading Recovery Program and a control first grade group*. Texas Woman's University, Denton TX.
- Bruster, B. (1991). *Scaffolded Instruction: The Effective Use of Teacher Student Dialogue*, Texas Woman's University, Denton TX.

Grants and Awards

- August, 2017 Tennessee Improvement Grant – STEM. Awarded to Short, P., Meish, K., Sullivan, L., and Bruster, B. 50,000.
- Oct. 2016 Student Academic Success Initiative Grant (SASI) A Celebration of Rural Culture, Education, and Agriculture, awarded to **Bruster, B.**, Mills, R., and Shipley, K. 6,000.

April, 2015 E³ Grant, Reflective Feedback Hiking Experience, award to V. Smith, **B. Bruster**, and T. Leszczak. 8,000.

Dec. 2104 E³ Grant, Community Connections and Literacy, Alvey, T. and **Bruster, B.** awarded 1,900.

Sept. 2014 Austin Peay State University Research Fund Grant Award Dual-coded Multimedia Instructional Methods in Literacy Studies, Wang L., and **Bruster, B.** 1, 500.

Nov. 2012 Helping Kids Cope: Reading Book Club for Children of Military Families. Funds awarded from the College of Education for Research Project with Military Family focus. \$2,000

Dec. 2011 Tennessee Professor of the Year, Tennessee Reading Association

May, 2011 Socrates Award, Office of the Provost, Austin Peay State University

May, 2011 Student Advisement Award, Office of the Provost, Austin Peay State University

May, 2011 Innovation Award, Student Life Association, Austin Peay State University

May, 2011 Professor of the Semester Award, Presented by the Student Tennessee Education Association

April, 2011 Faculty Materials Grant \$ 3,000

May, 2010 Faculty Summer Research Grant \$ 5,000

April, 2010 Technology Access Fee Grant, College of Education \$ 48,000

May, 2008 Student Retention and Incentive Grant for the School of Education \$7,000

April, 2008 Professor of the Semester Award, Presented by the Student Tennessee Education Association

2005-2006 Summer Tiered Approach to Reading (STAR) for Florida Atlantic University to service struggling readers in 4th and 5th graders. Total funding of project \$45,000

2004-2005 Summer Tiered Approach to Reading (STAR) for Florida Atlantic University to service struggling readers in 4th and 5th graders. Total funding of project \$55,000

2000-2001 Service Learning Projects Grant funded for the utilization of service learning projects that coordinated the community and schools. Teachers were trained to

develop curriculum that outlined state standards and connected service-learning projects. Total funding of project \$2,000

Office of Federal Programs Grant Awards:

Title I Grant approved annually for funding of reading and literacy programs for grades K-8.

Total funding annually approximately \$400,000

Eisenhower Math and Science Grant funded annually for the staff development of teachers in the areas of math and science. Total funded annually approximately \$80,000

Head Start Grant annually funded for the initiation, development, and implementation of Head Start Center in two elementary schools. Total funding approximately \$500,000

Professional Memberships:

International Literacy Association

Tennessee Association of Teacher Educators

National Technology and Social Science Association

Cheatham County Literacy Council

Community Service:

2016 – Present	President Woodward Library Society
2016 – Present	Little Gov’s Learning Center Advisory Committee for Redesign
2015 - Present	Advisory Board Member – Tennessee Reading Foundations
2014 - 2015	Montgomery County Autism Association Literacy Volunteer
2012 – Present	Woodward Library Society Board
2012	Chair Simply the Best Celebration TRAEYC Early Childhood Providers
2012 – 2013	Administered and Trained Teachers, Assessments for Early Childhood
2012 – 2013	Coordinated and Volunteers Literacy Tutoring Program Lincoln Homes
2010- 2011	Volunteer Byrnes Darden Elementary School – Tutor Struggling Readers
2009 - 2013	Tri-River Association Education of Young Children, Board Member
2009 - 2011	St. Bethlehem Elementary School – School Advisory Council
2007 - Present	Read Across America Volunteer Local Public Schools
2008 - 2012	St. Bethlehem Elementary School – School Supplies and Books Donations
2007- 2010	Montgomery County United Way: Safe House Literacy Projects
2008 - 2010	Family Involvement: Parent Training and Homework Help
2008 - 2010	Reading Centers and Activities Mid-Cumberland Reading Council
2008 – Present	Backpack and School Supplies Collection Coordination for Byrnes Darden
2008 – Present	Community-wide Book Collection and Distribution, 3,000 Annually
2008 – Present	Distribution of Literacy Materials for Parents
2008 – Present	Literacy Assessment and Tutoring Coordinator and Volunteer
2005	Committee Member for Chancellor Charter Schools, Florida
2001	Community and School Literacy Coordinator McKinney, Texas
2000	Community and School Literacy Coordinator with Tracy, California
1998	Literacy Coordinator May Fair Festival, McKinney Texas
1997	Rotary Club McKinney, Texas – Paul Harris Fellow Award
1991	School Board Member for Holy Family School

