

Sheila J. Conway, Ph.D.

University of Pittsburgh

School of Education

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412-648-7212

Educational Record

Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

Ph.D. *with distinction*

Special Education

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA

M.Ed.

Special Education Administration

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

BA *magna cum laude*

Dual Elementary and Special Education Major

Professional Experiences

University of Pittsburgh School of Education

Associate Professor of Practice

2011-current

Special Education faculty. Faculty Coordinator for Special Education programs.

Inaugural Program Coordinator for new undergraduate major in teacher

education. Primary advisor for MOSAIC, Special Education PK-12, Master of

Social Work with Certificate of Advanced Study in Teaching and an

Undergraduate Minor in Secondary Education.

Associate Department Chair

Department of Teaching, Learning & Leading

2019-2021

Co-Director of Teacher Education

2014-2019

Facilitate the coordination of all teacher education programs in the Department of Instruction and Learning. Support faculty and staff with efforts related to recruitment, accreditation, field experiences, supervision, mentor communication, programming, career services, and student concerns. Serve as a School of Education representative for various external committees including SDUC, PACTE, and SWPa-TEC.

Primary Investigator – Federal Office of Special Education Grant

2011-2016

Restructuring and Improving Special Education (\$1.5 million dollars)

Project Director and Primary Investigator for project designed to increase the number of highly qualified teachers for adolescents with high incidence

disabilities. Coordinated all aspects of the project including: curriculum redesign,

program approvals, faculty collaboration, budget, professional development events, school partnerships, mentor training, technology enhancement, student recruitment, student advisement, novice teacher support program and grant management.

Coordinator of MOSAIC – dual certification secondary program 2011- 2023
Led faculty efforts to create a new secondary teacher preparation program at the University of Pittsburgh. Wrote proposals for University and Pennsylvania Department of Education approval (2012). Primary advisor for all students in MOSAIC students.

Coordinator of Special Education programs 2014-current
Coordinate faculty and program efforts across the various Special Education programs in the Department of Instruction and Learning.

Visiting faculty 2008-2011
Part-time faculty taught various special education courses. Served on a variety of Special Education and Department committees. Wrote proposals to redesign certification programs according to PDE regulation revisions.

Part-time faculty 2001-2008
Taught special education courses including: Foundations of Special Education and Instructional Methods for Students with High Incidence Disabilities

Rowan University - 1998-2000
Assistant Professor

Faculty member in both the Early Childhood/Elementary and Special Education Departments

Provided extensive professional development training through the Rowan University Induction program for novice and emergency certified teachers in New Jersey

Temple University – 1996 - 1998
Adjunct Special Education Instructor

West Chester University – 1997 - 1998
Adjunct Special Education Instructor

MidAtlantic Laboratory for Student Success, Temple University 1996 - 1997
Curriculum Design and Program Implementation Specialist

Provide training and implementation support for teachers in Philadelphia Public Schools and Washington DC public schools in Adaptive Learning Environments

Coatesville (PA) Area School District – 1993 - 1996
Instructional Support Teacher in 3 high-need elementary schools

Belmont (MA) Public Schools - 1993
Special Education Teacher for second grade students with learning disabilities

Hadley (MA) Public Schools - 1993
Special Education Administrative Intern

Wellesley Public Schools - 1990 - 1992
Special Education Teacher for middle school students with intellectual disabilities

Specialized Living Collaborative 1987-1993
Staff in an assisted living cooperative for adults with intellectual disabilities

Awards

University of Pittsburgh	Dean's Distinguished Mentoring Award	2024
University of Pittsburgh	Dean's Distinguished Award "Above and Beyond"	2023
University of Pittsburgh	Dean's Distinguished Service Award	2022
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	INSPIRE Fellow	2018-2019
University of Pittsburgh	Innovations in Education Award	2017
University of Pittsburgh	Faculty Award for Exemplary Teaching	2014
Temple University	Outstanding Doctoral Student	1997

Professional Certifications

Massachusetts:	Elementary Education (K-6), Moderate Special Needs (N-12), and Special Education Administration
Pennsylvania:	Elementary Education (K-6), Special Education (K-12), Supervisor of Special Education, Pupil Personnel Director

Undergraduate and Graduate Courses Taught

Student Teaching Seminar
Field Experiences Seminars for Secondary Dual Certification
Introduction to Field Experiences Secondary
Including Students with Disabilities in the Elementary Classroom

Instructional Methods for Students w/ High Incidence Disabilities
Assessment and Instruction for Students with High Incidence Disabilities
Collaboration and Consultation in Special Education
Foundations of Special Education
Literacy Tutoring
Assessment for Elem. Ed. Teachers
Management & Instruction in Elementary Education
Seminar on Inclusion

Grants

Conway, S.J. & Smith P. (2025) *Accelerated Program for PK-12 Special Education Teacher Certification Grant*, Pennsylvania Department of Education (\$50,000).

Smith P. & Kopparla, M. (2024) *Examining Teaching and Learning in Cultural Communities as a Model for Embedding Culturally Relevant and Sustaining Pedagogies into Academic Curriculum*, Pennsylvania Education Equity Project. (May 2024- July 2025). \$30,000.00

Role: Consultant

Conway, S.J. (2024) *Developing Future Special Educators Grant*, Pennsylvania Department of Education (\$19,985) Awarded.

Conway, S.J. & Smith P. (2024) “*Examining Schools’ Profile of the Ideal Special Education Teacher Candidate*”, University of Pittsburgh School of Education Seed Grant \$8,600. Awarded.

Smith, P., Conway, S.J., & Reid, M (2024) *Conceptualizing the ‘Ideal’ or Preferred Special Education teacher in Pittsburgh* Proposal for Year of Discourse and Dialogue (\$5,000 unfunded).

Smith, P., Conway, S.J., Robertson R. *Accelerated Program for PK-12 Special Education Teacher Certification*, The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), Bureau of Special Education. (2023-2024). \$99,984.93. Awarded.

Therrien W. (2022-2026) *Science Education for Elementary Students with Learning Disabilities*; National Science Foundation

Awarded - \$2,500,000

Role – Subcontractor

Conway, S.J (2022) International Dyslexia Association, Pennsylvania Chapter. Higher Education Consortium on Science of Reading. Travel grant \$1,500.

(not funded) Conway, S.J. (2019) Preventing Sexual Harassment & Violence in K-12 Schools for Our Students and Their Students. University of Pittsburgh Pitt Seed Cycle – Prevention of Sexual Misconduct (\$13,245). Primary Investigator.

Kostewicz, D.E., Robertson, R. Conway, S.J. & Milner, R. (2017) Urban Special Education Scholars (USES): Leadership in Multi-Tiered Systems of Support in Urban Schools. Office of Special Education Projects, U.S. Department of Education. (\$1,500,000). Key Personnel.

Sobolak, M. & Conway, S.J. (2017) Implementing a Video Coaching Platform to Provide E-Mentoring during Teacher Education Clinical Experiences, Innovation in Education Award Grant, University of Pittsburgh (\$6,020).

Conway, S.J. & Sobolak, M. (2016) The Racial Gap between Teachers and Students: Parents' Perspectives, University of Pittsburgh, Office of Diversity (\$1,500).

Sobolak, M. & Conway, S.J. (2016) Supporting ALL students: Working effectively with LBGTQIA+ students, University of Pittsburgh, Office of Diversity. (\$800).

Lemons, C.J., Conway, S.J., Srsic, A., Kostewicz, D.E., & Lyon, S. (2011-2016). Restructuring and Improving Special Education (RISE). Office of Special Education Projects, U.S. Department of Education. (\$1,494,765). Primary Investigator

Dissertation Completion Award (1996-1997). Temple University (\$20,000).

Websites

Conway, S.J. & Lemons, C.J. (2012) MOSAIC program website with Evidence-Based Practices Manual.

<http://mosaic.pitt.edu/>

Conway, S.J. & Lazar, M.K. (2013). Mentor Teacher Role Module.

<http://mosaic.pitt.edu/mentorteacherrolemod.html>

Conway, S.J. & Lazar, M.K. (2013). Planning and Instruction Module.

<http://mosaic.pitt.edu/planinstructmodule.html>

Blog

Conway, S.J. (2019) Practicing Difficult Conversations Through Application Based Simulations, Teaching Systems Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge MA. <https://medium.com/the-teachers-lounge/practicing-difficult-conversations-through-app-based-simulations-5018a2999e2d>

Professional Presentations

Conway, S.J. & Smith, P. (Feb. 2025). *Do they know what they are looking for? How do schools define their 'ideal' special education candidate?* Eastern Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Hilton Head, SC.

Conway, S.J., (March 2023) Centering the Disability Identity and Experience in Introduction to Special Education Course: Association for Teacher Educators Annual Conference, Jacksonville, FL.

Conway, S.J. & Sobolak, M (August, 2021) Association for Teacher Educators Annual Conference, Chicago IL (virtual).

Conway, S.J. & Sobolak, M. (April, 2021) Report Out: Lessons from Kevin Kumashiro's "Leading for Social Justice" workshop, Freedom to Liberation: Educational Leadership Speaker Series, Pittsburgh, PA (virtual).

Tate, P., Richardson, G., Conway, T., O'Neil, V., Conway, S.J., Hernandez, C., & West, B. (February, 2021) Supporting In School Teacher Educators: ATE Task Force Update, Association for Teacher Educators Annual Conference, (virtual).

Conway, S.J. & Sobolak, M. (August, 2020) Student Teacher Experiences during COVID-19 Transition to Remote Schooling, Association for Teacher Educators Annual Conference, Washington DC (virtual).

Tate, P., Richardson, G., Conway, T., O'Neil, V., Conway, S.J., Hernandez, C., & West, B. (August, 2020) Pre-conference Workshop: Virtually Yours: Acquiring Essential Strategies to be a Better Mentor Teacher in Times of Crisis and Change, Association for Teacher Educators Annual Conference, Washington, D.C. (virtual).

Conway, S.J. (January 2020) Using Virtual Simulation to Practice for the Teaching Profession, Teaching and Assessment Conference University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.

West, B., Garza, R., Rogers, A. & Conway, S.J. (February 2019) Mentor Teacher Workshop, Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.

Bray, L. & Conway, S.J. (April 2018) Dynamic Identities: Exploring the Development of Dually Certified Preservice Teachers' Professional Identities. American Educational Researchers Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, New York City, NY.

Conway, S.J. & Bray, L. (February, 2018) An Examination of Dually Certified Preservice Secondary Teachers' Perceptions of Professional Identity. CEC Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL.

Conway, S.J. & Bray, L. (October, 2017) An Examination of Dually Certified Preservice Secondary Teachers' Perceptions of Professional Identity. Pennsylvania Association of Teacher Educators (PACTE) Annual Meeting, Harrisburg, PA.

Conway, S.J. (October, 2017) A University Response to the Special Education Teacher Shortage: Extending Professional Development from Teacher Preparation into Novice Years. Pennsylvania Association of Teacher Educators (PACTE) Annual Meeting, Harrisburg, PA.

Conway, S.J. & Brennan, K. (April 2017) Promoting Novice Special Education Teacher Retention: A University Commitment. Poster session CEC Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.

Conway, S.J., Sobolak, M., & Ibrahim, G. (April, 2017) Teacher Education Students Learn about Supporting Diverse Students and Families. University of Pittsburgh Year of Diversity Poster Session, Office of Diversity and Inclusion Pittsburgh, PA.

Doerr, A., Conway, S.J., Bray, L., & Michaels, A. (April, 2017) The Perspectives of Dual Certification Teacher Candidates on Blending Special and General Education in Secondary Education. University of Pittsburgh First Experience in Research Poster Session Pittsburgh, PA.

Conway, S.J. (November, 2016) Promoting Novice Special Education Retention: A University Commitment. Teacher Education Division of CEC Conference, Lexington, KY.

Conway, S.J. & Brennan K. (October, 2016) University-Based Induction Support for Novice Special Education Teachers Organized Around High Leverage Practices. PACTE Teacher Education Assembly, Harrisburg, PA. (invited to present twice)

Martin, S. & Conway, S.J. (August, 2016) University mentoring models: Supporting dynamic needs of doctoral scholars and novice special education teachers. Breakout Session, U.S. Office of Special Education Programs Project Directors' Conference, Washington D.C.

Lemons, C.J., Al Otaiba, S., Conway, S.J., & Mellado de la Cruz, V. (2016, June). Preservice training recommendations to support data based individualization skills development among teachers of adolescents with learning disabilities. Presented at the annual meeting of the International Academy for Research in Learning Disabilities, Austin, TX.

Conway, S.J. (2015) University-Based Induction Program to Support Novice Special Education Teachers. Teacher Education Division of CEC Conference, Tempe, AZ.

Brennan, K & Conway, S.J. (2015) Preparing and Supporting Novice Special Education Teachers Working with Students in the Juvenile Justice System: A Preliminary

Investigation. Poster Session, Teacher Education Division of CEC Conference, Tempe, AZ.

Conway, S.J. (2015) Continuing the Impact: A University Project to Provide Novice Teacher Support for Recent Graduates. PAC-TE Teacher Education Assembly, Harrisburg, PA.

Conway, S.J. (2014). University Supports for Mentor Teachers: Promoting Effective Mentoring. Presented at the School District University Collaborative, Pittsburgh, PA.

Conway, S.J. (2014). Building a Culture of Continuous Improvement. Invited Discussion Group Leader Office of Special Education Programs Personnel Development Program Grant Area High Incidence Programs (84.325T), Washington. D.C.

Conway, S.J. (2014) Implementation of a Dual Certification Program at the Secondary Level: Lessons Learned in our First Year, Poster Session, U.S. Office of Special Education Programs Project Directors' Conference, Washington D.C.

Conway, S.J. (2013) Online Training to Improve Mentor Teacher Effectiveness. Teacher Education Division of CEC Conference, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Conway, S.J. & Lazar, M.K. (2013) Mentor Teacher Training to Support Student Teacher Growth, Discussion Session, U.S. Office of Special Education Programs Project Directors' Conference, Washington, D.C.

Conway, S. J. (2009) Addressing the Needs of Students with Dyslexia in the General Education Classroom, International Dyslexia Association Regional Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.

Conway, S.J. (2006) Accommodations for Students with Learning Disabilities in the Elementary School Classroom, Faculty In-service, Thomas Jefferson School District.

Conway, S.J. (2000). Keynote Speaker, Maximizing Students' Potential through Effective Classroom Management. Education Institute Rowan University, Bridgeport, NJ.

Conway, S.J. (2000). Practical Strategies for Classroom Management in the Elementary School Classroom. Education Institute Rowan University, Bridgeport, NJ.

Conway, S.J. (2000). Proactive Classroom Management Skills. Northfield Community School, Northfield, NJ.

Conway, S.J. (2000). Using Self-Monitoring with Kindergarten Students. Paper Session, Eastern Education Research Association Annual Conference, Clearwater, FL.

Conway, S.J. (2000). Classroom Management Workshop for Student Teachers. Temple University, Philadelphia, PA. (presented every semester for 3 years)

Conway, S.J. (2000). Cooperative Learning: Basics for Novice Teachers. Robinson Beginning Teacher Induction Center, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ.

Conway, S.J. (2000). Inclusive Elementary and Middle School Classrooms. Cooper's Poynt Professional Development School, Camden, NJ. (A series of 5 inservice workshops)

Conway, S.J. (1999). Inclusion Workshop. Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ (Faculty and Students).

Conway, S.J. (1998). Supervising Special Education Student Teachers. Faculty workshop, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA.

Conway, S.J. (1997). Diagnosing and Instructing Student Needs in a Diverse Classroom. Washington D.C. Public Schools. (a series of 7 workshops).

Conway, S.J. (1997). Modification of Instructional, Materials, and Assessment in the Middle School. Faculty in-service, Stetson Middle School, Philadelphia, PA.

Conway, S.J. (1996). Instructional Support Teams: Implications for student achievement. American Educational Research Association, Temple University Chapter, Philadelphia, PA.

Conway, S.J. (1995). Service Learning Connected to Multiple Intelligences. National Conference on Service Learning, Detroit, MI.

Publications

Smith, P. & Conway, S.J. (2025) More Than Money: The Complex Factors Influencing Early Career Special Education Teacher Attrition (TESE-25-0072) **under review**.

*Therrien, W. J., Wong, V. C., Chen, L., Taylor, C. M., Chiu, J. L., Gonçalves, B., Liu, Q., Cook, B. G., Doabler, C. T., Swanson, E., Brame, P. B., Budin, S., Cho, E., **Conway, S. J.**, Davis, K. M., Dunn, M. W., Faggella-Luby, M. N., Gersib, J., Jimenez, Z., Murnan, R., et al., Stinchcomb, H. R. (2025). *National survey of 4th and 5th grade science education teachers: Insights into instruction and inclusion of students with disabilities*. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/sce.21972?campaign=wolearlyview>.

*Note: The first ten authors are listed in order of contribution, and subsequent authors are listed alphabetically because they contributed equally.

Conway, S.J., Brennan, K. & Scott, P. (2017) A University Response to the Special Education Teacher Shortage: Extending Professional Development from Teacher Preparation into Novice Years. Pennsylvania Teacher Educator Journal pp. 43-53.

Lemons, C.J., Al Otaiba, S., Conway, S.J., & Mellado De La Cruz, V.M. (2016). Improving professional development to enhance reading outcomes for students in special education. *New Directions in Child and Adolescent Development*.

Conway, S.J. (2001) The Value of Shared Perspectives: A case study of community involvement in school reform. International Journal of Educational Reform, pp. 64-76.

Conway, S.J. & Kovaleski, J. (1998) Pennsylvania's Instructional Support Team Initiative: Implications for legal mandates as an educational reform tool. International Journal of Educational Reform, pp. 345-351.

Board of Trustees

Provident Charter School
Pittsburgh, PA

2022- current

Board member for two public charter schools dedicated to students with dyslexia.

Professional Reviews

Guest Reviewer – Bernhardt, P., Conway, T. & Richardson, G. Engaged Clinical Practice: Preparing Mentor Teachers and University-Based Educators to Support Teacher Candidate Learning. Rowman & Littlefield, NY (2021).

Review of applications for the *2020 National Center to Improve Faculty Capacity to Use Educational Technology in Special Education, Early Intervention, and Related Services Personnel Preparation and Leadership Personnel Preparation Programs (CFDA# 84.327F)* competition for the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

Proposal Reviewer for Healthy Lifestyle Institute – Schools on the Move Grant (2019)

Program Reviewer

- External Reviewer – Pennsylvania Department of Education Major Program Review for like-institution (2016-2019)
- External Reviewer – SUNY Cortland – Inclusive Education Early Childhood (2013)

Manuscript Reviewer

- English Teaching: Practice and Critique (2016-2018)

Text-book Reviewer

- *Methods for Teaching Struggling Learners in Responsive Classrooms*; Pearson (2013)

Grant Reviewer

- Department of Education – Office of Special Education Programs, Leadership grants (2018)
- Department of Education – Office of Special Education Programs, Leadership grants (2013)
- Department of Education – Office of Special Education Programs, Leadership grants (2014)
- Department of Education – Office of Special Education Programs, Leadership grants (2015)

Conference Reviewer

- Review proposals – Teacher Education Division of Council for Exceptional Children Indianapolis, IN (2014)

Research Partner

Special Education Research Accelerator (SERA) platform for crowdsourced studies related to special education. Conducted data collection and consultation on William Therrien's NSF grant Science Education Instruction for Elementary Students with Learning Disabilities.

Faculty Consultant on Stephanie Al Otaiba's IES grant: Project FOCUS – A research study focusing on key factors associated with reading outcomes for students receiving Tier 3, dyslexia services and/or special education reading interventions. (2018)

Faculty Consultant for Vanderbilt University and the OSEP Consortium (<http://nclii.org/>) to work with doctoral students from various Universities to design a course on Implementing Intensive Interventions. (2018-2019)

National Committees

Association for Teacher Educators (ATE) serve on national task force on Addressing the Needs of the School-based Teacher Educator. (2018-2022)

Selection Committee for the 2022 NCTE Leadership Award for People with Disabilities (2022)

Fellowship

Awarded a fellowship through the MIT Teaching Systems Lab <https://tsl.mit.edu/tsl-projects/> to support and implement the work being developed in teacher education with ten other faculty members from across the country. (2018-2019)

Student Club Advisor

Faculty Advisor – Dicks Sporting Goods/Pitt Business Strategy Case Competition 2025

Faculty Advisor – University of Pittsburgh Outdoors Club 2022-2025