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HEATHER RAITHEL

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

2019 – Fall 2023 (expected) Arizona State University Tempe, Arizona
Ed.D. Special Education Leadership and Innovation

- ABD (All but dissertation) – expected defense October 25, 2023
- Selected as 1 of 9 in a fully funded cohort
- Dissertation focused on supporting adult learners in improving inter-rater reliability in compliance calls for Program Support and Monitoring specialists at the Arizona Department of Education.

2015 – 2017 Utah State University Logan, Utah
MEd Special Education

- Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) National Graduate Student of the Year, 2017
- GPA: 4.0 (4 point scale)
- Selected as 1 of 7 in a fully funded cohort

1999- 2002 Sam Houston State University Huntsville, Texas
Academic Studies (Teaching)/English minor

- Graduated with a 3.88 G.P.A. (4 point scale) Summa Cum Laude

Teaching Credentials

- Arizona Standard Professional Special Education K-12 (Mild/Moderate) Expires 7/12/2031

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2023-present Arizona State University Arizona Tempe, Arizona
Clinical Assistant Professor – Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College

- Support intern and student teachers in professional experiences as a part of the MLFTC undergraduate teacher preparation program.
- Provide training and support to mentor teachers in districts and charters.
- Teach courses for aspiring teachers.

2022-2023 Arizona Department of Education Phoenix, Arizona
Lead Specialist – Program Support and Monitoring (Secure Care)

- Trained, supported, and provided mentorship to mentee specialists in Program Support and Monitoring.
- Provided assistance and training in special education compliance to PEAs throughout the state, including districts, charters, and all secure care facilities.
- Monitored special education compliance and assessed progress toward corrective action.

- Worked collaboratively with other units in the agency towards shared goals.
- Presented to staff and other education stakeholders.

2020-2021 **Stride, Inc. (Miami Virtual Program Arizona)** **Arizona**
Academic Administrator of Special Programs

- Directed services and supervised staff for special education, English learners, gifted education, and 504 supports for all students K-12.
- Managed all contracted providers, including related services providers and psychologists, to ensure appropriate services for students in special education.
- Supported staff with all parent concerns related to special programs.
- Provided in-depth training on compliance and instructional support for all special programs.
- Supervised lead teacher for child find specific tasks.
- Created and enforced all policies and procedures for special programs within the school.

2019 – 2020 **Avondale Elementary School District** **Avondale, Arizona**
Compliance Coordinator

- Coordinated all aspects of compliance training and support for special education staff.
- Supported new and inexperienced educators in leading MET/IEP meetings and drafting documentation.
- Facilitated Teaching Strategies Gold for preschool students.
- Managed caseload of students in private placement
- Supported ESS Director in managing, budgeting, creating policies and procedures, and planning for the department.

2017 – 2019 **Arizona Department of Education** **Phoenix, Arizona**
State Systemic Improvement Plan Coordinator/Lead Specialist

- Managed large-scale, state-wide initiative focused on improving literacy outcomes for students with disabilities in Arizona.
- Trained and supported Program Support and Monitoring Specialists as a Lead Specialist.
- Provided assistance and training in special education compliance to PEAs throughout the state.
- Monitored special education compliance and assessed progress toward corrective action.

2013 – 2017 **Utah Virtual Academy** **Murray, Utah**
HS Transition Coordinator, Special Education

- Coordinated and oversaw all transition-related activities for students with disabilities district-wide.
- Supervised teachers and staff in the development and implementation of IEP transition plans for all high school special education students.
- Trained all district staff in transition topics.
- Attended and participated in over 200 IEP meetings per year and audited the district’s special education files for compliance.
- Collaborated with employers, post-secondary institutions, and adult agencies throughout the state and taught transition-specific courses, including community-based instruction.

2010 – 2013 **B.T. Wilson 6th Grade School** **Kerrville, Texas**
6th Grade Special Education Inclusion Teacher

- Taught cooperatively in math, language arts, science, and history with general education teachers to meet the needs of students with special needs, as well as special education students also classified as English Language Learners.
- Prepared, wrote, and monitored IEP and Present Levels of Progress documents for special education students on my caseload.

2009 – 2010 **Kihei Charter School** **Kihei, Maui, Hawaii**
Virtual School (K-8) and Middle School (6-8) Special Education Inclusion Teacher

- Evaluated student progress in all core subjects using the K12 curriculum for the virtual education program.
- Planned and taught science enrichment lessons to K-8 virtual students, facilitated daily advisory classes for 7- 8 middle school students, and taught 7-8 language arts and academic support for struggling students. Co-taught middle school students in math, language arts, history, and science.
- Supervised student teacher in language arts inclusion class, as well as in developing and implementing IEPs.

2008 – 2009

Reef Check Thailand

Kuraburi, Thailand

Community Education, Ecotourism Coordinator

- Coordinated eco-tourism activities for Koh Ra Ecolodge, including learning visits to community-based tourism ventures with villages recovering from the 2004 tsunami.
- Created educational materials and curriculum to be used in community environmental education.
- Participated in underwater Reef Check surveys and taught English to Thai/Burmese staff.

2006 – 2008

Chula Vista Academy of Fine Arts

Corpus Christi, Texas

5th Grade Math, Science, Creative Writing Teacher, ESL Teacher

- Engaged students in hands-on science labs and math activities, including all grade-level English Language Learners and students with special needs.
- Coordinated campus-wide science fair and managed class-created school newsletter with my creative writing students and participated in school/community planning committee and led workshops on engagement.

2005 – 2006

Calallen Middle School

Corpus Christi, Texas

6th Grade Writing Teacher/ESL Teacher

- Worked cooperatively with core team, parents, and other school staff to meet the needs of all students.
- Created curriculum and geared lessons to engage a variety of students, including special education and ELL students.

2003 - 2005

Sunset School

Greenough, Montana

Supervising Teacher/All Subjects

- Developed and implemented curriculum in all subjects for 18 students, grades K-8.
- Fulfilled administrative duties for a one-room rural school, supervising cooperating teacher/aide and foster grandparent and attending all school board meetings.
- Wrote and received grants to supplement the school budget.
- Differentiated instruction for a diverse population (including students with special needs and English Language Learners) from varying backgrounds.

2002– 2003

Meadow Hill Middle School

Missoula, Montana

Assistant Teacher, 6th – 8th Grade in Special Education Behavioral Unit

- Worked cooperatively with special education teachers serving students from a variety of backgrounds with special learning and behavioral needs.
- Planned and taught science lessons to all self-contained students in 6th-8th grade.
- Contributed to Individualized Education Programs (IEP) and parent/teacher conferences.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS, RESEARCH, AND MEMBERSHIPS

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- Mentorship with Director of Dispute Resolution – Arizona Department of Education, 2023
 - Mentorship with Deputy Associate Superintendent – Arizona Department of Education, 2022
 - Mentorship with Board Member – Laveen Governing Board, 2021
 - Mentorship with Arizona State Representative, Rep. Dr. Gerae Peten, 2020

- Chair – Continue the Quality Political Action Committee supporting bond election for local school districts, 2023
- Committee Member, ASU MLFT Project OASIS focused on optimizing access for students in school, 2023
- Attended Special Education Legislative Summit with Council for Exceptional Children, 2023
- Attended National Systemic Improvement Center Conference representing Arizona, 2023
- Co-presenter – Aligning transition indicators reported in the State Systemic Improvement Plan/Annual Performance Report for the State of Arizona, 2022
- Co-presenter – Trends in dispute resolution data for the State of Arizona, 2023
- Drafted bill and presented to the Arizona State Democratic Caucus and relevant stakeholders regarding funding compensatory education services for special education students, 2020
- Panel Member – Arizona Special Education Advisory Panel, 2020-2021
- Parent Teacher Organization, Desert Thunder School – Treasurer 2017, member 2017-present
- Lead Presenter – IDEA Conference “Supporting Students with Disabilities in the Online Classroom,” 2021
- Member – Council for Exceptional Children, Council for Administrators of Special Education, Special Education Administrators of Arizona, Teacher Education Division (CEC)
- Presenter – Poster Session “Transition in the Virtual Setting”, Utah CEC Conference, 2017
- MEd Research – “Parent perceptions on transition knowledge and expectations for students with disabilities at an online school.”
- Team Leader – Utah Transition Institute, 2015-2017
- Lead Presenter - Break-out Session “Thinking outside the Box: Utilizing Technology in Effective Transition Planning to Benefit All Students” Utah MTSS Conference, 2016.
- Lead Presenter – Poster Session “Transition in the Virtual Setting” Division on Career Development and Transition Conference, 2016