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HEATHER RAITHEL

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

Doctor of Education (Ed.D.), Special Education Leadership and Innovation

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ | 2019–2024

- Fully funded doctoral cohort (1 of 9); dissertation on improving inter-rater reliability in special education compliance monitoring at the Arizona Department of Education
- GPA: **3.93 / 4.0**

Master of Education (M.Ed.), Special Education

Utah State University, Logan, UT | 2015–2017

- CEC National Graduate Student of the Year (2017); fully funded cohort (1 of 7)
- GPA: **4.0 / 4.0**

Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Academic Studies (Teaching), Minor: English

Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX | 1999–2002

- GPA: **3.88 / 4.0**, *Summa Cum Laude*

Teaching Credential

- Arizona Standard Professional Special Education K–12 (Mild/Moderate), expires July 12, 2031

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Clinical Assistant Professor, Student Teacher Supervisor

Arizona State University | 2023–present

- Supervise and mentor student teachers, supporting field-based mentors; teach courses in education and special education; conduct research on inclusive practices; lead faculty projects and deliver presentations

Lead Specialist – Program Support and Monitoring (Secure Care)

Arizona Department of Education | 2022–2023

- Trained and mentored monitoring specialists; provided statewide compliance technical assistance to districts, charters, and secure care facilities; monitored corrective action and presented findings to stakeholders

Academic Administrator of Special Programs

Stride, Inc. (Miami Virtual Program), AZ | 2020–2021

- Directed K–12 special education, English learner, gifted, and Section 504 programs; supervised staff and contracted providers; developed policies and delivered compliance and instructional training

Compliance Coordinator

Avondale Elementary School District, AZ | 2019–2020

- Led compliance training and educator support; mentored staff in MET/IEP facilitation; managed private placement caseloads; supported departmental budgeting, policy, and planning

SSIP Coordinator / Lead Specialist

Arizona Department of Education | 2017–2019

- Managed a statewide literacy improvement initiative for students with disabilities; trained monitoring specialists; provided compliance assistance and corrective action oversight

High School Transition Coordinator, Special Education

Utah Virtual Academy, UT | 2013–2017

- Coordinated district-wide transition services; supervised transition IEP development; trained staff; collaborated with employers, postsecondary institutions, and adult agencies; audited compliance

6th Grade Special Education Inclusion Teacher

B.T. Wilson 6th Grade School, Kerrville, TX | 2010–2013

- Co-taught math, language arts, science, and social studies in inclusive settings; Supported students with disabilities and English language learners; Developed and monitored IEPs and Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance

Inclusion Teacher (Virtual and Middle School)

Kihei Charter School, Kihei, HI | 2009–2010

- Evaluated student progress using K12 curriculum in a virtual education program; Taught science enrichment (K–8), middle school language arts, and academic support; Facilitated advisory classes for grades 7–8; Co-taught core content classes and supervised a student teacher

Community Education & Ecotourism Coordinator

Reef Check Thailand, Kuraburi, Thailand | 2008–2009

- Coordinated eco-tourism and educational programming for communities recovering from the 2004 tsunami; Developed environmental education curriculum and materials; Participated in underwater reef surveys and provided English instruction to Thai and Burmese staff

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

Chula Vista Academy of Fine Arts, Corpus Christi, TX | 2006–2008

- Delivered hands-on instruction to English learners and students with special needs; Coordinated campus-wide science fair; Led a student-produced school newsletter; Served on school and community planning committees and facilitated engagement workshops

Sixth Grade Writing Teacher / ESL Teacher

Calallen Middle School, Corpus Christi, TX | 2005–2006

- Collaborated with interdisciplinary teams, families, and staff; Designed differentiated curriculum for diverse learners, including special education and ELL students

Supervising Teacher (K–8, All Subjects)

Sunset School, Greenough, MT | 2003–2005

- Delivered instruction across all content areas in a one-room rural school; Managed administrative responsibilities, including supervision of staff and board participation; Secured grant funding to supplement school resources; Differentiated instruction for students with disabilities and English learners

Assistant Teacher, Special Education Behavioral Unit (Grades 6–8)

Meadow Hill Middle School, Missoula, MT | 2002–2003

- Supported instruction for students with complex learning and behavioral needs; Planned and taught science lessons; Contributed to IEP development and parent-teacher conferences
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PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS, RESEARCH, AND MEMBERSHIPS

- Governing Board Member, Avondale Elementary School District (2025-present, 4-year term)
- Co-chair, Continue the Quality (multi-district bond PAC); Co-chair, Citizens for a Highly Effective Workforce (bond for West-MEC PAC)
- Presenter and co-presenter at IDEA, CEC, DCDT, MTSS, and state conferences on transition, online instruction, compliance, and dispute resolution
- Drafted and presented proposed state legislation related to compensatory education funding
- Mentorships with ADE senior leadership, elected officials, and governing board members (2020–2023)
- Member: Council for Exceptional Children, CASE, Special Education Administrators of Arizona, Division on Career Development and Transition
- Member and Researcher: Project OASIS, Learning Futures Collaborative – ASU (2023-present)
- Member: ACEPP (Arizona Coalition for Educator Preparation and Practice) and CEEDAR (Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability, and Reform)