

Curriculum Vitae

Published Work

I published my first article at age 16 in the Bergen Record, my hometown newspaper. Since then, I have published hundreds of articles for multiple newspapers and magazines, both print and online.

In recent years, I transitioned to health and wellness as a columnist for Gannett Newspapers. I write about communication, health, yoga, meditation, alternative spirituality, education, adventure, and all things that matter. I have published essays, fiction, and poetry in *Parent and Child*, Gannett newspapers across the country including *USA Today*, *GreenMedInfo*, *YogaUOnline*, *elephant journal*, *Art and Understanding*, *Anthologist*, and *Mangrove Review*.

As an educator, I specialize in the writing process. I have presented and published curricula breaking down concept to product for academic essay, personal essay, fiction writing, poetry, journalism, film, and podcasting.

In an 18-year career, I have taught English I, II, III, IV, both honors and general; AP Capstone Seminar; AP Literature; Pre-AP Literature; Dual Enrollment Pubic Speaking; Contemporary Literature, Journalism, Reading, Creative Writing, and Media Law.

All of my instructional modules are multi-media thematic units guided by essential questions. Each unit includes a non-fiction anchor text; multiple accent texts including art, photography, music, poetry, fiction; vocabulary pre-teaching; guided and independent reading; close reading tasks; text-based writing; and an independent creative application.

Notable Achievements:

Highest Florida Writes score increase from 70% to 91% proficient in a single year
Increased bottom quartile FCAT Reading achievement by 22%
Author, coordinator, trainer, and supervisor for Language Arts curriculum
Author, coordinator, trainer, and supervisor for school-wide writing program
Created and implemented school-wide grammar/common writing errors program
Designed and implemented Common Core reading and writing comprehension instructional sequences
Designed and implemented a two-year creative writing program netting a sweep of district creative writing awards at the Lee County Festival of Reading.

Awards:

Lee County Golden Apple Teacher, 2010
Lee County Teacher of the Year finalist, 2011 and 2005
Rotary Club Teacher of the Year, 2008
Chamber of Commerce Teacher of the Year, 2005
Rotary Club Teacher of the Year, 2004

Conference Presentations:

November 2004, National Writing Project's National Conference in Indianapolis, "Cinderella and Seedfolks: Developing Reading and Writing Skills Through Integrated Technology"

February 2005, National Writing Conference at FGCU Conference, "Inspiring Creativity and Vivids: Two Writing Activities a Teacher Can Do Tomorrow"

September 2005, National Writing Project at FGCU, "Structure with Freedom – The Joy of the Scripted Language Arts Curriculum"

April 2006, National Writing Project at FGCU, "Everything is Text: A Multimedia Approach to FCAT Preparation That Isn't Boring"

February 2007, Lee County Reading Council in Fort Myers and March 2007, National Writing Project at FGCU, "Madness, the Quixotic, and Dreams: Don Quixote"

February 2007, school-wide training, "Mastering Short-Answer Response"

June 2008, facilitated school-wide, two-day summer training, "Writing and Reading Across the Content Areas"

February 2008, school-wide training, "Building Fluency One Text at a Time"

August 2008, school-wide training, "Master the Sandwich of Short-Answer Response"

October 2008, school-wide training, "Writing the Reading Strands"

National Writing Project, Presenter and Organizer, June/July Summer Institute 2009

August 2010, school-wide training, “Short Answer FCAT Attack”

April 2011, school-wide training, “Thesis Writing in the Content Area”

August 2012, school-wide training, “Approaching the Common Core Curricula with the Seven-Step Process”

September 2012, school-wide training, “Pre-teaching Vocabulary for the Common Core”

October 2012, school-wide training, “Guided- and Close-Reading Activities for the Common Core”

November 2012, school-wide training, “The Art of the Common Core Short-Answer Response”

Spring, 2018, department training, “Addressing Common Writing Errors”