

Derek S. Spalla

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Objective

Teacher Leader with an M.Ed. in Inclusive Education, demonstrated design and implementation of reading, literacy, and English language curriculum, proven by years of successful employment as a professional educator seeks a position as an Instructor of Education.

Profile

Motivated, personable and professional educator with a Georgia Educator Certificate. Diplomatic and tactful with professionals and non-professionals at all levels. Easily communicates with adults and young people from all backgrounds. Organized with exceptional skills in verbal and written communication.

Flexible and versatile – able to maintain a sense of humor under pressure. Poised and competent with an established ability to easily transcend cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic differences. Excellent team-building skills with an aptitude for research and a desire to make a difference.

Skills Summary

- ♦ English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
- ♦ Differentiated Instruction (DI)
- ♦ Understanding by Design (UbD)
- ♦ Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- ♦ Response-To-Intervention (RTI)
- ♦ Social Justice
- ♦ Scholar Activism
- ♦ Critical Theory
- ♦ Social Studies
- ♦ Special Education

Education

WEST GEORGIA RESA – Grantville, GA

Reading Endorsement (P-12), May 2011

NORTH GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY – Dahlonega, GA

ESOL Endorsement (P-12), July 2009

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY – Kennesaw, GA

Masters of Inclusive Education – TESOL, May 2012 GPA: 3.88/4.0

- Nominated M.Ed. University Scholar

TOCCOA FALLS COLLEGE – Toccoa Falls, GA

Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education - History, 1996 GPA: 3.186/4.0

- Minor in Behavioral Science
- Dean's List

Current Research

- ♦ Effective ESL Instructional Delivery Models (started Fall 2010, IRB proposal approved December 2010). Delivering survey results at KSU/GADOE TESOL Conference 2012. Ready findings for publication.

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Delivered Presentations

- ◆ Panelist – Future Educators Conference 2011, Southern Polytechnic
- ◆ More RTI and ELLs in a Nutshell – GA TESOL Conference 2011
- ◆ RTI and ELLs in a Nutshell – Carroll County School System, West Georgia RESA, Kennesaw State University TESOL Conference, 2011
- ◆ Who is Peter McLaren, Kennesaw State University, 2011
- ◆ When Culture Meets The Classroom – Carroll County School System, 2010
- ◆ Reflections on Dr. Gottlieb – Kennesaw State University, 2010
- ◆ Social Studies Trends and Issues: Multicultural Education and Social Justice – Kennesaw State University, 2008
- ◆ Comparison of the Chinese and Russian Economies – Kennesaw State University, 2008

Major Papers

- ◆ Defining “Poor” in Peopletown, Kennesaw State University, 2011
- ◆ Defining ESL Instructional Models, Kennesaw State University, 2011
- ◆ Effective ESL Instructional Delivery Models, Kennesaw State University, 2010
- ◆ Exploring Iranian Culture, North Georgia College and State University, 2009
- ◆ The Historic Context of the Russian and Chinese Economies, Kennesaw State University, 2008
- ◆ Battle of Olustee, Toccoa Falls College, 1992

Experiential Competence

- ◆ Founded a non-profit organization, Moriah’s Gift, which supports child victims of failed U.S. immigration policy.
- ◆ Managed a caseload of 70+ English learners (ELs), across five schools, grades K-12.
- ◆ Drafted and created multiple graphic organizers, assessments, and forms for myself, colleagues, and parents.
- ◆ Authored ESL Retention Guidelines and submitted for inclusion in my district’s policies.
- ◆ Delivered presentations on multiple occasions to colleagues as part of professional development.
- ◆ Majored in and have studied extensively the field of social studies which includes the subfields of behavioral science, economics, history, geography and political science.
- ◆ Created an Advanced Placement Psychology curriculum. Served as the AP Coordinator at my school.
- ◆ Conducted and presented research on Social Justice Issues related to at risk children, their families, and the communities they belong to, with the goal of helping educators to teach to this demographic of society.
- ◆ Drafted and managed IEPs (Individual Education Program plans) for Special Education students.
- ◆ Used poetry creation and instruction as a lesson extension in a self-contained Behavior Disorder class.
- ◆ Literature instruction and teaching with students with Learning Disabilities.
- ◆ Facilitated a year long reading course for seventh graders.
- ◆ Planned the development of an ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) adult learners course.

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- ◆ Drafted a list of trade books to teach reading across content areas and distributed to other staff members.
 - ◆ Participated in Holocaust Remembrance Week by implementing a compare and contrast activity using primary documents from World War II.
 - ◆ Celebrated Black History Month with my students using a treasure hunt activity using posters students created on notable African-Americans.

Education Experience

CARROLL COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM – Carrollton, GA
Itinerant ESOL Teacher, 2009-Present

TRINITY CHAPEL ACADEMY – Powder Springs, GA
MS/HS Social Studies Teacher, 2005-2009

PEARSON EDUCATION – Duluth, GA
Assessor, 2008-2009

IN-HOME TUTORS OF ATLANTA – Atlanta, GA
Private Tutor, 2004-2005

COBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT – Marietta, GA
Substitute Teacher, 2003-2005

CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT – Canton, GA
Special Education Teacher, 1996-1997

FRANKLIN COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM – Royston, GA
Substitute Teacher, 1995

CENTRAL HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL – Mt. Airy, GA
Student Teacher/Tutor, 1994-1995

Highlights:

- Eight years classroom experience
- Georgia Educator Certificate including Reading and ESOL Endorsements
- Sociology and Advanced Placement Psychology Teacher
- Experience with all aspects of Special Education
- Nominated Teacher of the Year four years in a row (2005-2009)

Multicultural Experiences Summary

- ◆ Traveled extensively in Europe (1986), lived in Aruba for two months (1991), delivered medical supplies to the Maya Indians in the jungles of Mexico (1995), and helped teach English to college students in China (2004).

Professional Associations

- ◆ Georgia TESOL
- ◆ Georgia Association of Educators
- ◆ International TESOL
- ◆ National Association of Educators
- ◆ Golden Key International Honour Society