

CURRICULUM VITA

Sarah W. Nelson

Assistant Professor, Educational Leadership

**Associate Director, International Center for
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Academic Background

Ph.D., Educational Administration, University of Texas at Austin, Public School
Executive Leadership (2002)
*Dissertation: Oppression, conflict, and collusion: High-stakes accountability
from the perspective of three social justice principals*

M.Ed., Educational Administration, University of Texas at Austin (1994)

B.S., Education, University of Texas at Austin (1990)

Professional Certificates

Texas Professional Certificate, Mid-Management Administrator (Principal)

Texas Professional Certificate, Supervisor

Texas Provisional Teaching Certificate, Elementary Self-Contained (1-8)

Texas Provisional Teaching Certificate, Generic Special Education (PK-12)

Honors and Awards

Recognized by Austin ISD for efficient management of federal entitlement grants. (2002)

Featured in Belt, L. (2002). One child at a time: The case for school-based mentoring. Southwest Educational Development Laboratory News, 14 (1), 3-7.

Participant in the University of Pittsburgh Institute for Learning Wallace-Readers' Digest Principal Think Tank (2001-2002)

Featured in Trail, K. (2000). Taking the lead: The role of the principal in school reform. CSRD Connections, 1 (4), 1-4.

Recipient of the Principal's "A" Honor Roll Award given by the New Jersey Writing Project in Texas, (1997)

Nominated for Austin Adopt-A-School Principal of the Year. (1997)

Professional Experience

Assistant Professor, Texas State University–San Marcos, Texas (2003-present).

Tenure-track faculty member in the department of Educational Administration and Psychological Services. Serves as a researcher and instructor in the Educational Leadership program, which prepares school administrators. Research interests include educational equity, culturally responsive pedagogy, and high-stakes accountability systems.

Principal, Austin ISD, Austin, Texas (1996-2003). Leader of an urban elementary school serving 850-1100 students with diverse cultural, linguistic, and economic backgrounds (85% Hispanic, 10% African American, 5% White; 45% English Language Learners; 85-90% Poverty). Instituted curricular and instructional reform to improve student achievement. Decreased teacher turnover to one of lowest rates in district (9%). Developed partnerships with community organizations such as Skippy Mobile Health Clinic, St. Edwards University, and Americorps to provide educational and social services to school community. Campus selected as a training site for teacher certification programs at Southwest Texas State University and the University of Texas. Initiated and hosted a yearly staff development conference featuring national experts and attended by more than 350 teachers from 5 school districts.

Assistant to the Area Superintendent, Austin ISD, Austin, Texas (1995-1996). Assisted Area Superintendent in overseeing 2 high schools, 3 middle schools, and 13 elementary schools. Conducted training for principals and assistant principals. Responded to parent and staff concerns. Represented Area Superintendent at

campus and district meetings. Organized and managed site visits of campuses. Coordinated screening and interviews of principal applicants.

Curriculum and Technology Facilitator, Austin ISD, Austin, Texas (1994-1995). Led initiative to integrate technology into classrooms. Managed installation of first computer network on campus. Trained teachers in the use of computers through workshops and demonstration lessons. Developed curriculum to support technology integration.

Teacher, Austin ISD, Austin, Texas (1990-1994).

Taught special education and general education students. Developed and implemented integrated curriculum. Created instructional model to increase special education student participation in general education classes. Served as campus technology coordinator, vertical team representative, and campus leadership team member.

Teacher Assistant, Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Austin, Texas (1988-1989). Assisted with the instruction of students with multiple disabilities including visual impairments, cognitive delays, and emotional disorders.

Professional Organizations

American Educational Research Association

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

National Association for Elementary Supervisors and Principals

National Education Association

Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association

Grants

Nelson, S. (2003). *Leadership removed: Chronicling the repercussions of high-stakes accountability*. Research Enhancement Grant. Texas State University. **\$6,000.**

Mays, P., Hoenstein, M., Cisneros, A., Grady, T., Nelson, S., & Trevino, A. (2001, 2003). *READ for Texas*. Texas Education Agency. **\$250, 000.**

Jones, P. & Nelson, S. (2001). *Young environmentalist weather station*. Dell Foundation. **\$5,000.**

Managed Technology Infrastructure Funds (TIF). **\$25,000.** (2002)

Managed federal entitlement grant funds. **\$2,500,000**. (1997-2003)

Publications

Waite, D. & Nelson, S. *Educational leadership reconsidered*. Manuscript submitted for publication.

McGhee, M. & Nelson, S. (in press). *Sacrificing Leaders, villainizing leadership: How educational accountability policies are negatively impacting school leadership. Phi Delta Kappan*.

O'Neal, S. & Nelson, S., Gaines, L., & Valentino, A. (2004). Literacy learning for every child in an urban classroom: Can we raise scores and scholars? In D. Lapp, C. Block, E. Cooper, J. Flood, N. Roser & J. Tinajero (Eds.), *Teaching all the children: Strategies for developing literacy in an urban setting* (pp 153-160). New York: Gilford.

Presentations

National

McGhee, M. & Nelson, S. (2003). *Sacrificing leaders, villainizing leadership: How educational accountability policies are negatively impacting school leadership*. Paper Session presented at the annual conference of the University Council for Educational Administration. Portland, OR.

O'Neal, S., Nelson, S., Gaines, L. & Valentino, A. (2003). *What type of literacy instruction affects learning for every child in an urban classroom?* Breakout session at International Reading Association Conference Institute. *Teaching all of the children in your classroom: Strategies for developing the literacy of every child in an urban setting*. Orlando, FL.

Garcia, S. & Nelson, S. (2001). *Organizing for diversity*. Symposium presented at the annual convention of the International Council for Exceptional Children. Kansas City, MO.

Garcia, S., Guerra, P. & Nelson, S. (2000). *Through their eyes: Educators' reflections about staff development on intercultural communication in the classroom*. Symposium presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association. New Orleans, LA.

State

Nelson, S. (2003). *Hiring and developing educators who can effectively work with diversity*. Presented at the annual summer conference of the Texas Association of School Personnel Administrators. Austin, TX.

O'Neal, S., Nelson, S., Gaines, L. & Valentino, A. (2003). *Life, liberty and the pursuit of literacy learning for every child in an urban classroom*. Session presentation at the annual conference of the Texas State Reading Association. Austin, TX.

Guerra, P. & Nelson, S. (2002). *Hiring and developing educators who can effectively work with diversity*. Presented at the joint annual conference of the Texas Association of School Personnel Administrators and Texas Association for Employment in Education. Austin, TX.

Nelson, S. (1997). *Co-mingling funds to support school reform*. Presented at the Collaborative Conference for Adult Education, Community Education, and Even Start Family Literacy. Corpus Christi, TX.

Invited Talks

Nelson, S. (2004). *Beyond AEIS: Tools for analyzing data*. Presented at the Texas State University Assistant Principal conference. San Marcos, TX.

Nelson, S. (2004). *Choose to teach: A case for teaching as a career choice*. Presented at the "Only the Best" staff development conference. Austin ISD, Austin, TX.

Nelson, S. (2002). *Working with Education Austin*. Presented at Austin ISD New Principal Orientation. Austin, TX.

Nelson, S. (2001). *Principles of learning*. Presented to Area 3 Administrators. Austin ISD. Austin, TX

Nelson, S. (1999). *Creating campus-based budgets through collaboration*. Presented to the faculty of Bedicheck Middle School. Austin ISD. Austin, TX

Nelson, S. (1999). *Differentiated instruction*. Presented at the "Only the Best" Conference. Austin ISD. Austin, TX

Nelson, S. (1998). *Creating campus-based budgets to support school improvement*. Presented at the monthly meeting of new administrators. Austin ISD. Austin, TX

McKenzie, K. & Nelson, S. (1998). *Reading for secondary students*. Presented to the Middle School and High School Principals. Austin ISD. Austin, TX

Service

University

Representative, Arts & Sciences faculty focus group for strategic marketing study, (March 2004)

Member, planning committee for the Texas State University Assistant Principal Conference (2004)

Critical friend for a partner school of the National Center for School Improvement.

College

Member, Dissertation Committee of Lauralee Pankonien

Member, Dissertation Committee of Sharon Fillion

Department

Member, interview committee for Administrative Assistant position (2004)

Member, Graduate Instructional Assistant committee (2004)

Member, planning and facilitation team for developing EAPS strategic plan (2003)

Profession

Reviewer, American Educational Research Journal (AERJ) Theme Issue, *Accountability and Equity*. 2004

Community

Volunteer, American Cancer Society *Notes to Neighbors Campaign* (2004)

Representative, Consultation Team, Austin Association of Public School Administrators, (2000-2003)

Member, Professional Development Task Force, Austin ISD, (2002)

Member, Administrative Policy Committee, Austin ISD, (2001-2002)

Member, Quality Council, Austin ISD, (2001)

Member, Seton/Austin ISD Student Health Services Task Force, (1999-2003)

Member, District Advisory Council, Austin ISD, (1998-1999)

Member, Principals' Advisory Council to the Superintendent, AISD, (1997-1999)

Mentor Principal, Austin ISD, (1997-2002)

Assessor, Public School Executive Leadership Assessment Center, University of Texas at Austin, (1998-2000)

Founding member, Austin ISD Principals' Academy Board of Directors, (1998)

Chairperson, Music, Art, and Physical Education Task Force, Austin ISD, (1997)

Trainer, Common Bonds Diversity Modules, Austin ISD, (1997)

Member, Writing Task force, Austin ISD, (1997)

Member, Budget Committee, Austin ISD, (1995, 1999)

Site-Based Decision Making Trainer, J. Houston Elementary School, Austin ISD, (1993)

Consulting

Strategies for Creating Successful Schools in a Diverse World, Bay City ISD, Bay City, Texas (2004).

Responsive Classrooms and Schools; Houston County Schools, Perry, Georgia (2003-2004).

Culturally Responsive Classrooms and Schools; Muriel Heights Elementary School, El Dorado, Arkansas (2003-2004)

Meeting the needs of diverse learners; Weatherford ISD, Weatherford, Texas, (2002)

Professional development consultant, Southwest Educational Development Laboratory, Topic—Organizing for diversity; Temple ISD, Temple, Texas, (2002)

Professional development consultant, Southwest Educational Development Laboratory, Topic—Organizing for diversity; Trainer of Trainers. Austin, Texas, (1999)

Teaching

Texas State University—San Marcos

Campus Leadership

Understanding Self

Supervision and Instructional Leadership

Continuous School Improvement

Public School Law

Integrative seminar (Action Research)

School as Center of Inquiry (Survey of Research Methods)

Administrative Internship

Outside Lecturing

Guest lecturer, Department of Educational Administration, University of Texas at Austin, (2002)

Invited speaker, Department of Educational Administration, University of Texas at Austin, (2003, 2002, 1997)

Invited speaker, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Teacher Preparation Program, Southwest Texas State University, (1999, 2000, 2001, 2002)

Invited speaker, Administrator Certification Program, Region XIII Service Center, (1997)

Guest lecturer, Department of Educational Administration, Southwest Texas State University, (1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002)

Invited speaker, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Teacher Fellows Program, Southwest Texas State University, (1995, 1996, 1997)

Technology

Teaching and training technologies

- Online staff development—Teachscape
- Interactive teaching and learning—Blackboard, listserv
- Distance learning
- Wireless hub stations
- Web page design

Data management systems

- Integrated Financial Accounting System (IFAS)
- School Administration Student Information (SASI)
- Lightspan EduTest Assessment System

Personal proficiencies

Mac and PC systems and software including:

- Adobe Acrobat Professional
- Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Excel
- Microsoft PowerPoint
- Microsoft Access
- FileMaker Pro
- Hyper Studio

Digital image editing

LAN Administration