Jessica L. Edwards

Northern Kentucky University

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EDUCATION

**Ph.D., Curriculum and Instruction**  **2018**

University of North Texas

Concentration in Language and Literacy Studies

Dissertation: *Critique, Hope, and Action: A Critical Content Analysis of Teacher-Selected Literature for the Elementary Classroom*

**M.A.Ed., Reading and Writing Education 2011**

Eastern Kentucky University

Literacy SpecialistEndorsement (Rank II)

**Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education (P-5) 2008**

Morehead State University

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record, Undergraduate Education Courses, Northern Kentucky University

**Teaching of Reading**

Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025

**Teaching Language Arts in the Early Grades**

Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025

**Elementary Field Experience I**

Fall 2024, Spring 2025

**Clinical Experience Elementary: Student Teaching Supervision**

Fall 2024, Spring 2025

**Children’s Literature**

Summer 2024

Instructor of Record, Undergraduate Education Courses, Central Connecticut State University

**Literacy in Elementary School**

Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022

**Comprehensive Reading Instruction II**

Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023

**Literacy and Literature for Infants, Toddlers, and Preschool Children**

Fall 2021

**Language and Literacy for Infants, Toddlers, and Preschool Children**

Spring 2023

Instructor of Record, Graduate Education Courses, Central Connecticut State University

**Developmental Reading in Pre-K-12**

Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020

**Teaching Literacy in Content Areas**

Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023

**Literacy and Language Issues in the Classroom**

Fall 2019, Fall 2020

**Social and Emotional Learning through Literacy Instruction**

Winter 2020-2021, Winter 2021-2022, Summer 2023

**The Pedagogy of Literature K-12**

Summer 2022

**Reading Instruction K-12**

Summer 2020

Instructor of Record, Undergraduate Teacher Education Courses, University of North Texas

**Reading and Writing, Birth Through Grade 6**

Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2015, Summer 2017

**Reading and the Language Arts in Grades EC-8**

Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2019

**Cross Curricular (Content Area) Literacy Materials and Resources**

Spring 2015, Summer 2015, Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Summer 2016, Fall 2016, Summer 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2019

**Content Area Reading in Secondary Schools**

Spring 2017, Spring 2018

**Inquiry into Classroom Practice**

Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019

GRADUATE ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE

Dean’s Office, College of Education, University of North Texas 2018

Video Curation Project for Enhancement of Field Experiences in Secondary Ed Courses

Teacher Education and Administration, University of North Texas 2014-2018

Instruction of Teacher Preparation Courses

Supervision of Student Teachers and Teacher Research Project

**Curriculum and Instruction, Eastern Kentucky University 2010-2011**

Assistant to Graduate Coordinator, Department Chair, and other professors as needed

Assistance with Kentucky Reading Association Conference

K-12 TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Glenn O. Swing Elementary School, Covington, KY** **2011-2014**

5th Grade Writing, Reading, Math, & Science Teacher

**Jefferson County Public Schools, Louisville, KY**  **2009-2010**

Substitute Teacher

**Little Red School House, Anderson, OH**  **2008-2009**

Pre-Kindergarten Teacher

**Rodburn Elementary School, Morehead, KY**  **2008**

Student Teacher, 3rd, 4th, & 5th Grades

**Woodfill Elementary School, Fort Thomas, KY** **2007-2008**

Summer Elementary Tutor

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

**Edwards, J. L.** (2024, November). Enhancing student inclusion with diverse picture books. Presented at the annual Educators Rising Conference, Highland Heights, KY.

**Edwards, J. L.** (2024, September). Using diverse picture books to strengthen social and emotional skills**.** Panel presentation at annual conference of Kentucky Association of Teacher Educators, Highland Heights, KY.

**Edwards, J. L.** (2022, November). Developing teachers’ culturally diverse perspectives through the use of multicultural literature. Paper presented at annual conference of Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers, Denver, CO.

**Edwards, J. L.** (2021, December). Bridging the textual-visual gap: A multi-analytical approach to examining picture books for critical pedagogy in the elementary classroom. Paper presented at annual conference of Literacy Research Association, Atlanta, GA.

**Edwards, J. L.** (2019, November). Critical literacies in classroom settings. Panel presentation at annual convention of National Council for Teachers of English, Baltimore, MD.

**Edwards, J. L.** (2018, November). Using a critical lens to explore teacher-selected literature. Paper presented at annual convention of National Council for Teachers of English, Houston, TX.

**Edwards, J. L.** (2018, October). Books unbound: Banned books and literary freedom. Panel presentation at annual Banned Books Week for Sigma Tau Delta of UNT, Denton, TX.

**Edwards, J. L.** (2017, January). Astronauts don’t wear dresses: A study of cognitive processes in reading. Paper presented at annual conference of American Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies, San Antonio, TX.

**Edwards, J. L.** (2016, April). She is ME: Culturally responsive literacy strategies for Black girls. Paper presented at annual conference of Texas Chapter of the National Association for Multicultural Education, Denton, TX.

**Edwards, J. L.** (2016, March). What is leadership?. Paper presented at annual Kappa Delta Pi iLead Conference, Denton, TX.

**Edwards, J. L.** (2016, February). “What do I do when I don’t know what to say?”: Using picture books to talk about the tough stuff. Paper presented at annual conference of Texas Association of Literacy Education, San Antonio, TX.

Mathis, J., **Edwards, J. L.**, & Mirza, H. (2015, December). Representations of immigration in international literature for USA readers: A cross cultural critical content analysis. Paper presented at annual conference ofLiteracy Research Association, Carlsbad, CA.

**Edwards, J. L.** (2015, November). Reflecting social justice and equity through the selection of children’s literature. Paper presented at annual conference of Journal of Intercultural Studies, New York, NY.

**Edwards. J. L.** (2015, April). Using picture books to start word conversations with emergent readers. Workshop presented at annual conference of Denton Area Association for the Education of Young Children, Denton, TX.

**Edwards, J. L.** (2015, February). Using nonfiction children’s literature as told for engagement. Paper presented at annual Rose Spicola Forum in Reading, Denton, TX.

*Conferences Cancelled due to COVID-19*

**Edwards, J. L.** (Submitted July 2020). Encouraging Social and Emotional Learning in Literacy Instruction. Submitted to the Massachusetts Reading Association 52nd Annual Conference, Boston, MA (2021).

**Edwards, J. L.** (Submitted August 2021). Using Diverse Picture Books to Strengthen Social and Emotional Skills. Submitted to the Massachusetts Reading Association 53rd Annual Conference, Quincy, MA (2022).

PUBLICATIONS

**Edwards, J. L.** (2024). Critique, hope, and action: Analyzing teacher-selected literature for critical pedagogy in the elementary classroom. In K. Covino & C. Mulcahy (Eds.), The Intersections of Critical Pedagogy, Critical Literacy, and Social Justice: Toward Empowerment, Equity, and Education for Liberation.

**Edwards, J. L.**, & Takemae, N.(2023). Preservice teachers’ attitudes toward language diversity in the classroom. *The Leaflet.*

Takemae, N., & **Edwards, J.** (2023). Inclusive and accessible online learning through Universal Design for Learning. *Systematic Reflections.*

**Edwards, J. L.** (2020). Looking at reader response through a gendered lens. *MRA Primer, 48*(2), 39-50.

*Submitted Manuscripts*

**Edwards, J. L.** (October 2024). Using diverse picture books to strengthen social and emotional skills. *Kentucky Teacher Education Journal.*

*Working Manuscripts*

Mathis, J., **Edwards, J. L.**, & Mirza, H.(submission by end of summer 2025). Growing as educators through the power of immigrants in children’s literature. *Literacy Research and Instruction.*

Edwards, J. M., Lindo, N., Molina, C., & **Edwards. J. L.** (submission by end of spring 2025) Child-centered play therapists’ experiences delivering shortened session lengths. *International Journal for Play Therapy.*

*Non-refereed Publications*

**Edwards, J. L.** (2017). WOW Book Review: My Take, Your Take: Books that Support Young Readers’ Understanding of Refugees (Review of the book *Flight* by N. Wheatley & A. Greder). Retrieved from <https://wowlit.org/blog/2017/11/01/mtyt-books-support-young-readers-understanding-refugees/>

**Edwards, J. L.** (2017). WOW Book Review: My Take, Your Take: The Silence Seeker (Review of the book *The Silence Seeker* by B. Morely). Retrieved from <https://wowlit.org/blog/2017/11/08/mtyt-the-silence-seeker/#more-30502>

**Edwards, J. L.** (2017). WOW Book Review: My Take, Your Take: Adrift at Sea: A Vietnamese Boy’s Story of Survival (Review of the book *Adrift at Sea: A Vietnamese Boy’s Story of Survival* by M. F. Skrypuch & T. Ho). Retrieved from <https://wowlit.org/blog/2017/11/15/mtyt-adrift-at-sea/>

**Edwards, J. L.** (2017). WOW Book Review: My Take, Your Take: The Journey (Review of the book *The Journey* by F. Sanna). Retrieved from <https://wowlit.org/blog/2017/11/22/mtyt-the-journey/>

GRANTS

**Edwards, J. L.** (November 2022). Presentation at the Association for Literacy Educators and Researchers Annual Conference. *CCSU Full-Time Faculty Development Grant*. Awarded: $1,397.

**Edwards, J. L.**, & Mulcahy, C. (Summer 2022). Development of LLA 525: Writing Instruction for a Responsive Classroom. *AAUP Curriculum Development Grant.*Awarded: $3,141.

**Edwards, J. L.** (Winter 2021-2022). Development of LLA 508: Teaching Literacy in the Content Areas. *Early Career Curriculum Development Grant.* Awarded: $1,276.

**Edwards, J. L.** (December 2021). Bridging the textual-visual gap: A multi-analytical approach to examining picture books for critical pedagogy in the elementary classroom. *CCSU Full-Time Faculty Development Grant.* Awarded: $1,206.80.

**Edwards, J. L.** (Fall 2021). Using diverse picture books to strengthen social and emotional skills. Central Connecticut State University. *CSU-AAUP Research Grant.* Awarded: $1,600.

**Edwards, J. L.** (Summer 2021). Development of LLA 523: Social emotional learning through literacy instruction. *CCSU Curriculum Development Grant.* Awarded: $1,478.

**Edwards, J. L.** (March 2020). Developing teachers’ culturally diverse perspectives through the use of multicultural literature. Central Connecticut State University. *Diversity Curriculum Development Grant.* Awarded: $535.

REASSIGNED TIME

**Edwards, J. L.** (Fall 2024). Redesign of the Graduate Literacy Endorsement Program. *TEPS Reassigned Time.*

**Edwards, J. L.** (Spring 2024). Redesign of the Graduate Literacy Endorsement Program. *TEPS Reassigned Time.*

**Edwards, J. L.** (Fall 2022). Investigating preservice teachers’ self-efficacy towards the use of multicultural literature in the elementary classroom. *SEPS Research Reassigned Time.*

**Edwards, J. L.** (Fall 2021). Developing teachers’ culturally diverse perspectives through the use of multicultural literature. *SEPS Research Reassigned Time.*

**Edwards, J. L.** (Spring 2021). Practicing what we preach: Reigniting a passion for reading in preservice teachers. *SEPS Research Reassigned Time.*

PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

**Edwards, J. L.** (2023, January). External Expert Reviewer of SPED 215. *CCSU Curriculum Development Grant.* Awarded: $200.

**Edwards, J. L.** (2022, May). CCSU Writing Assessment Team. *Davis Educational Foundation Grant.* Awarded: $250.

**Edwards, J. L.** (2022, May). Using Picture Books to Support Opportunities for Inclusion and Discussion. Workshop presented at annual conference of Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families, Mystic, CT.

**Edwards, J. L.** (2022, April). National Days of Teaching Truth Campaign. Guest speaker on the Tom Ficklin Radio Show.

**Edwards, J. L.**, & Phaire, C. B. (2021, March). A Conversation Reviewing Powerful Women in Picture Books. CCSU SEL Central to You: Building a Better Tomorrow Series. Ana Grace Project Facebook Page.

**Edwards, J. L.**, & Phaire, C. B. (2021, February). A Conversation Reviewing Diverse Picture books for your Classroom, Daycare, or Personal Library. CCSU SEL Central to You: Building a Better Tomorrow Series. Ana Grace Project Facebook Page.

**Edwards, J. L.** (2021, February). African American Picture Book Read-In. Virtual Gathering.

**Edwards, J. L.** (2020, March). Integrating social action into the classroom with #BotJoy. Workshop presentation at the Central Connecticut Writing Project Idea Share, New Britain, CT.

MEMBERSHIPS AND LEADERSHIP ROLES

**UNIVERSITY**

Center for Teaching and Innovation Board of Advisors, 2020-2023

Equity, Justice, and Inclusion Subcommittee Member

Center for Excellence in Social and Emotional Learning Committee Member, 2020-2022

SEL Mindful Moments Video Project Co-Leader, 2022

Ana Grace Project Facebook Weekly Contributor: “SEL Saturdays with Dr. E”

University Senate: CCSU Information Technology Committee Member, 2020-2023

SEPS Representative for Software/Hardware Request Subcommittee, 2020-2022

Faculty Senate: Graduate Studies Committee Representative, 2022-2023

Central Teacher Education Network (CTEN) Literacy/Elementary Programs Representative 2020-2023

Appeals and Student Support Subcommittee, Chair (2023)

Community First School Curriculum Team Member, January 2020-December 2020

LEECE Departmental Governance Committee Member

Elementary Education Program Entrance Interview Team

Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022

Early Childhood Ad Hoc Committee Member, 2022

Written Communication Assignment Alignment Team, 2022

Absence Policy Ad Hoc Committee, 2023

**STATE**

Kentucky Reading Association (2010-2014, 2024-present)

Connecticut Reading Association (2019-2023)

Massachusetts Reading Association (2019-2023)

**NATIONAL**

International Literacy Association

Member, Board of Directors, Reading and Children’s Literature SIG, 2017-2020

National Council of Teachers of English

Member, English Language Arts Teacher Educators SIG

Member, Literacies and Languages for All SIG

Literacy Research Association

Conference Proposal Reviewer, 2022

Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers

Conference Proposal Reviewer, 2022

United States Board on Books for Young People

Children’s Literature Assembly

RECOGNITIONS

Outstanding Doctoral Student in Literacy Education, University of North Texas 2016

Honors Day Recognized Faculty Member, University of North Texas 2015, 2016

CCSU Excellence in Teaching Honor Roll 2020

Mental Health First Aid Responder Certification 2021-2024