

Derek Thurber

EDUCATION

EdD | Educational Leadership & Innovation May 2023
Arizona State University • Phoenix, AZ

Dissertation: “Balancing fidelity and agency in higher education curriculum: Improving implementation of a large-scale program redesign”

MS | Higher Education Administration & Policy Dec. 2015
Northwestern University • Evanston, IL

Thesis: “Next time won’t you play with me: Scalability of simulation-based learning at Northwestern University
Feinberg School of Medicine”

BA | History May 2011
Whitman College • Walla Walla, WA

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Arizona State University, Mary Lou Fulton College for Teaching & Learning Innovation

Principal Teaching + Learning Specialist [*Supervisor*] June 2023 - Current

Senior Learning Designer April 2019 - June 2023

Instructional Designer July 2018 - April 2019

Northwestern University, School of Education and Social Policy

Instructional Design & Technology Consultant Dec. 2015 - July 2018

Instructional Technology Specialist Sept. 2014 - Dec. 2015

Riverland Community College

Tutoring Center Coordinator (AmeriCorps VISTA) Aug. 2013 - Aug. 2014

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

Thurber D., Markos, A., Ross, L., Conley, Q., & Wendt, J. (2025). Examining the use and usability of course “fact sheets” as an approach to faculty development. *Journal of Faculty Development*, 39(2), 41-48.

Thurber D. & Bossen, K. (2025). Curriculum review in higher education: The educational developer’s role in facilitating faculty communities of practice to improve coherence. *To Improve the Academy: A Journal of Educational Development*, 44(1). <https://doi.org/10.3998/tia.4500>

- Lujano Vilchis, I., **Thurber, D.**, & Romkey, M. (2024). Exploring the role of student-run journals in shaping academic identity. *Studies in Graduate and Postdoctoral Education*, 17(2). 129-143. <https://doi.org/10.1108/SGPE-04-2024-0036>
- Thurber, D.**, Markos, A., Ross, L., Conley, Q., & Wendt, J. (2024). Improving implementation of a large-scale curriculum redesign: An innovative approach to balancing fidelity and agency. *Innovative Higher Education*, 50(2). 389-410. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10755-024-09736-2>
- Speer, J., Conley, Q., **Thurber, D.**, Williams, B., Wasden, M., & Jackson, B. (2022). A mixed-methods study of the effectiveness and perceptions of a course design institute for health science educators. *BMC Medical Education*, 22(1), 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12909-022-03910-w>
- Thurber, D.** (2021). Designing learning experiences for the future of learning in the digital age: A proposed framework. *Current Issues in Education*, 22(1).
- Thurber, D.** & Trautvetter, L. (2020). Examining student reported interaction and satisfaction in higher education administration graduate seminar-style blended courses. *Online Learning*, 24(3), 184-202. <https://doi.org/10.24059/olj.v24i3.2102>

Book Reviews

- Thurber, D.** (2022). Rachel Gabel, *The hidden curriculum: First generation students at legacy universities*. *Higher Education*, 85, 241-243. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10734-022-00845-5>

Manuscripts under Review in Refereed Journals

- Thurber, D.**, Markos, A., & Ross, L. (In Review). Standardization vs. autonomy: Exploring tensions in faculty perceptions of agency in a redesigned curriculum. *Manuscript submitted for review*.
- Thurber, D.** & Conley, Q. (In Review). Identifying factors influencing the Sense of Teaching Agency (SoTA) among higher education faculty in the United States: A Delphi study. *Manuscript submitted for review*.
- Thurber, D.** (In Review). Assessing student learning progression at scale: A validation study of embedded rubric-based indicators. *Manuscript submitted for review*.

Manuscripts in Preparation

- Thurber, D.** & Villarruel, H. (In Preparation). Artificial intelligence and the distribution of cognitive labor in curriculum mapping. *Manuscript in preparation*.
- Thevaraja, A., Postlewaite E., Xiaofang Zue, L., Kim., S, **Thurber, D.**, & Villarruel, H. (In Preparation). Changes in faculty and staff interest, awareness, and knowledge of a character framework over time. *New Directions for Higher Education*. *Manuscript in preparation*.

AWARDS & HONORS

ASU I MLFC Annual Staff Excellence (Risk Taker) Award	2024
ASU I Professor of Impact Award	2023
ASU I SUNAward (Multiple)	2018 - 2026
Corporation for National and Community Service I Exemplary AmeriCorps VISTA Project	2014

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Thurber, D. Markos, A., Wendt, J., Ross, L., & Conley, Q. (2024). "Improving Implementation of a Constructively-Aligned Program: Balancing Fidelity and Agency." American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

Thurber, D. (2023). "Course 'Fact Sheets' as a Novel Tool for Professional Development." Professional & Organizational Development (POD) Network Annual Conference, Virtual.

Thurber, D. (2023). "Exploring Tensions in Faculty Perceptions of Agency in a Teacher Preparation Program." Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) Annual Conference, Virtual.

Speer, J., Conley, Q., Williams, B., **Thurber, D.**, & Wasden, M. (2022). "Teaching Essential Course Design Skills: Investigation of a Professional Development Opportunity for Health Science Educators." AECT Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV.

Thurber, D. & Bossen, K. (2021). "The learning college: Continuous improvement through a curriculum review process." Professional and Organizational Development (POD) Network Annual Conference, Virtual.

Thurber, D. & Miller, A. (2021). "Education beyond the classroom: Designing nanocourses for home and community educators." Distance Teaching and Learning (DT&L) Annual Conference, Virtual.

Miller, A. & **Thurber, D.** (2020). "How can we use data to inform design and deployment of online courses?" Distance Teaching and Learning (DT&L) Annual Conference, Virtual.

Thurber, D. & Miller, A. (2019). "Using a cross-staff design approach to navigate change." EDUCAUSE Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.

Thurber, D. & Trautvetter, L. (2018). "Interaction and satisfaction in graduate, seminar-style blended format courses." Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) Annual Conference, Tampa Bay, FL.

Thurber, D. (2017). "Designing seminar-style courses for a blended format: Emphasizing interpersonal connection and dialogue." Online Learning Consortium (OLC) Innovate Conference, New Orleans, LA.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Arizona State University

HED 572: Program Assessment & Evaluation for Higher Ed Professionals [Online]	2026
TEL 701: Quantitative Methods in Action Research [Online]	2024, 2026
HED 598: Using Technology for Student Success [Online]	2025
TEL 708: Collaborative Approaches to Data-Informed Decision Making [Online]	2024
TEL 711: Strategies for Inquiry [Hybrid; Online]	2023, 2024
EDU 301: Why Education? [Online]	2021, 2022, 2023
LSE 305: Conceptualizing Learning [Online]	2021, 2022, 2023

Northwestern University

MS_HE 406: Research and Development I [In Person]	2016, 2017
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MS_HE 407: Research and Development II [In Person]	2017, 2018
MS_HE 408: Research and Development III [In Person]	2017, 2018

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Editorial

Guest Editor, Special Issue on Student-Led Journals, <i>Current Issues in Education</i> (CIE)	2023
Managing Editor, <i>Current Issues in Education</i> (CIE; ISSN 1099-839X)	2022 - 2023
Reviewer, <i>Discover Education</i>	2026 - Current
Reviewer, <i>Education Sciences</i>	2024 - Current
Reviewer, <i>Trends in Higher Education</i>	2023 - Current
Reviewer, <i>To Improve the Academy</i>	2022 - Current
Reviewer, <i>Current Issues in Education</i>	2020 - Current

Curriculum

Co-designer, TEL 701: Quantitative Methods in Action Research	2026
Facilitator, Curriculum Review, Learning Sciences MA	2021
Member, Program Redesign Ad Hoc Committee, Division for Educator Preparation	2019 - 2020

National

Session Moderator, POD Network Annual Conference	2023
Reviewer, POD Network Annual Conference	2021, 2023
Reviewer, EDUCAUSE Education Learning Initiative (ELI) Annual Conference	2021
Reviewer, Online Learning Consortium (OLC) Innovate Conference	2020, 2021

Institutional

Co-Chair, SoTL Learning Futures Collaborative, ASU	2026 - Current
Founder & Chair, Airtable Advisory Group, MLFC	2025 - Current
Team Lead, Community of Reflective Educators (CORE) Affinity Groups, MLFC	2025 - Current
Ex-Officio Member, Continuous Improvement Topical Action Group (TAG), MLFC	2023 - Current
Application Reviewer, Leadership & Innovation EdD Admissions Committee, MLFC	2024 - 2026
Member, Faculty Development Systems Ad Hoc Committee, MLFC	2023 - 2024
Faculty Facilitator, Doctoral Research Conversations, MLFC	2023, 2024
Mentor, Doctoral Student Self-Directed Learning Internship, MLFC	2023
Executive Member, Leadership & Innovation Student Advisory Council, MLFC	2022 - 2023
Member, Airtable Implementation Ad Hoc Committee, MLFC	2020 - 2022

Professional Development

Emerging Supervisors Pathway [Equivalent to 1-year of Supervisory Experience], ASU	2023
Associate Certification, Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (CIRTL)	2023
Blended Learning Design within a Community of Inquiry Framework, EDUCAUSE	2016

Non-Academic Work

Paralegal & Office Manager, The Spiva Law Firm PLLC

2012 - 2013

SKILLS

Foreign Languages: Can read Spanish with a dictionary

Ed Tech & Design: Canvas • Adobe CC • Yellowdig • Perusall • VoiceThread • Playposit

Data & Research: Airtable • Tableau • SPSS • R • Atlas.ti • Qualtrics

Web Design & Programming: HTML5 & CSS3 • Javascript • Github

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Educational Research Association (AERA)

Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)

International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (iSSoTL)

Professional and Organizational Development (POD) Network