

Marlin Brunson

Educator and Researcher

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As an autistic, I certainly have my flaws but with that disability also comes eccentricities that have enabled me to lead an exceptional life, in the literal sense. I have strategically balanced my weaknesses with strengths in the areas of ingenuity, tenacity, devotion, creativity, and productivity. Overcoming a history of abuse both related and unrelated to my disability, I have acquired a strong sense of empathy, altruism, and advocacy. Like many of my generation, I seek to leave this world (and everything within it) better for having interacted with me. Unlike some, I have a unique combination of experience, perspective, disability, and ability that have helped me thrive in radically diverse domains. I seek to further expand my knowledge, understanding, and influence with the hopes that I can counter as much of the negativity and hate vestigial to our society as possible.

Professional Experience

Utah State University, Logan UT — *Graduate Teaching and Research Assistant*

AUGUST 2023 - PRESENT

- Co-teaching “Science Teaching Methods I” for undergraduate and graduate students interested in teaching science to secondary students
- Assisting with the data analysis of ESTICH, an award-winning, cross-curricular maker space that promotes greater interpersonal and community awareness

Nebo School District, Salem UT — *Science, Math, and Independent Learning Teacher*

AUGUST 2017 - JULY 2023

- First year: Designed, distributed, and implemented an original curriculum for the entire 7th-grade team aligned with the new state standards
- Second year: 1 of 80 UT educators accepted to state leadership training (Lead with SEEd)
- Third year: Selected by the district to model instruction for new hires; created a 3D science journal promoted by the district for all science teachers in secondary and upper elementary education
- Fourth year: Appointed Co-lead of the district’s 7th-grade science teachers for framework development; Developed school-wide online science curriculum for quarantined students
- Fifth year: Appointed school representative for the Gifted and Talented program; designed district-wide gifted enrichment program for middle school and junior high schools; Chosen over approximately 100 other science and math teachers to create and teach a new summer robotics/mathematics course for UVU Prep; hired as an independent contractor for USBE to develop science formative assessments
- Sixth year: Designed and implemented the new independent learning elective course to increase participation and motivation of gifted, SpEd, habitually truant, and other disenfranchised students—99%

proficiency rate and 83% planned to enroll again next year; 1 of only 2 teachers district-wide selected to mentor student teachers from BYU

World Financial Group, South Jordan UT — *Financial Advisor*

OCTOBER 2015 - AUGUST 2016

- Quickest certification and highest scores on state assessments of all office employees
- After 3 months of employment, redesigned training curriculum and entrusted with teaching new hires

United States Air Force, WY — *Nuclear Missile Operator*

OCTOBER 2010 - APRIL 2015

- Youngest and most junior ranking officer ever tasked to lead the command post of 167 nuclear sites
- Redesigned training and led the “youngest and most inexperienced” team through 3 nuclear certification inspections with the highest marks
- Awarded 2014 AFGSC Command Post of the Year

Education

Brigham Young University, Provo UT — *Biology (BS)*

JULY 2007 - APRIL 2010

Honor roll recipient, GPA 3.42

Southern Utah University, Cedar City UT — *Education (M.ed.)*

JUNE 2018 - JULY 2021

Practitioner research on eliminating gender inequalities in science ed, GPA 4.0

Certificates

Gifted and Talented Endorsement — *Pending (April 2023)*

Coursework through Brigham Young University, GPA 4.0

Reading Endorsement — *June 2021*

Coursework through Brigham Young University, GPA 3.83

Science Core Endorsement — *June 2018*

Praxis awarded Certificate of Excellence for scoring in the top 15th percentile of all test takers

Reading Endorsement — *August 2017*

Praxis awarded Certificate of Excellence for scoring in the top 15th percentile of all test takers

Awards

Crystal Apple Award — *December 2022*

Annual award given by peers for excellence in teaching

Heart of the Spartan — *January 2018, September 2019, February 2021, April 2022*

Peer-nominated for employee of the month

Air Force Commendation Medal — *March 2015*

Recognized for extraordinary service and achievement as a nuclear missile operator

Skills

Curriculum development, differentiated instruction, classroom enrichment, phenomenal-based learning, 3D lesson design, technology integration, EL support, gifted & talented specialist, autism accommodation, ADD/ADHD support, RTI, mentoring, leadership, Canvas, Infinite Campus, Google Classroom, Google products, Adobe products, Russian

Community Engagement

Volunteer Instructor for Religious Organization

JUNE 2003 - PRESENT

- Adapt and present curricula for adult and youth members of a religious organization on matters of faith, morality, and community
- Prepare and deliver sermons to congregations on various theological topics
- Organize and manage youth activities to develop physical, social, mental, and spiritual skills

School Volunteer

AUGUST 2017 - PRESENT

- Science fair judging
- Co-teaching 3D Printing club for middle school students
- Donating classroom supplies for other teachers
- Mentoring new teachers outside of the official support network
- Developing curriculum for teachers from other subjects and grade levels

President of The Company Grade Officer Council

JULY 2014 - DECEMBER 2014

- Elected to lead 340 officers in service and comradery projects
- Assisted with the construction of a home for Habitats for Humanity
- Organized and led fundraisers for the local community