

Melanie Rees Dawson

Curriculum Vitae

**Director, Mild/Moderate Alternative Teacher Preparation Program
Clinical Assistant Professor
Utah State University**

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. (2016) **Disability Disciplines**
Specialization: Special Education
Utah State University, Logan, Utah
Advisor: Dr. Benjamin Lignugaris/Kraft
- M.Ed. (2008) **Elementary Education**
Utah State University, Logan, Utah
Advisor: Dr. Sylvia Read
- B.S. (2002) **Special Education & Elementary Education**
Emphasis: Mild/Moderate Special Education
Utah State University, Logan, Utah
Honors: Magna Cum Laude Graduate
- B.F.A. (2002) **Theater Arts**
Emphasis: Education
Utah State University, Logan, Utah
Honors: Summa Cum Laude Graduate

CERTIFICATIONS/ENDORSEMENTS

Administrative Supervision
Special Education, mild/moderate disabilities, K-12
Elementary Education, 1-8
Theater Arts, 6-12
Teaching English as a Second Language
Reading Endorsements, Level I and Level II

RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS

Evidence-based instruction and behavior strategies for students with mild/moderate disabilities
 Effective use of virtual classrooms, including TeachLivE, in teacher preparation
 Implementation of Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)
 Administrative leadership
 Applied Behavior Analysis
 Single subject research design

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

- Current **Dissertation:** *From TeachLivE to the Classroom: Building Preservice Special Educators' Proficiency with Essential Teaching Skills*
 Providing educators with practice opportunities on essential teaching skills in TeachLivE, and investigating the extent to which they transfer to the classroom
- 2014-
Current **Co-Investigator:** *Critical Incidents in the Statewide Implementation of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)*
 Interviewing project directors of state scale up efforts to identify the critical incidences that facilitate or hinder statewide implementation of MTSS
- 2014 **Research Assistant:** *Questions in the Classroom: Training Teachers to use a Strategic Approach for Asking Reading Comprehension Questions*
 Double-coded teachers' delivery of various question types, and provided technical assistance for all practice sessions conducted in TeachLivE
- 2013 **Principal Investigator:** *Meaningful Practice: Generalizing Essential Teaching Skills from TeachLivE to the Special Education Classroom*
 Evaluated teachers' proficiency with target skills in the virtual environment and piloted data collection in their classroom settings
- 2012 **Principal Investigator:** *TeachLivE vs. Roleplay: Comparative Effects on Preservice Special Educators' Acquisition of Basic Teaching Skills*
 Examined teachers' proficiency with counterbalanced target skills practiced in TeachLivE or roleplay to determine the comparative effectiveness of each setting

UNIVERSITY TEACHING

- Fall 2016 **Main Instructor**
SPED 5350: Teaching Students with Mild/Moderate Disabilities (Part I)
 Utah State University, Salt Lake Center
 Topics: Principles of Applied Behavior Analysis, strategies to increase behavior, pinpointing and defining behavior, data collection systems, identifying the function of a behavior, conducting functional behavior assessments

- Fall 2011-
Current **Main Instructor/Lab Mentor**
SPED 5790: TeachLivE Lab Practicum (Part I)
Utah State University, Salt Lake Center
Target skills: Opportunities to respond, error correction, praise, praise around
- Spring 2012-
Current **Main Instructor/Lab Mentor**
SPED 5790: TeachLivE Lab Practicum (Part II)
Utah State University, Salt Lake Center
Target Skills: Precision requests, consequences, instructional scaffolds
- Spring 2014 **Main Instructor**
SPED 5360: Teaching Students with Mild/Moderate Disabilities (Part II)
Utah State University, Salt Lake Center
Professor: Marilyn Likins
Topics: Positive and reductive behavioral strategies, self-monitoring, single subject research designs, prompting/fading, generalization/maintenance, working effectively with paraeducators, teaming with parents
- Spring 2013 **Teaching Assistant, Guest Instructor**
SPED 5360: Teaching Students with Mild/Moderate Disabilities (Part II)
Utah State University, Salt Lake Center
Professor: Marilyn Likins
- Fall 2012-
Current **Guest Instructor** on classroom data collection systems
SPED 5350: Teaching Students with Mild/Moderate Disabilities (Part I)
Utah State University, Salt Lake Center
Professor: Marilyn Likins

ADMINISTRATIVE INTERNSHIPS

- 2011-Current ATP Program, USU
Mentors: Marilyn Likins, Randy Schelble, Ben Lignugaris/Kraft
Teacher training and supervision, didactic instruction, research, grant writing
- Jan-June 2014 Lincoln Elementary, Salt Lake City School District
Mentors: Peggy Paterson and Samantha Salazar
Grade level PLCs, behavior management, instructional supervision, family nights
- May-Dec 2013 Kearns High School, Granite School District
Mentors: Maile Loo and Heather Sonne
Teacher and student supervision, discipline, extracurricular activities

TEACHER SUPERVISION

- 2015-2016 Student Teaching Supervisor (elementary), USU Distance Program
Conducting regular visits and providing feedback for small-group reading and math instruction
- 2013-2014 Administrative Supervision, Kearns High School and Lincoln Elementary
Observed and provided feedback to teachers across departments in instruction and behavior strategies
- 2012-2013 Placement Supervisor (secondary), USU ATP Program
Conducted regular formal and informal observations and provided feedback in whole-class reading and math instruction

PROFESSIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Elementary Education

- 2010-2011 5th Grade General Education Teacher
Stansbury Elementary, West Valley City, Utah
Tier 1 and Tier II instruction in reading, language arts, and math
- 2006-2010 Reading Specialist, Grades K-4
Stansbury Elementary, West Valley City, Utah
Tier II small group reading interventions

Special Education

- 2004-2006 Self-Contained Reading and Math Inclusion Teacher
Jackson Creek Middle School, Bloomington, Indiana
Intensive reading remediation and math inclusion accommodations
- 2004-2005 Self-Contained Reading, Math, and Science Teacher
Bachelor Middle School, Bloomington Indiana
Focused remediation in core subjects, aligned with general curriculum
- 2003-2004 Resource Language Arts Teacher
Kearns Junior High, Kearns, Utah
Reading and language arts remediation, behavior systems

Theater Education

- 2013-2014 Summer Theater Camp Instructor, Ages 6-13
Children's Theater of Salt Lake, Salt Lake City, Utah
Creative dramatics, script creation, and performance

- 2005-2006 Creative Dramatics Teacher
Jackson Creek Middle School, Bloomington, Indiana
Theatre history, acting, playwriting, technical theatre, and drama club
- 2003-2004 Program Coordinator and Instructor, preK-12
Children's Theater of Salt Lake, Salt Lake City, Utah
Musical theater, improvisation, and audition training

RELATED EMPLOYMENT

- 2010-present TeachLivE Lab Coordinator and Mentor
Utah State University, Salt Lake Center
Implementation of the TeachLivE Simulated classroom
- 2007-2012 Special Education Recruitment Coordinator for the Wasatch Front Area, Utah
State University, Logan, Utah
SPED 1000 concurrent enrollment supervisor and paraeducator recruitment
- 2001-2004, Drama Specialist, Opera By Children Program
- 2006-2011 Utah Festival Opera, Logan, Utah
Drama consultant/trainer for original student operas

PUBLICATIONS

Dawson, M. R., & Lignugaris/Kraft, B. (in press). Meaningful Practice: Generalizing essential teaching skills from TeachLivE to the special education classroom. *Teacher Education Special Education*. Available online at <http://tes.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/0888406416664184v1.pdf?ijkey=QZW2xD1J5k5Urir&keytype=finite>

Manuscripts in Preparation:

Dawson, M. R., Hayes, A., & Lignugaris/Kraft, B. (in progress). TeachLivE vs. roleplay: Comparative effects on special educators' acquisition of basic teaching skills.

Dawson, M. R., & Lignugaris/Kraft, B. (in progress). Specific praise and student outcomes: A research synthesis.

Conference Proceedings:

Dawson, M. R. & Lignugaris/Kraft, B. (2013). TeachLivE vs. roleplay: Comparative effects on special educators acquisition of basic teaching skills. In A. Hayes, S. Hardin, L. Dieker, C. Hughes, M. Hynes, & C. Straub. *Conference Proceedings for First National TeachLivE Conference*. Paper presented at First National TeachLivE Conference: Orlando, FL, University of Central Florida.

Non-Referred Articles:

Morgan, R. L., **Rees, M.**, & Lyman, J. (December, 2009). Recruiting the next generation of special education teachers. *The Utah Special Educator*, 32 (2), 44-46.

Morgan, R. L., & **Rees, M.** (2008). From tutor to teacher: For some peer tutors, the experience can lead to a teaching career. *The Utah Special Educator*, 28 (4), 42-43.

PRESENTATIONS

Dawson, M.R., Harris, S., & Lignugaris/Kraft, B. (2014, November). *Using virtual environments to develop teaching skills: Training and generalized effects*. Paper presented at the 37th Annual Conference of the Teacher Education Division of The Council for Exceptional Children, Indianapolis, IN.

Lignugaris /Kraft, B., Vince Garland, K., **Dawson, M. R.**, & Salzburg, C. (2013, November). *Research on Virtual Environments*. Paper presented at the 36th Annual Conference of the Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Dawson, M. R. & Lignugaris/Kraft, B. (2013, May). TeachLivE vs. roleplay: Comparative effects on special educators acquisition of basic teaching skills. Paper presented at First National TeachLivE Conference: Orlando, FL, University of Central Florida.

Lyman, J., Morgan, B., **Dawson, M. R.** (2013, April). *Gear up for the ride of your life: Start the journey from para to teacher*. Paper presented at the 31st Oral presentation. National Conference of the National Resource Center for Paraeducators, Salt Lake City, UT.

Morgan, R. L., Morgan, B., Lyman, J., & **Rees, M.** (2010, November). *Teacher education and financial assistance opportunities at Utah State University for special education paraeducators*. Paper presented at the 16th Annual Utah Paraeducator Conference, Provo, UT.

Morgan, R. L., **Rees, M.**, Lyman, J., & Morgan, B. (2009, November). *Panning for gold: Recruiting paraeducators to become future special education teachers*. Paper presented at the 15th Annual Utah Paraeducator Conference, Salt Lake City, UT.

GRANT EXPERIENCE

2014 Special Education Personnel Preparation Grant from the Utah State Office of Education. **Funded \$171,234** (\$85,617 per year for two years).
Role: Grant Writing Assistant. My main responsibilities included gathering and reporting ATP teacher data, and assisting in writing and editing the narrative.

2016 Special Education Personnel Preparation Grant from the Utah State Office of Education. **Funded \$224, 812** (Year 1: \$122,402, Year 2: \$102,410)

Role: Principal Investigator. My responsibilities included writing and editing the grant narrative, reporting data from past ATP projects, and assisting Dr. Marilyn Likins in creating the budget.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIPS

Junior Achievement volunteer
Member, Council for Exception Children
Member, International Reading Association
Reviewer for Council for Exceptional Children Student Award and Scholarships
Guest Reviewer for Education and Treatment of Children (2012; 2014)
Critical Friends Group, professional learning community facilitator, Bloomington, IN
Monroe County Youth Shelter workshop leader, Bloomington, Indiana
Utah Theater Association, workshop presenter
Publicity and event volunteer, Special Olympics, Utah State University
College of Education, council member, Utah State University

AWARDS AND HONORS

Presidential Fellowship, School of Graduate Studies (2011-2012)
University Club Scholar, 4-year undergraduate scholarship (1998-2002)
Glenda Thornley Theater Scholarship (2002)
Education Achievement Award, 1st place, Golden Key International Honour Society, (2003)
Performing Arts Showcase Scholarship, 1st place, Golden Key International Honour Society, (2002)
Theater Arts Sterling Scholar, state runner up (1998)