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 presently serves as the program chair for the Master’s in Rehabilitation Counseling. Since 2016, Dr. Landon has authored/coauthored over 30 peer reviewed publications and 3 book chapters. He presently serves on the Board of Directors for the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification and chaired the Code of Ethics Revision Task Force.

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 19 peer reviewed publications and three book chapters. Dr. McKnight was recently made the executive director of Aggies Elevated, a campus based educational program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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 24 peer-reviewed publications and 3 book chapters and given more than 50 presentations at the national, state, and local levels.

Dr. Brian Phillips, Ph.D., CRC, joined the Rehabilitation Counseling faculty at USU in Fall of 2019. 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 has over 60 publications.

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.
General Program Information
July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Number of Students
Current Doctoral Students: 1 – currently working on their dissertation and projected to defend and graduate in Spring 2024
Newly Admitted Doctoral Students: 2
Current Master’s Degree Students: 39
Current Alternative Certification Students: 12 (15 admitted for Fall 2023)
Newly Admitted MRC Students, Fall 2023: 17 admitted, two deferred to Spring 2024
Projected Spring 2024 MRC Graduates: 18

Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Long Term Training Grants: The current grant we have will be entering the fifth and final year of the grant beginning in the fall 2023 semester. To date, no RFP has been distributed for the Federal Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2022. We remain hopeful that we’ll be able to pursue another RSA long-term training grant in the summer of 2023.

Of note here is the effort of Dr. Oertle in the redesign and renewed development of the Transition Education and Services Certificate program. Dr. Oertle completed all paperwork to have the Transition Certificate be a stand-alone certificate (USU Catalog Listing can be found here: https://catalog.usu.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=35&poid=35657&returnto=28332). This certificate targets special educators and rehabilitation counselors (and other human services professionals) seeking additional training on serving transition youth or youth with disabilities.

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 22</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>$60,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 23</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>$63,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer 23</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>$41,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 23 (projected)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>$42,292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>66</strong></td>
<td><strong>$209,032</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Faculty Scholarly Works from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

The following are the scholarly products and grant applications/managed grants produced from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Products are listed in alphabetical order.

<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>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

As well as, Dr. Trent Landon’s work with the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification in updating their code of ethics, and the corresponding special issue on the updated code of professional ethics in Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin (RCB): https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/rcba/66/4


**Book Chapters**


**Manuscripts Under Review:**


### Presentations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Refereed Presentations</th>
<th>Invited Presentations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Refereed Presentations


Invited Presentations


8. **Oertle, K. M.** (2023, March 14). *Recruiting and sharing the features, advantages and benefits of the transition certificate.* Invited Presenter, CSAVR Transition Committee Membership Call; live via Zoom.


12. **Oertle, K. M.** (2022, November 17). *The who, what, and why of the transition education and services certificate* at Utah State University. Invited Presenter, Statewide Campus, Utah State University; live via Zoom.

13. **Shlemon, P., Froehlich, R., & Landon, T. J.** (2023, June). *Updates to the CRCC code of professional ethics. Embracing the future.* Veterans’ Health Administration – Vocational Rehabilitation Services, All Staff Training Call; live via Microsoft Teams.

**Grants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grants Submitted</th>
<th>Total Funding Requested</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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</table>
Grant Submissions

1. **Oertle, K. M. (PI), & McCall (Co-PI) (2023-2028). Implementing (I) Collaborate for Change (C2) Transition Engineered Collaborative (TEC) Leadership Academy (I-C2TEC), a proposal to fund implement C2 using the Transition Certificate funding scholarships and more; Funding requested from the Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Community Living, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) DPKT; Primary CFDA 93.433 Outcome Domain: Employment. This is to implement C2 (ACL-NIDILRR-FIP Grant Number: 90IFDV0011) to meet the Absolute Priority; Amount Requested: $993,534; submitted on June 16, 2023.


3. Riesen, T., (PI) & Phillips, B. N. (Co-I). Subcontract for the Partnerships for Progress in Colorado grant submitted through the state of Colorado’s Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Funding provided by the Rehabilitation Services Administration. 2023-2028. Proposed Amount for the subcontract: $5,291,818.

Current Funded Grants and Contracts

As rehabilitation counseling faculty, 7 projects (representing $3.8 million in funding) were managed from August 1st, 2022 through July 31, 2023. This funding helps supports a combination of research and teaching projects.

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


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.

