

**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](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

Semester	Number of Students	Scholarship Money Dispersed
Fall 22	16	\$60,600
Spring 23	18	\$63,995
Summer 23	14	\$41,945
Fall 23 (projected)	14	\$42,292
Total Scholarship Money Dispersed: \$209,032		

### 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.

Published/In press	# of Publications with Student Co-Authors	Book Chapters	Manuscripts Under Review
18	2	2	8

### Published/In Press

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

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

Of note here is Dr. Brian Phillips work with the Rehabilitation Counseling Professional Association Consolidation efforts and the special issue in the *Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Journal* (RCEJ): <https://rcej.scholasticahq.com/issue/4623-vol-11-issue-2-2022>

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>

1. Brehmer, C. E., Strauser, D. R., Shen, S., **Phillips, B. N.**, Kosciulek, J. F., & Austin, B. S. (2023). Differential effects of functioning on the career development of individuals with disabilities. *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin*, 66(3). <https://doi.org/10.1177/0034355222113031>
2. Hill, J., Harrell, L. S., Froehlich, R. J., Emmanuel, D., **Landon, T.**, & Hicks, S. (In press). Ethical dilemmas: Current and projected concerns reported by certified rehabilitation counselors. *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin* (Special Issue), 66(4), 231-243. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00343552221146519>
3. **Landon, T. J.**, Hill, J. C., Froehlich, R., & Shlemon, P. (2023). Embracing the future: Updating and revising the code of professional ethics for rehabilitation counselors. *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin* (Special Issue), 66(4), 227-230. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00343552221146166>
4. **Landon, T. J.**, Levine, A., Sabella, S. A., Hill, J., Kulesza, E., & Khan, U.\* (In press). Supervision & ethics: Updates to the CRCC code of professional ethics. *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin* (Special Issue), 66(4), 283-293. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00343552221146163>
5. **Landon, T. J.**, **Phillips, B. N.**, Kesselmayr, R. F., Bezyak, J. L., & Dunlap, P. N. (2022). Addressing the sticky issue of how to consolidate rehabilitation counseling professional associations. *Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Journal*, 11(2). <https://doi.org/10.52017/001c.37910>
6. **Landon, T. J.**, **Phillips, B. N.**, **McKnight, M.**, Sabella, S. A., & Kline, K. M. (In press). The impact of organizational factors and professional identity on turn over intent in state vocational rehabilitation agencies. *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00343552231155215>
7. Lloyd, L., Barros-Bailey, M., Vercillo, A., & **Landon, T. J.** (In press). Forensic and business ethics. *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin* (Special Issue), 66(4), 294-300. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00343552221147222>
8. **McKnight, M.**, Scheef, A. R., Levine, A., Thomas, F., & **Phillips, B. N.** (2022). Secondary Special Educators' Perceptions of Transition Collaboration with Vocational Rehabilitation. *Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Journal*, 11(3). <https://doi.org/10.52017/001c38444>
9. Nerlich, A. P., Levine, A., Smith, S. D., Anderson, C. A., & **Phillips, B. N.** (2022). The pros and cons of consolidating rehabilitation counseling associations: A qualitative analysis of views from the field. *Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Journal*, 11(2). <https://doi.org/10.52017/001c.37901>

10. O'Sullivan, D., Brehmer, C., **Phillips, B. N.**, Hanna, J. L., Strauser, D. R. (2022). Measuring parenting practices across four dimensions in adults with disabilities: Development of the Revised Affirmative to Problem Parenting Scale (R-APPS). *Measurement and Evaluation in Counseling and Development*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07481756.2022.2131579>
11. **Phillips, B. N.**, Boland, E., Edwards, Y., & Zanskas, S. (2022). Prologue: The future of rehabilitation counseling professional associations. *Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Journal*, 11(2). <https://doi.org/10.52017/001c.37928>
12. **Phillips, B. N.**, **Gerald, M.**, Soldner, J. L., Reyes, A., Anderson, C. A., & Pitt-Parker, J. S. (2022). Predicting membership in a consolidated association: If we build it, will they come? *Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Journal*, 11(2). <https://doi.org/10.52017/001c.38188>
13. **Phillips, B. N.**, Tansey, T. N., Lee, D., Lee, B., Geslak, D., & Chen, X. (2023). Autism initiative in the industrial sector: A case study. *Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Journal*, 12(1). <https://doi.org/10.52017/001c.37780>
14. **Phillips, B. N.**, Walker, Q., Grenawalt, T., Dunlap, P., Bezyak, J. L., Anderson, C. A., Nerlich, A. P., & Levine, A. (2022). Contemplating consolidation: Acting on a decades old call to survey professionals in the discipline. *Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Journal*, 11(2). <https://doi.org/10.52017/001c.37922>
15. Strauser, D. R., Brehmer, C. E., Rumrill, P., Strauser, D. G., **Phillips, B. N.**, Kosciulek, J. F., & Shen, S. (2022) Development and validation of the Illinois brief functioning inventory. *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*. <https://doi.org/10.3233/JVR-221215>
16. Umucu, E., Chan, F., **Phillips, B. N.**, Tansey, T., Berven, N., & Hoyt, W. (2022). Evaluating optimism, hope, resilience, coping flexibility, secure attachment, and PERMA as a well-being model for college life adjustment of student veterans: A hierarchical regression analysis. *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00343552221127032>
17. \*Walter, C., Plotner, A. J., & **Oertle, K. M.** (2023). Exploring perceptions of special education teachers on guardianship and alternatives for adult decision-making support. *Journal of Rehabilitation*.

## Book Chapters

1. Barros-Bailey, M., & Gerald, M. (2023). Technology. In V. Tarvydas & M. Hartley (Eds.), *The Professional Practice of Rehabilitation Counseling* (3rd ed.). New York, NY: Springer Publishing Company.
2. Gerald, M. (2023). Counseling and mental health. In V. Tarvydas & M. Hartley (Eds.), *The Professional Practice of Rehabilitation Counseling* (3rd ed.). Springer Publishing Company.

## Manuscripts Under Review:

1. Beckert, T. E., Maxey, M.\*, Meter, D., & Landon, T. J. Psychosocial development measures modification for adolescents with intellectual and development disabilities. *Journal of Adolescence*.
2. Dimond, E.\*, **McKnight-Lizotte, M.**, **Landon, T. J.**, Pena, J.\*, & Currier-Kipping, K.\* School counselor's perceptions of vocational rehabilitation: Benefits, challenges, and barriers. *The Professional School Counselor*.

3. Sanchez, J., Kaseroff, A. A., **Phillips, B. N., McKnight-Lizotte, M.,** & Chan, F. (Revise & Resubmit). Pilot of randomized controlled soft skills intervention for college students with disabilities. *Journal of Postsecondary Education and Disability*.
4. McCall, C. & **Oertle, K. M.** (2023). *The Transition Engineered Collaborative (TEC): Promoting people with disabilities in STEM through interdisciplinary transition and education praxis* [Manuscript submitted for publication].
5. Levine, A., **McKnight-Lizotte, M.,** & \*Jeffries, A. (Revise & Resubmit). Exploring professional disposition evaluation in online rehabilitation counselor education. *Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Journal*.
6. **Oertle, K. M.,** Sax, C. L., Cohn-Geltner, H., & Bobroff, S. (2023). *Developing essential transition-specific collaboration competencies to collaborate for change* [Manuscript submitted for publication].
7. Stay, L. V.,\* **Landon, T. J.,** D'Agostino, S. R., **McKnight, M.,** & Pinkelman, S. E. (In Review). Autistic adults' perspectives and experiences of ABA: A phenomenological approach. *Autism in Adulthood*.
8. Yoho, L. M., VanderPyl, T., **Oertle, K. M.,** Osmani, K., & Hawley, C. E. (2023). *Fostering growth in muddy waters: Leading opportunities for transition under supervision for the employment of youth with disabilities.* [Manuscript submitted for publication].

## Presentations

Refereed Presentations	Invited Presentations
7	13

## Refereed Presentations

1. Baldwin, M., & **Landon, T. J.** (2023, June). *Partnering with VR to enhance career development.* Utah Postsecondary Transition Institute. Provo, UT.
2. **McKnight, M.**(2023, March). *How secondary special educators describe transition-related collaboration with vocational rehabilitation.* Pac Rim International Conference on Disability. Honolulu, HI.
3. **Oertle, K. M.,** Sax, C. L., \*Cohn-Geltner, H., & Bobroff, S. (2022). *Engaging statewide transition leaders and field partners to strengthen transition-specific collaboration.* Concurrent presentation – [Prerecorded using Zoom](#) National Council on Rehabilitation Education (NCRE) fall conference. Online.
4. **Phillips, B. N.** (2022, September). *Contemplating Consolidation: Professionals' perspectives on the future of rehabilitation counseling associations.* Chicago, IL. Keynote Address at the Annual National Rehabilitation Counseling Association Conference. Chicago, IL.
5. **Phillips, B. N.** (2022, July). *Living Up to Our Purpose as Rehabilitation Providers.* National Rehabilitation Association – Idaho and Utah Chapters, Joint Conference. Logan, Utah.
6. **Phillips, B. N.** (2022, July). *Best Practice in Transition Youth Services.* National Rehabilitation Association – Idaho and Utah Chapters, Joint Conference. Logan, Utah.
7. Riesen, T., **Landon, T. J., McKnight, M., & Phillips, B.** (2023). *Collaboration between the UCEDD and university personnel to enhance practitioner knowledge of transition*

services. Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity. Honolulu, HA.

## Invited Presentations

1. **Landon, T. (2022).** *Clinical supervision and turnover intent in state VR settings.* National Rehabilitation Association – Idaho and Utah Chapters, Joint Conference. Logan, Utah.
2. **Landon, T. J. (2023, May).** *Serving persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities: Ethical considerations.* Cache Employment and Training Center. Logan, Utah.
3. **McKnight, M. (2023, June).** Invited Speaker. *Autism Training for Law Enforcement Officers.* Smithfield Police Department. Smithfield, Utah.
4. **McKnight, M. (2023, May).** Invited Speaker. *Recognizing and responding to neurodiverse individuals who have experienced abuse.* 2023 Northern Utah Conference to End Violence. Logan, Utah.
5. **McKnight, M. (2023, February).** Invited Speaker. *Advanced autism training for law enforcement officers.* Utah State Police Department. Logan, Utah.
6. **McKnight, M. (2022, July).** Invited Speaker. *Serving adults with autism.* Idaho and Utah Rehabilitation Association Conference. Logan, Utah.
7. **Oertle, K. M., & Bobroff, S. (2023, May 16).** *The underpinnings, what, and how of collaborate for change (c2) state and local descriptions and activities.* The Capacity Building Institute (CBI) invited by NTACTION project as Expert Specialists, CBI led by the University of North Carolina Charlotte, NC. Charlotte, NC.
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.
9. **Oertle, K.M., & Sax, C. L., (2023, January 9).** *Collaborate for change (C2) update with Dr. Ken Wood.* Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Community Living, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), Invited Discussant; live via Zoom.
10. **Oertle, K. M. (2022, December 7).** *Collaborate for change (C2): An update and thank you!* Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) State Director Membership call, Invited Presenter; live via Zoom.
11. **Oertle, K. M. & Sax, C. L. and Longoria, D. & Degeneffe, C. E., (2022).** *Building sustainable community partnerships.* Panel Discussion. National Council on Rehabilitation Education (NCRE) fall conference. Invited Panelist, 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

Grants Submitted	Total Funding Requested
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3	\$6,885,155.00
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### 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.
2. **Oertle, K. M. (PI), & McCall (Co-PI) (2023-2026).** *Collaborate for Change (C2) Transition Engineered Collaborative (TEC) Tools for Employment Proof of Concept Project.* CFDA Number 93.433. Funding requested from the Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Community Living, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) Field Initiated (FI) Projects Program. *Development*, Stage: Proof of Concept; Outcome; Domain: Employment. Amount Requested \$599,803; submitted on 12.16.2022.
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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 through July 31, 2023. 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. **McKnight-Lizotte, M. (PI), & Landon, T. J. (Co-PI).** Improving Access to Mental Care Services for Autistic People in Utah. Interagency Outreach Training Initiative, (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025). *Amount Requested: \$150,000.* Current Status: **Funded.**
3. **Morgan, R. L., & McKnight-Lizotte, M.** (Funded 2016- Joined April 2019; no cost extension through 2023). 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).*

4. **\*\*Oertle, K. M.** (PI) & Sax, C. L. (Co-PI) (2019 – 2022; no cost extension through 2023). *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.
5. **Phillips, B. N.** (PI), Gerald, M. (Co-I), Juhasz, A. (Co-I), Byers, R (Co-I). USOR comprehensive statewide needs assessment 2023. Sponsored by the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation (September 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023). Amount: \$113,573.13
6. **Phillips, B. N.** (PI). Evaluating services using the Transition Readiness Toolkit. Sponsored by the Utah Department of Workforce Services (January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2023). Amount: \$182,339.00
7. **Phillips, B. N.** (Co-PI), Fleming, A. (Co-PI), and Riesen, T. (Co-I). Transition Readiness Toolkit: Filling a gap in assessing Pre-ETS. Sponsored by National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, Federal, (September 1, 2022 - September 30, 2025). Amount: \$600,000