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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Number of Students</th>
<th>Scholarship Money Dispersed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 20</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>$155,742.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>$64,433.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer 21</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$19,784.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 21 (projected)</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>$72,827.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$312,786.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Published/In press</th>
<th># of Publications with Student Co-Authors</th>
<th>Book Chapters</th>
<th>Manuscripts Under Review</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Published/In Press

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


https://doi.org/10.1080/14992027.2020.1836407

**Book Chapters**


**Peer Reviewed Book Review**


**Manuscripts Under Review:**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presentations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Referred Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of note here is the effort of Dr. Kathleen (Kat) Oertle in conceptualizing, organizing, and delivering the *Heumanizing 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


Invited Presentations


4. McKnight-Lizotte, M. (2021, April). Effective communication with neurodiverse post-secondary students. Utah State University; Academic Advisors from ISTU.


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grants Submitted</th>
<th>Total Funding Requested</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$3,423,669.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 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 Requested:** $10,750.00


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.


a. Acknowledgment to Drs. Julie Smart and Jared Schultz for the model.


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).


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.