BU Consortium – School of Education Faculty Profiles

Sarah Benes, EdD
Sarah Benes is a faculty member in the Applied Human Development program where she teaches a variety of courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels in topics such as health behavior, movement education and health/physical education. Sarah’s interests are advancing physical and health education in schools, increasing movement in the classroom and engaging families in health and wellness activities in the afterschool setting.

Possible collaborations:
- Planning and implementing skills-based physical and health education programs
- Evaluating existing physical and health education programs
- Evaluating school health and physical activity policies
- Increasing movement in the classroom
- Establishing programs to engage students and their families in health and wellness

Further information on Sarah Benes can be found on: http://www.bu.edu/sed/about-us/faculty/profiles/sarah-sparrow-benes/

Nermeen Dashoush, PhD
Nermeen Dashoush is faculty in the Early Childhood program where she teaches science and assessment courses. Her interest lies in increasing teacher self-efficacy through professional development in order to bring science and best practices in prek-4th grade classrooms.

Possible collaborations:
- Establishing living habitats (pets, plants, observation stations) in the classroom
- Science Centers during choice time
- Setting up a classroom Maker’s Space
- Planning and implementing trips as informal learning experience
- Building the classroom library to meet curricular and social learning needs
- Developing formative assessment methods in the classroom

Further information on Nermeen Dashoush can be found on: http://www.bu.edu/sed/about-us/faculty/profiles/nermeen-dashoush/

Don DeRosa, Ed.D.
Don DeRosa is a professor of science education at the School of Education. He is also Director of CityLab: A biotechnology learning laboratory for students and teachers. For more information about CityLab, go to www.bumc.bu.edu/citylab. In addition to his work in biotechnology education at the middle and high school level, Don has also worked with elementary STEM education at both the Trotter and Winship elementary schools.

Possible collaborations:
- Creating learning experiences in biology through the lens of molecular biology and biotechnology
- Setting up molecular biology labs
- Supporting science experiences for K12 students
- Professional development with teachers in science

Further information on Don DeRosa can be found on: http://www.bu.edu/sed/about-us/faculty/profiles/donald-derosa/
**Lynsey Gibbons, PhD**
Lynsey Gibbons is a mathematics educator at Boston University. Dr. Gibbons seeks to work with school leaders to consider how to organize schools to support teachers’ learning together to improve practice.

**Possible collaborations:**
- Co-designing job-embedded professional development for teachers
- Supporting coaches to work both with individuals and groups of teachers
- Collaborating with principals to explore their instructional leadership practices as they work with teachers improve their mathematics instruction
- Collaborating with district leaders to provide professional development to coaches and principals

Further information on Lynsey Gibbons can be found on: [http://www.bu.edu/sed/about-us/faculty/profiles/lynsey-gibbons/](http://www.bu.edu/sed/about-us/faculty/profiles/lynsey-gibbons/)

**Melissa Holt, PhD and Jennifer Green, PhD**
Jennifer Green is faculty in the Special Education program where she teaches courses about working with children with emotional and behavioral disorders. Melissa Holt is a faculty in the Counseling Psychology program where she teaches courses on counseling services for children. Together they co-lead the Social Adjustment and Bullying Prevention, a research and outreach team committed to improving student social and emotional experiences at school. Their lab provides data to schools about experiences with bullying and mental health needs to improve services and supports for students.

**Possible collaborations:**
- Assessing student mental health needs and bullying experiences
- Partnering with schools to improve bullying prevention and mental health supports

Further information on the Social Adjustment and Bullying Prevention Lab can be found on: [http://www.bu.edu/bullying](http://www.bu.edu/bullying)

**Christine M. Leider, PhD**
Dr. Christine Leider is Faculty in the Language Education program. Her teaching and research interests are focused on language and literacy development among bilingual and immigrant students. She works with student teachers and teachers, challenging them to think critically about the current research on and developmental contexts of culturally and linguistically diverse children in order to develop appropriate instructional and curricular practices for working with bilingual and immigrant children and families.

**Possible collaborations include:**
- Developing culturally and linguistically responsive classroom practices
- Developing classroom tools and practices for differentiating instruction
- Working to build relationships with Newcomers and their families
- Co-developing and/or co-teaching lessons/units/activities
- Integrating media and technology to support language and literacy development

Christopher Martell, EdD
Christopher Martell is a Clinical Assistant Professor and Program Director of Social Studies Education, where his work primarily focuses on social studies and teacher education. He currently teaches elementary and secondary social studies methods and researches how social studies teachers teach about race and use historical inquiry in their classrooms.

Possible collaborations:
- Increasing the amount of inquiry used in social studies (at the elementary, middle, or high school levels), including the history, civics, economics, and geography classrooms
- Improving the racial and cultural diversity found in the social studies curriculum
- Designing alternatives to traditional social studies textbooks
- Planning and implementing Boston area field trips related to multicultural history
Further information on Christopher Martell can be found on: http://www.bu.edu/sed/about-us/faculty/profiles/christopher-martell/

Eve Manz, PhD
Eve Manz is faculty in the Science Education and Elementary Education programs. She conducts research with elementary school teachers to adapt their curricula to more effectively engage students in scientific and mathematical practices. She is a former elementary school teacher and curriculum director for a science and engineering workshop.

Possible Collaborations:
- Opening up the experiments provided in science kits to student discussion and decision making
- Connecting science units to outdoor experiences
- Making connections between science curricula and Mathematics or Literacy/ELA standards
- Supporting students to develop scientific and mathematical representations (e.g. sketches, diagrams, displays)
Further information on Eve Manz can be found on: http://www.bu.edu/sed/about-us/faculty/profiles/eve-manz/

Sherell McArthur, PhD
Sherell McArthur is a Lecturer in Elementary Education, where her work primarily focuses on social justice education and media literacy to disrupt the reinforcement of stereotypical perceptions of marginalized populations. She currently teaches elementary education courses with a sociological perspective and prepares teachers to work in multicultural classrooms.

Possible collaborations:
- Incorporating social justice education into classroom curriculum (at the elementary, middle, or high school levels)
- Teaching students research skills and allowing them to use their research to address inequities that students of marginalized populations experience
- Designing activities on media literacy to teach students how media messages shape our culture and society and advocate for social justice through media
- Building the classroom library to improve racial and cultural diversity
Further information on Sherell McArthur can be found on: http://www.bu.edu/sed/about-us/faculty/profiles/sherell-mcarthur/
Michelle Porche, EdD

Michelle Porche is faculty in the Counseling Psychology and Applied Human Development program where she teaches courses on adolescent development, cross-cultural perspectives in counseling, and introduction to research methods. Dr. Porche has conducted extensive research on the social and emotional factors related to learning and achievement, with specific attention to vulnerable populations.

Possible collaboration:
- Childhood adversity and achievement
- Culturally responsive classroom practices and student support
- Underrepresented minorities and girls in STEM
- Adjustment for immigrant and refugee students
- Afterschool programming to foster social-emotional learning and academic achievement

Further information on Michelle Porche can be found on: http://www.bu.edu/sed/about-us/faculty/profiles/michelle-porche/

Elizabeth Bettini, PhD

Elizabeth Bettini is faculty in the Special Education program. Her interest lies in improving special educators’ effectiveness at serving students with disabilities and their longevity in their schools. She is also committed to helping school leaders learn to better support special educators.

Possible collaborations:
- Special education teacher professional development
- Professional development for school leaders related to supporting special educators
- Examining school/district data to determine potential areas where special educators may need more support
- Supporting new special educators
- Supporting special educators serving students with emotional and behavioral needs

Further information on Elizabeth Bettini can be found on: http://www.bu.edu/sed/about-us/faculty/profiles/elizabeth-bettini/