

Rehabilitation Counseling Program – Year in Review for Academic Year 2020-2021

Faculty and Staff, Brief Bios:

Dr. Michael Gerald, Ph.D., CRC., LMHC-Iowa is an assistant professor in rehabilitation counseling in the Special Education and Rehabilitation Counseling (SPERC) Department. Dr. Gerald began his appointment in the Fall 2020 semester and has been a key player in helping finalize efforts related to counselor licensure and ensuring our graduates are part of the solution to the State of Utah’s mental health crisis. He is the director of the Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling Clinic in the Sorenson Legacy Foundation Center for Clinical Excellence.

Dr. Trenton Landon, Ph.D., CRC., LVRC-Utah, has been with Utah State since the Fall 2016 semester. Dr. Landon is an assistant professor in rehabilitation counseling in SPERC. Dr. Landon presently serves as the program chair for the Master’s in Rehabilitation Counseling. Since 2016, Dr. Landon has authored/coauthored **24 peer reviewed publications** and **two book chapters**. Dr. Landon will undergo his tenure review in the coming academic year for promotion to Associate Professor.

Dr. Michelle McKnight-Lizotte, Ph.D., CRC, LPC-Idaho, is an assistant professor in rehabilitation counseling in SPERC. Dr. McKnight-Lizotte has been with Utah State since the Fall 2018 semester. Since that time, Dr. McKnight-Lizotte has authored/co-authored **thirteen peer reviewed publications** and **three book chapters**.

Dr. Kathleen (Kat) Oertle, Ph.D., CRC, LVRC-Utah, began her employment at USU in Fall 2013 as an assistant research professor. Since arriving, Dr. Oertle has secured external funding of nearly \$6 million of which is a **\$600,000 3-year grant for her latest project, called “Collaborate for Change (C2)”** (one of five funded out of 134 total projects). Dr. Oertle has authored/co-authored **20 peer-reviewed publications** and **two book chapters** and given **more than 30 presentations**. Dr. Oertle is the only current faculty member in the program with tenure.

Dr. Brian Phillips, Ph.D., CRC, joined the Rehabilitation Counseling faculty at USU in Fall of 2019. Prior to working at USU, he was an associate professor in the Rehabilitation Psychology program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he worked for eight years. His research focuses on two primary strands, namely (a) understanding and predicting workplace social effectiveness and its outcomes and (b) measuring the influence of individual strengths on adjustment, well-being, and employment outcomes of people with disabilities. He has worked on multiple federally funded research projects and serves as an editorial board member for several journals. Dr. Phillips was recognized as the **Rehabilitation Counseling Faculty/Staff member of the year** in 2020, and will undergo his tenure review in the coming academic year for promotion to Associate Professor.

Kris Wengreen, Graduate Program Coordinator, is a full-time departmental employee. Her degree in Business Information Systems has served the USU RCM program well because she is able to develop databases which record and monitor many aspects of the program including RSA Scholar Payback, Student Progress, Graduates, and much more. Mrs. Wengreen has been with USU for more than 17 years.

Tracy Woolstenhulme, MRC., CRC, LVRC-Utah, Practicum/Internship Coordinator and Supervisor, is a clinical instructor and the practicum/internship coordinator in the Special Education and Rehabilitation Counseling Department at Utah State University. Her work with practicum/internship students is invaluable to the core faculty as her work with practicum internship students allows core faculty to focus on research and grant writing.

Of note here regarding the faculty, **Dr. Michelle McKnight** and **Dr. Brian Phillips** were both **awarded the NCRE president’s award** for “Exemplary diligence and fortitude in promoting rehabilitation research, education, and service from the President of the National Council on Rehabilitation Education in 2020.

Number of Students

Current Doctoral Students: 2 – both currently working on their dissertation and projected to defend and graduate in Spring 2022

Current Master's Degree Students: 45

Current Alternative Certification Students: 56

Newly Admitted MRC Students, Fall 2021: 22 (19 accepted)

Projected Spring 2021 MRC Graduates: 12

A total of 24 Master's and Alternative Certification students receive scholarship funds, with the remaining 77 either being self-pay or receiving tuition assistance through the VA. Traditionally we seek support for students through the long-term training grants available through the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). Two of those grants ended their cycles and funding expired after the Fall 2020 semester. To date, no RFP has been distributed for the Federal Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2021. We remain hopeful that we'll be able to pursue another RSA long-term training grant in the summer of 2022.

Students Supported with Scholarship Funds

Semester	Number of Students	Scholarship Money Dispersed
Fall 20	67	\$155,742.00
Spring 21	22	\$64,433.00
Summer 21	10	\$19,784.00
Fall 21 (projected)	23	\$72,827.00
Total Scholarship Money Dispersed: \$312,786.00		

Faculty Publications from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

The following are the scholarly products and grant applications/managed grants produced from July 1, 2020 to July 31, 2021. Products are listed in alphabetical order.

Of note, but not listed here is Dr. Brian Phillips selection as a Faculty Fellow with the CEHS-CPD Faculty Fellowship program. He will be coordinating his research efforts with Dr. Tim Riesen in the USU CPD in the 2021-2022 academic year.

Published/In press	# of Publications with Student Co-Authors	Book Chapters	Manuscripts Under Review
18	6	3	12

Published/In Press

An asterisk (*) denotes authorship with a graduate student.

A double asterisk (**) denotes authorship with an undergraduate student.

- 1) Chan, F., Tansey, T. N., Iwanaga, K., Bezyak, J., Wehman, P., **Phillips, B.**, Strauser, D., & Andeson, C. (in press). Company characteristics, disability inclusion practices, and

employment of people with disabilities in the post COVID-19 job economy. *Journal of Occupational Rehabilitation*.

- 2) Currier-Kipping, K.*, **McKnight-Lizotte, M., Phillips, B., Landon, T. J.,** & Whicker, J. J. (in review). Exploring the knowledge, perceptions, and practice patterns of school counselors regarding vocational rehabilitation for transition age youth with disabilities. *Journal of Rehabilitation*.
- 3) Currier-Kipping, K.*, Sheen, J., & **Landon, T. J.** (In press). The role of the vocational rehabilitation counselor in supporting post-secondary education for students with intellectual disabilities: A narrative review of literature. *Journal of Rehabilitation*.
- 4) Greco, C., Strauser, D. R., Shen, S., Kosciulek, J. F., Strauser, D. G., & **Phillips, B. N.** (in press). Understanding the impact of functioning on career factors for individuals with disabilities and criminal backgrounds. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*.
- 5) Jones, W., **Phillips, B. N.**, Hartman, E., Bishop, M., & Tansey, T. N. (in press). The relationship among demographic factors, vocational rehabilitation services, and Individual Development Account (IDA) saving participation among transition-age youth with disabilities. *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin*.
- 6) **Landon, T. J.**, Levine, A., Brinck, E. A., Soldner, J. L., & Schultz, J. C. (In press – Special Issue). The role of the supervisor in counselor professional development. *Journal of Rehabilitation Administration*.
- 7) **Landon, T. J., Phillips, B. N.,** Nay, A., Connor, A., Reyes, A. R., & Leavitt, J.** (2021). Exploring the relationship between familiarity with the ICF and rehabilitation counselor confidence in facilitating workplace accommodations. *Rehabilitation Research, Policy, and Education*, 35(2), 130-143. <https://doi.org/10.1891/re-19-27>
- 8) **Landon, T. J.,** Sabella, S., **McKnight-Lizotte, M.,** & Bernacchio, C. (2021). Rehabilitation counselor supervisors' perceptions on counselor dispositions for rural service delivery. *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin*, 64(3), 145-157. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0034355220940794>
- 9) **McKnight-Lizotte, M.,** *Dimond, E.S.G., **Landon, T.J., Gerald, M.,** & Reeves, S.* (2021). Mental health supports, barriers, and policy for postsecondary students with intellectual disabilities. *Journal of Inclusive Postsecondary Education*, 3(1), 1-18.
- 10) **Oertle, K. M.,** Bobroff, S., & Sax, C. (2021). Organizational policies and personnel factors that are incentives for and challenges to collaboration as identified by statewide transition supervisors. *Journal of Disability Policy Studies*, 32(1), 36-20. doi: 10.1177/1044207320943544
- 11) **Phillips, B. N.,** Fleming, A. R., McDaniels, B., & Levine, A. (in press). Development and validation of the satisfaction with labor market participation survey. *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin*.
- 12) **Phillips, B. N.,** Iwanaga, K., Rumrill, S., Reyes, A., Wu, J., Fleming, A., & Chan, F. (in press). Development and validation of the social motivation scale in people with disabilities. *Rehabilitation Psychology*.
- 13) Reyes, A. R., Reyes, C., Grenawalt, T. A., & **Phillips, B. N.** (in press). The tripartite efficacy beliefs framework in vocational rehabilitation: Implications for working alliance and client engagement. *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*.
- 14) Sabella, S. A., Friedman, K. B.*, McCarthy, A., & **Landon, T. J.** (In press – Special Issue). Supporting transformational leadership within public rehabilitation agencies. *Journal of Rehabilitation Administration*.

- 15) Scheef, A., & **McKnight-Lizotte, M.** (In Press). Utilizing Vocational Rehabilitation to Support Post-School Transition for Students with Learning Disabilities. *Intervention in School and Clinic*.
- 16) Strauser, D. R., Greco, C. E., Kosciulek, J. F., Shen, S., Strauser, D. G., & **Phillips, B. N.** (in press). A tool to measure work adjustment in the post-pandemic economy: The Illinois work adjustment scale. *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*.
- 17) Thomas, K. A., Ochrach, C. M., **Phillips, B. N.**, Tansey, T. N. (In press). Social justice as an organizational identity: An inductive case study examining the role of diversity and inclusivity initiatives in corporate climate and productivity. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary: Applied Business and Education Research*.
- 18) Whicker, J. J.*, Munoz, K., Pearson, N. J.*, **Landon, T. J.**, Nelson, L. H., White, K. R., & Twohig, M.P. (2020). Hearing care and management priority among parents of children with Down syndrome: A grounded theory. *International Journal of Audiology*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14992027.2020.1836407>

Book Chapters

- 1) **McKnight-Lizotte, M., Landon, T. J., & Lund, E.** (2021). Career Counseling for Individuals with Disabilities. In Sametz, R. R., & Joseph, M. (Eds.). *Career counseling: A holistic view of lifespan & special populations* (pp. 152-169). Cognella, Inc.
- 2) Plotner, A. J., *Walters, C. B., **Oertle, K. M.**, & Trach, J. S. (2021). Results-focused service delivery for the transition from high school to adult life. Chapter 21, In David R. Strauser (Ed.). *Career Development, Employment, and Disability in Rehabilitation*. 2nd Edition. Springer Publishing Company, LLC.
- 3) Wondolowski, E., **McKnight-Lizotte, M.**, & Lund, E. (2021). Career counseling for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Clients. In Sametz, R.R., & Joseph, M. (Eds.). *Career Counseling: A Holistic View of Lifespan & Special Populations*. (pp. 132-151). Cognella, Inc.

Peer Reviewed Book Review

1. McKnight-Lizotte, M. (2020). A practitioner's guide to telemental health: how to conduct legal, ethical, and evidence-based telepractice. *Best Practices in Mental Health*, 16(2), 71-73.

Manuscripts Under Review:

1. Grenawalt, T. A., Tansey, T. N., **Phillips, B. N.**, Strauser, D. R., Rosenthal, D., & Wagner, S. (in review/revised and resubmitted). Effectiveness of an Internet-based behavioral activation program on improving quality of life among young adult survivors of childhood brain tumor: A randomized controlled trial. *Journal of Cancer Survivorship*.
2. Levine, A., **McKnight-Lizotte, M.**, & *Jeffries, A. (In Review). Exploring professional disposition evaluation in online rehabilitation counselor education. *The Journal of Counselor Education and Supervision*.

3. Meulenbroek, P., O’Neil-Pirozzi, T. M., Sohlberg, M. M., Lemoncello, R., Byom, L., Ness, B., MacDonald, S. & **Phillips, B. N.** (in review). Tutorial: The speech-language pathologist’s role in return to work for adults with traumatic brain injury. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*.
4. Pacheco, T. *, Morgan, R. L., & **McKnight-Lizotte, M.** (In Review). A Focus Group Analysis of Interdisciplinary Knowledge Held by Special Education Teachers and Community Rehabilitation Service Providers. *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*.
5. Perkins Nerlich, A., **Landon, T. J.**, Keegan, J. P. (In review). Beyond total rehabilitation: Appreciative inquiry of rehabilitation counseling through the eyes of legacy leaders. *Rehabilitation Counselors & Educators Association*.
6. **Phillips, B. N.**, Tansey, T. N., Lee, D., Lee, B., & Chen, X. (In Review). Innovative employer initiative to hire and retain individuals with autism in the industrial sector: A case study. *SN Business & Economics*.
7. Reyes, A., & **Phillips, B. N.** (Revise-resubmit). Applications for interpersonal theory in rehabilitation counseling. *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin*.
8. Sabella, S. A., **Landon, T. J.**, & Pollack, S. R. (Revise-resubmit). Measurement of clinical versus administrative supervision: Initial validation with rehabilitation counselors. *The Clinical Supervisor*
9. Sanchez, J., Kaseroff, A., **Phillips, B. N.**, & Chan, F. (In review). Soft skills training for college students with disabilities. *Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Journal*.
10. Sanchez, J., Kaseroff, A. A., **Phillips, B. N.**, **McKnight-Lizotte, M.**, & Chan, F. (In review). Pilot of randomized controlled soft skills intervention for college students with disabilities. *Rehabilitation Research, Policy, and Education*.
11. Thomas, K. A., Ochrach, C. M., **Phillips, B. N.**, Anderson, C. A.; Lee, B., Lee, D., & Tansey, T. N. (in review since March of 2021). Facilitating disability inclusive mindsets in two small business: A case study. (In review). Department of Rehabilitation Psychology & Special Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison. *Journal of Rehabilitation*.
12. Thomas, K. A., Ochrach, C. M., **Phillips, B. N.**, Anderson, C. A.; Lee, B., Lee, D., & Tansey, T. N. (in review since March of 2021). Facilitating disability inclusive mindsets in two small business: A case study. (In review). *Journal of Rehabilitation*.

Presentations

Referred Presentations	Invited Presentations	Educational Summits
8	7	1

Of note here is the effort of Dr. Kathleen (Kat) Oertle in conceptualizing, organizing, and delivering the *Heumannizing Transition – A Collaborate for Change (HTC2) Summit*. Originally intended to be campus based event, this summit was held on the 19th of November, 2020 and featured Judy Heumann. The goal of the summit was to advance transition services and post-secondary outcomes for students and youth with disabilities. There were 35 participants representing 18 U.S. states, Washington D.C., and Puerto Rico that gathered over two days via Zoom. Organized, facilitated, and hosted by Kathleen Oertle and co-lead by the USU Dream Team – Kaitlin Bundock, Summer Gunn, and Kimberly Snow

Refereed Presentations

1. Bishop, M., Fleming, A. R., **Phillips, B. N.**, Castruita, Y., Yunzhen, H., & Lee, D. (July, 2021). *Founding mothers: Women who created our past and how they inform our future*. Concurrent presentation for the Spring 2021 meeting of the National Council on Rehabilitation Education, Online.
2. Currier Kipping, K.*, **McKnight-Lizotte, M.**, & **Phillips, B. N.** (October, 2020 changed to virtual December 2020). *The vocational rehabilitation knowledge and practice patterns of secondary school counselors*. Concurrent presentation for the Fall 2020 meeting of the National Council on Rehabilitation Education, Washington, DC.
3. Greco, C. E., Strauser, D. R., Strauser, D. G., **Phillips, B.**, & Shen, S. (April 2020 changed to virtual June 2020). *Understanding the impact of functioning on career factors for individuals with disabilities and criminal backgrounds*. Poster Session, National Council on Rehabilitation Education (NCRE) conference. San Diego, CA.
4. **McKnight-Lizotte, M.** (2021, February). *Ethical considerations when working with individuals with autism*. Center for Employment and Inclusion at the Center for Persons with Disabilities at Utah State University.
5. **Oertle, K. M.** (virtual July 2020). *Career development practices aligned with pre-employment transition services for consumers with disabilities*. Poster Session, National Council on Rehabilitation Education (NCRE) conference. San Diego, CA. Acknowledgement: Poster developed from Oertle & O’Leary (2017).
6. **Oertle, K. M.** (virtual July 2020). *Responsibility to inform students about alternatives to guardianship in self-advocacy instruction*. Poster Session, National Council on Rehabilitation Education (NCRE) conference. San Diego, CA. Acknowledgement: Poster developed from Oertle & Riesen (2019).
7. **Phillips, B. N.** (2021, April). *Behavioral ethics: Why we sometimes choose to act unethically and how to prevent it*. Center for Employment and Inclusion at the Center for Persons with Disabilities at Utah State University.
8. Schultz, J. C., & **Landon, T. J.** (2020, July 6th). *Field based counseling supervisors’ perceptions of needs and barriers in providing clinical supervision*. National Council on Rehabilitation Education’s (NCRE) Spring Conference, San Diego, CA. (Conference canceled, but presented as part of the virtual conference).

Invited Presentations

1. **Gerald, M.** (2021, July). *Boundaries and boundary ethics: Navigating counseling relationships with clients and mitigating risk*. National Rehabilitation Association – Idaho Chapter. Summer Conference.
2. **Landon, T. J.** (2021, July). *Case management and service provision: The ethics within*. National Rehabilitation Association – Idaho Chapter. Summer Conference.
3. **McKnight-Lizotte, M.** (2021, June). *Law Enforcement Training: Communication with Autistic Individuals*. Davis County Sheriff’s Department.
4. **McKnight-Lizotte, M.** (2021, April). *Effective communication with neurodiverse post-secondary students*. Utah State University; Academic Advisors from ISTU.
5. **McKnight-Lizotte, M.** (2021, February). *Ethical Considerations when Working with Individuals with Autism*. Utah State University; Center for Persons with Disabilities.
6. **McKnight-Lizotte, M.** (2020, November). *2020 ASCA Webinar Series: Postsecondary*

Transition for Students with Disabilities. American School Counselor Association Annual Conference.

7. **Oertle, K. M.** (January, 2021). *Collaboration incentives and challenges as identified by statewide transition leaders*. Research Colloquium, Department of Rehabilitation and Counselor Education, University of Iowa, Iowa City.

Grants

Grants Submitted	Total Funding Requested
4	\$3,423,669.50

Grant Submissions

- 1) **Gerald, M.** (Principal Investigator), **Landon, T. J.** (Co-PI), Pond, D. (Co-PI), & Danilenko, B. (Co-PI). (2021). Evaluating and addressing needs in and perceived barriers to providing mental health services for persons with development disabilities among mental health practitioners. Sponsored by the National Research Consortium on MHIDD. **Amount Request:** \$10,750.00
- 2) **Landon, T. J.** (Principal Investigator). (2021). Utah State University – Rehabilitation & Disability Studies Certificate, *Learn and Work in Utah – 2021 Initiative*. Sponsored by the State of Utah Legislature and the Utah Governor’s Office. **Amount requested:** \$52,797.58
- 3) **Phillips, B. N.** (Principal Investigator). (2021). *The Clubhouse Model as an Intervention to Address Social Isolation and Loneliness Among People with Severe Mental Illness*. (**In review**). Funding provided by the U.S. Administration for Community Living, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research. 2021-2026. **Amount requested:** \$2.5 million
- 4) Yoho, L. (PI), VanderPyl, T. (Co-PI), **Oertle, K. M.** (Co-PI), Osmani, K., & Hawley, C. E. (Co-PI) (2021-2026). *Leading Opportunities in Transition Under Supervision for the Employment of Youth with Disabilities (LOTUS)*, Funding requested from the Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Community Living, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRP) Program: Employment of Individuals with Disabilities (Development), CFDA Number 93.433. Stage: Proof of Adoption: **Amount requested \$2.5 Million over 5 years. If funded Utah State University Sub-award is \$860,122.** Utah State University project team - Oertle, K. M. (PI), Hager Marteniz, K. (Co-PI), & Gerald, M. E. (Co-PI) with a Master’s student and doctoral student to be recruited and hired.

Current Funded Grants and Contracts

As rehabilitation counseling faculty, we presently manage/co-manage 3 funded projects (\$2.8 million) at this time. This funding helps supports a combination of research and teaching projects.

1. **Landon, T. J. (PI)**, McKnight-Lizotte, M. (Co-PI), Oertle, K. M. (Co-PI), and Riesen, T. (Co-PI). (2019-2024). *Rehabilitation Training: Rehabilitation Long-Term Training*

Program: Rehabilitation Counseling CFDA Number 84.129B. Funded by U.S. Department of Education, The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS). **\$1 million.**

- a. Acknowledgment to Drs. Julie Smart and Jared Schultz for the model.
2. Morgan, R. L., & **McKnight-Lizotte, M.** (Funded 2016- Joined April 2019). Development and evaluation of an interdisciplinary transition leadership project. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), U.S. Department of Education (**\$1,239,460**). Students Supported= 5 doctoral.
 - a. Acknowledgement: Morgan, R. (PI), **Oertle, K. M.** (Co-PI), & Schultz, J. (Co-PI) (2016-2018). *Development and Evaluation of an Interdisciplinary Transition Leadership Project CFDA Number 84.325D. Only 22% of requests were funded (17/75).*
3. ****Oertle, K. M.** (PI) & Sax, C. L. (Co-PI) (2019 – 2022). *Collaborate for Change (C2) CFDA Number 93.433.* National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) Field Initiated Projects (FIP). Development, Stage: Proof of Adoption; Outcome; Domain: Employment. Amount Requested: \$597,747.
 - a. Acknowledgment to our project team, Sheryl Bobroff and Nan Hampton, and Henry Cohn-Geltner of San Diego State University along with ***Kayla Currier, *Elizabeth (Liz) Chesley, *Eliza Jex, *Alyce McLeod, and *Azure Pellegrino,** Master's and doctoral students at Utah State University, who helped with the development of this proposal for the past submissions by editing, researching data, checking citations, and making suggestions for improvements. (**\$597,747** for 3 years) NIDILRR FIP grant number 90IFDV0011-01-00.