



Lori Morris

P.O. Box 4545,
Clarksville, TN 37044

931-221-7536

morrisl@apsu.edu

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

A dedicated educator with over 15 years of proven experience as a leader at the school, district, and state level in the area of continuous program improvement based on systematic data analysis.

EDUCATION

East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee 2014-2017

College of Education, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy

Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy

Committee: William Flora (Chair), Bethany Flora, Roger Blankenship, Pamela Scott

Dissertation: *A Phenomenological Study of School Leaders Decision Making Process when Making Academic Program Placement Recommendations*

Trevecca Nazarene University, Nashville, Tennessee 2012

College of Education

Graduate Education/Master of Education

Educational Leadership Add On

Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama 2000-2001

College of Education

Masters of Education: Special Education

Major: Autism and Emotional Disturbance

Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama 1996-1999

College of Liberal Arts

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

CERTIFICATIONS

Professional Teaching (License TN#000263630) 460, Sped Modified K-12
Administrator License (License TN#000263630) Beginning Administrator PreK-12

COURSES TAUGHT

Austin Peay State University

Martha Dickerson Eriksson College of Education

Fall 2018

Assistant Professor, Educational Specialities

- SPED 4330 Behavior Management of Exceptional Children
 - Techniques of managing classroom and other behaviors at all levels and types of exceptionalities

Austin Peay State University

Martha Dickerson Eriksson College of Education

Fall 2018

Assistant Professor, Educational Specialities

- SPED 4340 Inclusion Strategies
 - Course addresses the instructional strategies and techniques for teachers who may have students with mild and moderate disabilities in their classrooms. The course focuses on inclusive practices including various models of team teaching. Students are assigned 15 hours of field experience associated with the course.

Austin Peay State University

Martha Dickerson Eriksson College of Education

Spring 2018

Adjunct Teaching Position

Summer 2018

- EDCU 5530 Online Classroom Assessment
 - Designed to aid the pre-teacher in pupil assessment, evaluation of programs, student use of feedback and self-assessment, analyzing student learning, providing feedback to students, providing feedback to guide future instruction, assessment strategies, and related research applications.
 - Tennessee State Standards and associated assessment implications are also explored

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Austin Peay State University

Martha Dickerson Eriksson College of Education

Fall 2018

Assistant Professor, Educational Specialities

- Teaching undergraduate courses with a focus in special education related issues in the K-12 school environment
- Maintaining an active research agenda with a target of at least 2-3 high impact publications and/or well attended presentations annually
- Fulfilling professional, institutional, and community service obligations
- Providing advising support of students in the special education degree program

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

Tennessee Department of Education

Division of Student Support and Special Populations

2012-2018

• **Assessment Design for Special Populations, Director**

- Serve as the state lead for the Multi-State Alternate Assessment designed to assess students with significant cognitive disabilities
- Serve on the communication subcommittee to create resources designed to support teachers with increasing communication for students with significant cognitive disabilities
- Support teachers and district leaders through professional development opportunities to promote high expectations and a deeper understanding of the needs of students with significant cognitive disabilities
- Provide support for districts, teachers, and parents regarding appropriate participation of students in the Tennessee standardized testing program
- Coordinated task force to create new accessibility and accommodation manual for the Tennessee Ready assessment in English language arts and math
- Served as a first author for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers consortium accommodation guidance manual and served as the state lead for the Accessibility, Equity, and Accommodation subgroup to ensure student equity for testing
- Provide technical assistance to support districts, teachers, and parents regarding participation in the English language proficiency assessment, ACCESS for ELLs
- Serve as a collaborative member of the WIDA Access and Accommodations subcommittee

- Assist with the development and continued improvement of training for Instructionally Appropriate IEPs
- **State Personnel Development Grant, Project Manager**
 - Oversee the State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) designed to promote access and opportunities for students through direct educator/district support
 - Supervise three regional SPDG district supports who provide direct assistance to the participating districts during implementation of grant activities
 - Provide professional development for district leaders and teachers designed to promote access to general education instruction for all students with a special emphasis on students with a disability
 - Provide direct support to parents and advocate groups through guidance documents and webinar sessions designed to increase access to the academic program
 - Engage in activities to support college and career readiness initiatives at the district and school level

Maury County Public Schools

Special Education Supervisor

2011-2012

- Reorganized special education central office staff to focus on the unique needs of the district
- Provided technical assistance, including planning and conducting professional development, for teachers, administrators, and parent groups in areas such as assessment, curriculum development, use of materials and equipment, and management of student behavior
- Interviewed applicants, recommended hirings, and evaluated staff performance using the TEAM evaluation rubric
- Reviewed referrals and eligibility determinations as a part of the IEP team meeting with administrators, staff, parents, students and other relevant stakeholders to formulate recommendations for student placement and provision of services
- Supervised the monitoring for compliance of state and federal special education laws and budget
- Analyzed TVAAS/Assessment data to develop program goals and action plans

Tennessee Department of Education

Office of Assessment

2007-2011

- Provided direct training for special education teachers and staff for the administration of the TCAP-Alternate Portfolio assessment designed to assess students with significant cognitive disabilities
- Program manager for the TCAP-Alternate Portfolio assessment

- Oversee form development, scoring, and reporting for the TCAP-Alternate Portfolio assessment
- Convened working group to develop the TCAP Modified assessment designed to assess students in the 2% population
- Lead for item and bias reviews to ensure test items on the TCAP assessments were accessible and without bias
- Primary lead for accommodation decisions and district support
- TN representative for TCAP MAAS GSEG

MAURY COUNTY SCHOOLS

February 2007-May 2007

Interim Gifted Teacher

- Provided instruction to students who qualify for the gifted program in the Maury County School System
- Served Woodard Elementary, Mt. Pleasant Elementary, Mt. Pleasant Middle, Mt. Pleasant High School, Santa Fe, Hampshire, Culleoka Schools
- Designed education plan via IEP

THE KING'S DAUGHTERS' SCHOOL

November 2006-February 2007

Department Coordinator-Communications

- Supervision of staff writing of IEPs
- Evaluation of staff on implementation of student indicators
- Assessment, evaluation, and administration of TCAP-Alt PA
- Develop communication program for Autistic students ages 7-21
 - Supervision of both educational and residential staff on communication program
 - Evaluation of student progress through data collection

Rutherford County Schools

STEWART'S CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

August 2006-November 2006

Department Coordinator-Special Education/ Special Education Teacher

- Supervision of staff (teachers and related support providers) on writing IEPs via EasyIEP
- Evaluation of staff on implementation of student indicators
- Coordinator of IEP team meetings
- Supervision of special education teacher's instruction in content areas
- Direct instruction of students with disabilities in grades K-3 aligned to on grade level curriculum standards

Maury County Schools

E.A. COX MIDDLE SCHOOL

August 2004-May 2006

August 2002-May 2003

November 2001-May 2002

Department Coordinator-Special Education/ Special Education Teacher

- Supervision of staff on writing IEPs via EasyIEP
- Supervision of IEP team meetings
- Administer TCAP Achievement Assessment
- Supervision of staff referral and reevaluation of special education students
- Direct instruction of students with disabilities in grades 6-8 aligned to on grade level curriculum standards
- Inclusion support for students provided instruction in a general education setting

Interim General Eighth Grade English Language Arts Teacher

- Was asked to serve as a General Education English Language Arts teacher to instruct students in the eighth grade due to an emergency medical leave

THE KING'S DAUGHTERS' SCHOOL

June 2001-November 2001

Special Education Teacher/Summer Academic Program Director

- Developed and coordinated summer academic program for students with significant cognitive disabilities
- Provided instruction for academic content for students with significant cognitive disabilities
- Liaison between The King's Daughters's Schools and the public schools which placed the students
- Developed IEP goals and behavior plans
- Served as the Lead Teacher

Maury County Schools
E.A. COX MIDDLE SCHOOL

Feb. 2001-May 2001

Special Education Teacher

- Developed Behavior Plans and IEP goals to meet specific needs of students with disabilities
- Lead IEP team meetings
- Administer TCAP Achievement Assessment
- Direct instruction of students with disabilities in grades 6-8 aligned to on grade level curriculum standards in ELA
- Inclusion support for students provided instruction in a general education setting for grades 6-8

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Increasing access to core instruction for students with disabilities
- Determining the least restrictive environment for instruction
- Implicit bias
- Role of bias in disproportionality
- Impact of school culture on learning
- Influence of school administrators on culture
- Understanding role of an Individual Education Plan in a child's educational journey

PUBLICATIONS

In Progress

Gold, M. E., et al. (in progress). *The Spectrum of Exceptionalities: From Characteristics to Research-Based Classroom Interventions (all editions)*. Kona

PRESENTATIONS

Lowrance, Larry, Morris, Lori, and Mejeun, Emmanuel; Using Social Media, Technology and Direct Instruction to Responsibly Prepare Students and Adults with Disabilities to Vote. 2018 Critical Questions in Education Symposium, October 29-30, 2018 Kansas City, Missouri.

Flora, William and Morris, Lori; Making Educational Leadership Programs Accessible and Personable. National Social Science Association, October 14-16, 2018, New Orleans Louisiana.

Nixon, Lori and Flora, William; K12 Educational Leadership Training: Behind the Times with Instructional Leadership. Joint Meeting of Academic Business World International Conference & International Conference on Learning and Administration in Higher Education, May 24 - 26, 2017 Nashville TN.

Nixon, Lori and Flora, William; A Phenomenological Study of School Leaders Decision Making Process when Making Academic Program Placement Recommendations. Joint Meeting of Academic Business World International Conference & International Conference on Learning and Administration in Higher Education, May 24 - 26, 2017 Nashville TN.

Flora, William and Nixon, Lori; A Phenomenological Study of School Leaders Decision Making Process when Making Academic Program Placement Recommendations. Thirteenth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, University of Illinois at Urbana- Champaign. May 2017.

STUDENT MENTORING

Doctoral Committee Serving and in Progress

O'banner-Robinson, K. (2018). *A Qualitative, Case Study of the Allendale County School District*. ETSU, Johnson City, TN.