

**Shirley Steffens**

**Associate Professor  
Professional Education Department  
Northwest Missouri State University  
Beginning Employment at Northwest: 1995**

**ACADEMIC DEGREES:**

1977; B.S. in Elementary Education with endorsement in EMH (Educable Mentally Handicapped); Dana College, Blair, NE

1983; M.A. in Education Psychology and Measurements; University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Lincoln, NE

1985; Learning Disabilities Endorsement (K-9) for Nebraska Professional Teaching Certificate; University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Lincoln, NE

1996; Ph. D. in Special Education; University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

**CERTIFICATION**

Learning Disabilities, Nebraska (K-9)

**PROFESSIONAL (P-12) EXPERIENCES:**

Nebraska City Public Schools, Nebraska City, NE; Special Education Resource Room Teacher (K-6); 1977 - 1985

Plattsmouth Community Schools, Plattsmouth, NE; Special Education Summer School Teacher, (K-5); 1984

**HIGHER EDUCATION EXPERIENCES:**

Northwest Missouri State University (Assistant Professor 1995-2002; Associate Professor 2003-present); Special Education Coordinator 2002-2012

Primary classes taught (undergraduate):

Freshman Seminar, Introduction to Special Education, Teaching Math to Students with Disabilities, Assessment in Special Education, Assessment in Special Education Lab; (graduate): Techniques for Collaboration and Conferencing, Psych-Education Measurement, Seminar: Selected Topics in Special Education.

Luther College, Decorah, IA (Instructor 1985-1994)

Primary classes taught:

Exceptional Children, Behavior Management and Consultation Strategies, Introduction to Mental Disabilities, Teaching Mildly Mentally Disabled, Teaching Moderately Mentally Disabled, Teaching Practicum: Elementary Mental Disabilities, Student Teaching: Mental Disabilities (supervision of students), Clinical Experience I in Area Schools

### **SERVICE ACTIVITIES:**

March, 2007. Began 4 year term on Missouri Council of Exceptional Children executive board; Vice-President, President-Elect, President, Past-President. In charge of State awards at Spring 2008 Spring Conference.

March 7-9, 2008 Missouri Annual Spring Conference. Conference Chair and President-Elect of Missouri Council for Exceptional Children (MO-CEC).

Northwest Missouri State University Committee Memberships:

University:

Learning Assistance Programs/Service (LAP/S), member, 2002-present.  
Admissions and Advanced Standing Committee (1997; 2001-2007; 2008-present). Chair, 2001-2002.  
Departmental Advisor to Special Education Alternative Certification Students (2001-present).  
Faculty Senator for Curriculum and Instruction Department, (2000-2002)  
Faculty Senate Executive Committee, (2001-2002)  
Strategic Planning Committee (2001-2002)  
Assessment Committee (2000-2001)  
Multiculturalism Committee (2000-2001)  
University Curriculum Committee, (1997-1998, 1999-2000)  
Assessment and Accommodations Committee (1998-1999)  
Graduate Council (1997-2000)

College of Education and Human Services (CEHS):

COTE (Council on Teacher Education) 2004-2006; 2012-present  
Teacher Education Student Services Advisory Group (TAG) (2001- 2004)  
College Curriculum Committee, Chair, (1998-1999)

Departmental (Curriculum and Instruction):

Departmental NCATE/DESE team member preparing for 2014 accreditation visit  
Special Education Coordinator (2002-2012)  
Special Education Team (1996-present)

#### Other Service:

- Advisor for Student Council for Exceptional Children (SCEC), (1996-present.)
- Meet with 6-14 prospective students per year (1995-present)
- Advise transfer students, (1997-present)
- Advise 50-75 undergraduate students per year (1996-present)
- Advise 20-30 graduated students per year (2001-2011)
- Freshman Seminar Instructor (Taught 15 times, Fall 1997-Fall 2012)
- Curriculum and Instruction Faculty for SOAR (Student Orientation and Registration classes -- Freshman) (June, 1998-June 2012)
- Education Scholarship Selection Committee, Reviewed applicants and selected recipients (1998-2006)
- Sec./Treas. for Nodaway County Recreation for the Handicapped, (2000-2006.)
- Goals 2000 Grant, "Integrating Academic Curriculum, Applied Arts, and Vocational Training," Team 2 member (1998-2001)
- Faculty Advisor for Undergraduate Research Project and Presentation, "Put the Home Back in Homework." Anne Hanson, Melissa Franklin, and Kelly Gerot. (2000-2001)

#### SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES:

##### Publications:

- Steffens, S. & Daniels, F. (2003) Faculty guided undergraduate research: Current status and future merit. *Monograph III: Mentoring*, Small Special Education Program Caucus of the Teacher Education Division of the Council of Exceptional Children.
- Steffens, S. & Knott, R. (2002). Increasing family engagement through technology. *The Counseling Interviewer*, 34(4), 32-34.
- Riley, N., McCall, C., & Steffens, S. (Fall, 1997). Creating positive attitudes towards disabilities through literature. *Missouri Reader*, 21(3), 30-34.
- Steffens, S., & Riley, N. (2000). *Special education certification: Practices and implications*. Unpublished manuscript.
- Steffens, S. (1996). *A comparative analysis of state special education certification for working with students with mild disabilities*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI.

##### International and National Presentations:

- Steffens, S., Farnan, S, & Foley, N. (Nov. 8, 2011) *Course Redesign of Introduction to Special Education: Vision for Spring 2012*. 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Teacher Education Division – Council for Exceptional Children Conference, Austin, TX.

- Steffens, S., Nielson, C., Doyle, L., Nelson, D., & Spencer, C. (Oct. 21, 2011). *Selecting Your Palette: A Panel on Intelligence Tests*. Council for Educational Diagnostic Services Annual Conference, Kansas City, MO.
- Steffens, S. & Foley, N. (Nov. 10, 2010). *Addressing Continuing Teacher Shortages Through Online Teacher Preparation: Lessons Learned*. 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Teacher Education Division – Council for Exceptional Children Conference, St. Louis, MO.
- Doyle, L., Dyer, J., Nielsen, C., & Steffens, S. (Oct. 20, 2010). *Big Three Achievement Batteries: Pros and cons of WJ-III, KTEA-II, and WIAT-III*. Council for Educational Diagnostic Services Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX.
- Hallock, P. & Steffens, S. (Nov. 10-14, 2009). *Responding to Response to Intervention: Preparing new Teachers for RTI*. 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Teacher Education Division – Council for Exceptional Children Conference, Charlotte, NC.
- Foley, N., & Steffens, S. (April 2008). *Evaluation of an alternative pathway for special education certification*. Council for Exceptional Children conference, Boston, MA.
- Applin, J., Barkon, B, Dil, N., Garrett, T., Gassman, G., Harriot, W., Kames M., Lignugaris/Kraft, B., O'Connor, D., Powell, P., Ritter, S., Steffens, S., & Vesay, J. (Nov. 2008). *Field Experiences that Shape Special Education Teachers*. A symposium co-presented with other members of the Small Special Education Programs Caucus. Teacher Education Division Conference, Dallas, TX.
- Steffens, S., Dill, N., Powell, P., Gartland, D., Kamens, M., Vasey, J., Strosnider, R. Webster, J. Panagos, R, Ambrose, J, & Harriot, W. (Nov. 9-12, 2005). *Accountability: Challenges and available opportunities in small special education personnel preparation programs: Roundtable conversations*. Co-presented with other members of the Small Special Education Programs Caucus. 28<sup>th</sup> Teacher Education Division Conference. Portland, ME.
- Foley, N., & Steffens, S. (Nov. 10, 2005). *The challenge of addressing accommodations and modifications in the Introduction to Special Education course*. 28<sup>th</sup> Teacher Education Division-Council for Exceptional Children Conference. Portland, ME.
- Steffens, S. (Nov. 7, 2004). *Caucus Conversations: Online special education courses*. 27<sup>th</sup> Teacher Education Division-Council for Exceptional Children Conference, Albuquerque, NM.
- Little, M., Ratcliff, E., Rice, C., & Steffens, S. (Nov. 1, 2002). *Who Will Teach the Teachers?* Co-presented with other members of the TED Membership Committee. Council of Exceptional Children (CEC) – Teacher Education Division (CEC-TED) 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Savannah, GA.

Geiger, W., & Steffens, S. (Nov. 17, 2001). *Special Education Certification: A Historical Comparison*. Council of Exceptional Children (CEC) – Teacher Education Division (CEC-TED) 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. St. Pete's Beach, FL.

Steffens, S., Drew, M., & Albee, J. (April 21, 2001). *Current issues in assessment: From research to running records*. Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) 2001 Annual Convention, Kansas City, MO.

#### State Presentations:

Doyle, L., Dyer, J., Nielsen, C., & Steffens, S. (July, 2010). *Achievement batteries: Pros and cons of the big three*. Missouri Federation of Council for Learning Disabilities (CLD)/Council for Education of Diagnostic Services (CEDS) Summer Conference, Columbia, MO.

Doyle, L., Nielsen, C., & Steffens, S. (July 18, 2002). *CEDS panel: News from 'Nawlines*. Missouri Federation of Council for Learning Disabilities (CLD)/Council for Educational Diagnostic Services (CEDS) 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Conference, Columbia, MO.

Panagos, R., Schwarting, G., Gray, M., Steffens, S., & Moore, P. (March 25, 2000). *Missouri's response to the critical shortage of special education teachers*. Missouri Federation of the Council for Exceptional Children 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference. Lake of the Ozarks, MO.

#### **PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS:**

Missouri Council for Exceptional Children: Vice President, 2007; President-Elect, 2008; President, 2009; Past-President, 2010; Past-President, 2011 (due to a resignation)

Missouri Council for Educational Diagnostic Services: Member 1997-present; Secretary, 2000-2001; President-Elect, 2001-2002; 2006-2007; President, 2002-2003; 2007-2008.

Small Special Education Program Caucus of Council of Exceptional Children-Teacher Education Division, Member (1994-present); secretary, (1998-2001); Associate Chair 2001-2002; Chair 2002-2003), Past-Chair (2003-2004).

Membership Committee of CEC-TED, member (2002-2004).

Professional Issues and Research Committee of CEC-TED, member (1996-2000).

Council of Exceptional Children, member of Division of Mental Retardation CEC-MR), Teacher Education Division (CEC-TED), Council for Educational Diagnostic Services (CEC-CEDS), (1993-present). Archivist, 2009-2012

Phi Delta Kappa, Northwest Missouri State University Chapter, (1995-present); Treasurer (1997-2001); Phi Delta Kappa, Northeast Iowa Chapter, (1985-1995)

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

(Oct. 27-28, 2000). Completed training for Woodcock-Johnson Psychoeducational Battery – III (Cognitive and Achievement), new assessment instrument to be used/taught in my classes. Nashville, TN.

(Feb. 3-5, 1999). IHE-CISE (Institutes of Higher Education-Center for Innovations in Special Education) training on Accommodations for the Missouri Assessment Project (MAP) and Decision Making in the IEP: Tools for Tomorrow. Gave presentation on Assistive Technology, Columbia, MO.

(Aug. 10, 1998). Class within a Class Training with Floyd Hudson, St. Joseph, MO.

(Feb. –May, 1998). Missouri State Department of Special Education Summit, Categorical Criteria Subcommittee. Formulated recommendations to the Missouri State Department of Special Education regarding changes needed due to 1997 Reauthorization of IDEA, Columbia, MO

## **DIVERSITY:**

Teach unit on Multicultural and Bilingual Aspects of Special Education in Introduction to Special Education class (2007 to present)

Diversity Task Force (Chair; 1997-1998)

Taught Observation in the Grand Bahama Schools (4 weeks in Freeport, Grand Bahama); January 1991, January 1993

## **TECHNOLOGY:**

*Enhancing Case-based Teaching through Technology: Interactive Cases and Performance Support Tools.* (Aug. 1-2, 2002) Summer Institute in Improving Instruction in Higher Education. Conference sponsored by Teacher Education Division (TED) of the Council for Exceptional Children.

(1999-2000). Curriculum and Instruction Department CITE team Received one-quarter release time to develop electronic portfolio for undergraduate students.

(Aug. 23, 2001). Attended workshop: Integrating Technology into the Curriculum, training by Peggy Kelly, via interactive television.

(April 11, 2002). Participant in Technology Conference sponsored by the Rural Technology Capacity Building Consortium (RTCBC).

College Technology Team (1999-2000)

## **INVOLVEMENT/COLLABORATION WITH P-12 EDUCATORS:**

Professional Development School Liaison with Humboldt Elementary, St. Joseph, Missouri (1997)

Annual Department advisory group with P-12 educators (1999-present).

Special Education Practicum in St. Joseph School District, Summer 2009. Spring 2000. Accepted in Year Two of Goals 2000 Team 3 – University/Public School Partnership, paired with Debbie From, Eugene Field Elementary, Maryville, MO for collaborative project.

Co-developed Academic Intervention Program with Debbie From, Eugene Field Elementary School. This program provides at-risk elementary students (K-4) with college student tutors before and after school, (2000-present.)

(Summer 2000). Goals 2000, Team 2 sponsored Experience the Lewis and Clark Expedition: Montana Science Institute week-long study program for teachers.

## **AWARDS & HONORS:**

(Nov. 11, 2011) Nasim Dil Award for Outstanding Service to Teacher Education. The Nasim Dill Award is an annual national award presented at the Council of Exceptional Children – Teacher Education Division (CEC-TED) Conference to an individual for exemplary service to the development and advancement of quality teacher education in special education.

(Jan. 4, 2011) Fulbright Award. Approved for candidacy on the Fulbright Specialist Roster for 5 years.

(February, 2000). Awarded \$1000 stipend from Learning Disabilities Association (LDA) to attend the LDA conference in Reno, Nevada. Collaborative project developed with Carolyn McCall.

(July, 1999). McCall, C., Steffens, S., Tjeerdsma, C., Baker, C., & Drew, M. The Distance Learning Workshop for Your Creative Teleteaching. Worldwide Web and Interactive Television, (CITE Grant). Albuquerque, NM.

Faculty Applied Research Grant (awarded April, 1999 for 1999-2000 school year.) "Survey of Best Practices of Reading Assessment Instruments." Co-written with Margaret Drew.

1991 Iowa State Student Education Association Sponsor of the Year.