

Curriculum Vitae
JULIE PICKENS, Ph.D.
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Special Education, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2015
M.P.A., Public and Nonprofit Management, University of Pittsburgh, 2008
B.A., Political Science and Public Administration, St. Vincent College, 2005

COLLEGIATE TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Georgia Southern University

- **Online Instructor:**
 - Introduction to Special Education: Fall 2016 (Graduate Section)
 - Introduction to Special Education for Early Childhood Education Majors: Fall 2016 (Undergraduate Section)
 - Framework for Teaching: Spring 2016 (2 Graduate Sections)
 - Collaboration Across the Life Span: Fall 2015 (Graduate Section)
 - Trends, Issues, and Research in Education: Fall 2015 (Graduate Section)
- **In-person Instructor:**
 - Assessment in Special Education: Fall 2016 (2 Undergraduate Sections)

University of Illinois

- **Project and Curriculum Consultant:**
 - High School Service-Learning- Ben's Bells: Fall 2014
- **Pre-Service Teacher Group Instruction Supervisor:** High School Service-Learning-Ben's Bells
 - Three Students: Fall 2014
 - Ten Students: Fall 2013
 - Six Students: Spring 2013
 - Six Students: Spring 2012
- **Online Teaching Facilitator:**
 - Severe Disabilities: Fall 2014
- **On-site Instructor of Hybrid Distance Learning Class:**
 - Career Development and Individuals with Disabilities: Fall 2012
- **Guest Lecturer:**
 - Curriculum Development III: Spring 2013
 - Culture of Disabilities: Fall 2010, Spring 2012, Fall 2013
 - Introduction to Intellectual Disabilities: Spring 2012
- **Class Assistant:**
 - Formal Assessment: Spring 2011
- **Teaching Assistant:**
 - Introduction to Special Education: Fall 2011
 - General Educator's Role in Special Education: Fall 2011
 - Culture of Disabilities: Fall 2010

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Lead

- Factors that Affect the Employability of Transition-Age Individuals with Severe Intellectual Disabilities: Rehabilitation Providers Perspectives (2014—2015)
 - Dissertation project for advancement in the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Special Education Department.
 - Qualitative inquiry using interviews to gather rehabilitation professionals' views about the factors that affect the employability of transition-age students with disabilities.
- Pennsylvania Special Education Directors' Views of Community-Based Vocational Instruction (2012—2013)
 - Early research project for advancement in the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Special Education Department.
 - A survey of Pennsylvania Special Education Directors at both the district and regional-level about their views about and challenges with implementing Community-Based Vocational Instruction in their schools.
- "Big Boy Jobs" and Big Box Stores: A Qualitative Look at the Employment of Two Young Men with Autism Spectrum Disorder (2011—2012)
 - Class-based ethnography as part of University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Education Research Specialization.
 - An ethnographic examination of the employment environments (i.e. social, emotional, physical, climatic) of two young men employed part-time at big box stores.

Facilitated

- Experiences, Needs, and Outcomes of Postsecondary Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (2013—2015)
 - Qualitative interviews with the parents of college students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and university service providers to examine the college experiences of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Led by Dr. Hedda Meadan.
- A Collaborative Processes' Impact on Developing Goals and Implementing Self-Management Interventions (2012—2013)
 - A single-case experimental design research project that examined the on-task work behaviors of three young people with intellectual disabilities. Led by Mrs. Christine Nitttrouer.
- LINC Project Managers Experiences and Outlooks (2011—2012)
 - Mixed Methods (including survey, focus groups, document analysis, and interviews) approach of examining and evaluating the engagement of project leaders of a semester-long service learning course.
 - Part of an evaluative methods course overseen by Dr. Jennifer Greene.

Assisted

- Implementation of a Class-Wide Intervention to Teach Behavioral Expectations in Head Start
 - A single-case experimental design research project that examined on-task meal time behaviors of five young children in a Head Start setting after an intervention of a read scripted story. Led by Dr. Charis Price.

- Peer Interactions and Roles of High School Students with Severe Disabilities during Inclusive Service-Learning
 - Mixed method study that examined peer to peer and student with disability to adult interactions in an inclusive art class doing a service-learning project. Led by Dr. Michelle Bonati.

PUBLICATIONS

- Nitttrouer, C. L., Shogren, K. A., & **Pickens, J. L.** (2016). A Collaborative Processes' Impact on Developing Goals and Implementing Self-Management Interventions. *Rehabilitation, Research, Policy and Education*, 30(2) 110–128.
- Nitttrouer, C. L., **Pickens, J. L.**, & Shogren, K. A. (2015). Employment supports that promote job attainment, maintenance, and advancement for people with intellectual and development disabilities. *Way Leads on to Way: Paths to Employment for People with Intellectual Disability*. Washington, DC: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.
- Pickens, J. L.**, & Dymond, S. K. (2014). Special education directors' views of community-based vocational instruction. *Research and Practice in Persons with Severe Disabilities*, 39(4) 290–304.
- Pickens, J. L.** (2012). Why become a JPD student member now (and stay on as a professional member). *Contemporary Rehab.*, 68(3), 2.
- Meadan, H., Dymond, S. K., & **Pickens, J. L.** (under review). Experiences, needs, and outcomes of postsecondary students with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

OBTAINED RESEARCH FUNDING

- 2012 Robert P. Larsen Grant for Research in Career Development

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Community and School Liaison: University of Illinois Ben's Bells Project, Champaign, IL (2014—2015)
 - Coordinated and planned inclusive art projects with both local school districts and community partners
 - Provided classroom and field instruction on effective teaching practices to pre-service special education teachers, both graduate and undergraduate students, about curriculum, inclusion practices, and project and classroom management
- Co-Teacher and Co-Coordinator: Community Choice, Urbana, IL (2012)
 - Developed and facilitated four-week classes centered around the topics of healthy community living choices and healthy relationships
 - Structured and modified curriculum to meet the learning and support needs of individuals with different areas of strength/limitations and disabilities (including Autism Spectrum Disorder, Intellectual Disabilities, behavioral challenges and verbal expression difficulties)

- Employment Training and Transition Specialist: Blind and Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA (2008—2010):
 - *Designed and facilitated community-based instruction opportunities in the areas of independent living, employment, and community engagement for transition-age students to engage in both during the school-year and as part of a summer independent and work skills training camp*
 - *Counseled and assisted individuals with disabilities to prepare for, obtain, and retain gainful employment*
- Work Project Coordinator: Student Conservation Association, Pittsburgh, PA (2007—2008):
 - *Coordinated and oversaw 55 crews comprised of five high school student workers and an undergraduate supervisor in a youth work program. Student workers were at-risk youth and included individuals with disabilities and many of the supervisors were pre-service or current education professionals*
 - *Developed and planned environmental education curriculum and structured work experiences for field implementation*
- Collegiate Program Director/Creator: Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair, Pittsburgh, PA (2006—2008):
 - *Created and implemented the PRSEF Collegiate Program Awards through community-university partnerships with seven Pittsburgh area colleges and universities*
 - *Recruited, trained and supervised 75+ university undergraduate and graduate students annually to interview and mentor >1,000 science fair participants*

PROFESSIONAL TRAINEESHIP

- Preparing Leaders in Secondary Curriculum, Outcomes, and Research (SCORE) for Youth with Significant Disabilities: US Department of Education (2010—2015)

AWARDS

- 2014 Margaret Bansau Fellowship
- 2014 National Rehabilitation Association Governmental Affairs- Job Placement Division Travel Support
- 2013 National Rehabilitation Association- Job Placement Division Student Travel Support
- 2013 Robert Bruce Reinoehl Scholar
- 2013 Hardie Conference Travel Support Award
- 2012 Illinois Rehabilitation Association Student Conference Travel Support
- 2012 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Department of Special Education Graduate Student Award
- 2011 Illinois Rehabilitation Association Student Conference Travel Support

EDITORIAL SERVICE

- *Exceptional Children*
- *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities*
- *Inclusion*
- *Journal of Special Education*
- *Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities*

NATIONAL SERVICE

- **Secretary to the National Board-** National Rehabilitation Association Job Placement Division: 2015—2016
- **Student Representative National Board-** National Rehabilitation Association Job Placement Division: 2013—2014
- **Student Representative National Board-** National Rehabilitation Association-Transition Specialties Division: 2012—2015

LOCAL SERVICE

- **Student Representative Board Member-** Illinois Rehabilitation Association Job Placement Division: 2013—2014
- **Student Representative Board Member-** Illinois Rehabilitation Association: 2012—2014
- **Down Syndrome Buddy Walk Team Coordinator-** 2014 Champaign County Buddy Walk
- **Moderator/Host-** Community presentation and panel discussion of “Best Kept Secret”: 2013

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

- **Executive Officer for SEGSA** (Special Education Graduate Student Association): 2012—2014
 - **President: 2013—2014**
 - **Vice-President: 2012—2013**
- **Student-Faculty Liaison-** University of Illinois Department of Special Education: 2013—2014
- **Student Representative/Planning Committee Member-** Samuel Kirk Symposium: 2013—2014
- **Student Representative-** University of Illinois Department of Special Education Pro-Seminar Committee: 2013—2014
- **Student Representative-** University of Illinois College of Education Fundraising Committee: 2011—2015
- **Coordinator-** Project ACCESS Spring Service-Learning Experience: 2011
- **Planning Committee Member-** 2011 College of Education Graduate Student Conference: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: 2010—2011

NATIONAL CONFERENCES PRESENTATIONS

- **Pickens, J. L.** (August, 2015). *Rehabilitation providers’ views about the employability of transition-age students with severe intellectual disabilities*, Poster presented at American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) National Conference- Louisville, KY.
- **Pickens, J. L.,** (December, 2014). *Rehabilitation providers’ views about the employability of transition-age students with severe intellectual disabilities*, Poster presented at TASH National Conference- Washington, DC.

- **Pickens, J. L.,** Danner, N., & Pence, A. (November, 2014). *Transition: From pre-school to post-school*, Paper presented at Teacher Education Division-Council for Exceptional Children (TED) Conference- Indianapolis, IN.
- **Pickens, J. L.** (October, 2014). *Factors that affect the employability of transition-age individuals with severe intellectual disabilities: Rehabilitation providers' perspectives*, Poster presented at National Rehabilitation Association National Conference- Des Moines, IA.
- **Pickens, J. L.** (June, 2014). *"Big Boy Jobs" and Big Box Stores: A qualitative look at the employment of two young men with Autism Spectrum Disorder*, Poster presented at American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) National Conference- Orlando, FL.
- **Pickens, J. L.,** & Dymond, S. K. (December, 2013). *Pennsylvania Special Education Directors' view of and barriers to community-based vocational instruction*, Paper presented at TASH National Conference- Chicago, IL.
- Meadan, H., Dymond, S. K., & **Pickens, J. L.** (December, 2013). *Experiences, needs, and outcomes of postsecondary students with Autism Spectrum Disorders*, Paper presented at TASH National Conference- Chicago, IL.
- **Pickens, J. L.,** & Dymond, S. K. (November, 2013). *Pennsylvania Special Education Directors' view of and barriers to community-based vocational instruction*, Paper presented at Teacher Education Division- Paper presented at Teacher Education Division-Council for Exceptional Children (TED) Conference- Fort Lauderdale, FL.
- Dymond, S. K., Bonati, M. L., Pence, A. R., & **Pickens, J. L.** (November, 2013). *Ben's Bells Service-Learning: Pre-service teachers, art and community*, Paper presented at Teacher Education Division- Council for Exceptional Children (TED) Conference- Fort Lauderdale, FL.
- **Pickens, J. L.** (December, 2012). *Practice-based evidence: What there is in transition*, Poster presented at TASH National Conference- Long Beach, CA.
- **Pickens, J. L.** (December, 2012). *Customized employment and human service cooperatives*, Paper presented at TASH National Conference- Long Beach, CA.
- Dymond, S. K., **Pickens, J. L.,** & Pence, A. R (December, 2011). *Curriculum practices advocated for students with severe disabilities in secondary education*, Poster Presented at TASH National Conference- Atlanta, GA.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- TASH
- American Educational Research Association
- American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
 - Student and Early Career Professional Division
- Council for Exceptional Children
 - Division on Career Development and Transition
 - Division for Research
- National Rehabilitation Association
 - Job Placement Division
 - Transition Specialties Division
- International Association of Rehabilitation Providers