Melanie Blanton

(843) 953-9551 -- meblanto@ttu.edu

Education

Ph.D in Curriculum and Instruction: Language, Diversity, and Literacy Studies
Expected 2024 ▪ Texas Tech University Graduate School of Education

Dissertation Committee: Dr. Jin Jung (Chair)

Endorsement in Gifted and Talented Education May 2012 ▪ Converse College	**MA in English** December 2009 ▪ Belmont University
MA in Teaching Secondary Education May 2010 ▪ Trevecca Nazarene University	**BA in English concentration in Creative Writing** May 2007 ▪ College of Charleston

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Blanton, M., Jocius, R., Albert, J., Joshi, D. Dragons, Squishy Circuits, and Computational Thinking: Integrating Scientific Literacies into Elementary Classrooms (accepted)

Jocius, R., O'Byrne, W. I., Albert, J., Joshi, D., **Blanton, M**., Robinson, R., ... & Catete, V. (2022). Building a Virtual Community of Practice: Teacher Learning for Computational Thinking Infusion. *TechTrends*, 1-13.

Jocius, R., O'Byrne, I., **Blanton, M.**, Albert, J., Joshi, D. & Robinson, R. (2021). Leveraging virtual professional development to build computational thinking literacies in English Language Arts classrooms. *Contemporary Issues in Technology and Teacher Education, 21*(4).

Jocius, R., O'Byrne, I., **Blanton, M.**, Albert, J., Joshi, D. & Robinson, R. (2021). Leveraging virtual professional development to build computational thinking literacies in English Language Arts classrooms. *Contemporary Issues in Technology and Teacher Education, 21*(4).

Jocius, R., Albert, J., Andrews, A. & **Blanton, M.** (2020). Exploring teachers' approaches to standards-based making in elementary classrooms. In G. Marks & D. Schmidt-Crawford (Eds.), *Proceedings of Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education International Conference* (pp. 1115-1119). Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE).

Published Book Chapters, Reviews, & Non-Peer Reviewed Articles

Jocius, R., **Blanton, M.,** Albert, J., Joshi, D., & Andrews, A. R. (2021). Computational Thinking and Making in Virtual Elementary Classrooms. In *Handbook of Research on Transforming Teachers' Online Pedagogical Reasoning for Engaging K-12 Students in Virtual Learning* (pp. 359-378). IGI Global.

Conference Presentations

Blanton, M. (accepted 2022). *Who is doing the {computational} thinking?: A content analysis of characters engaging in computational thinking in selected children's literature* [paper presentation] Literacy Research Association Conference, Phoenix, AZ

Blanton, M., Jocius, R., Albert, J., Joshi, D., Andrews, A. (April, 2022). *Leveraging virtual PD: CT integration in elementary classrooms* [poster presentation]. AERA, San Diego, CA.

Jocius, R., Albert, J., O'Byrne, W.I., **Blanton, M.**, Joshi, D., Robinson, R., & Andrews, A. (April, 2022). *Investigating virtual teacher learning for computational thinking infusion* [paper presentation]. AERA, San Diego, CA.

Blanton, M., Jocius, R., Albert, A., Joshi, D., & Andrews, A. (2021, December). *Sandcastles, Dragons, and Algorithms: Using Read-alouds to develop Computational thinking [*paper presentation]. Literacy Research Association Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Jocius, R., **Blanton, M.,** Albert, & O'Byrne, I. (2021, December). *Infusing computational thinking into middle and high school ELA classrooms [*paper presentation]. Literacy Research Association Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Blanton, M., Jocius, R., Joshi, D., Albert, J., Andrews, A. (2021, July) *Children's Literature as a Bridge to CT Integration* [presentation]. CSTA, Virtual format. https://www.csteachers.org/page/csta-2021

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

Spring 2022 SWARM Award: Zucker Family School of Education
Krause Center for Leadership and Ethics Campus Award for Community Engagement and Service Learning (2022)

Research Experience

The STEM Center, Assistant Director, Outreach Coordinator, Project Manager · 2018 – present
Zucker Family School of Education, The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina

- Assistant Director, present
- Support personnel, NSF NOYCE Track 3 Grant (present)
- Project manager for Making CT an NSF Computer Science for All: Research Practitioner Partnership
- Research Assistant, Center for Mathematical Inquiry and Mathemtical Literacy (statewide grant funded teacher PD project)
- Project manager for Mobile Maker Kits, an NSF EAGER: DEMAND in partnership with 15 schools

Teaching Experience

Zucker Family School of Education Adjunct Instructor
The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina

- Spring 2023 -   EDUC 101: Education in Modern Society
- Fall 2022 -   EDUC 301: Foundations in Literacy
- Fall 2021 -   EDUC 101: Education in Modern Society
- Fall 2020 -   EDUC 101: Education in Modern Society
- Fall 2019 -   EDUC 101: Education in Modern Society
- undergraduate field experience coordinator (Spring 2018-2020)
- supported The Citadel Summer Reading Program, Teacher Cadet Program, recruitment initatives
- establish and nurture K-12 school and community partnerships

Classroom Teacher, Instructional Coach, Curriculum Developer, Mentor Teacher ▪ 2008 – 2017

Beaufort Middle School, Robert Smalls International Academy ▪ Beaufort County School District

Wright Middle School ▪ Metro Nashville Public School

Professional & Community Service

2022 - present	The Citadel Sustainability Club Co-Sponsor
Fall 2022	Computer Science Teacher Association Conference Reviewer
Fall 2022	SITE Conference Reviewer
Summer 2022	LRA Conference Reviewier
Spring 2021	AERA Conference Reviewer - Division K
2017 - 2022	Krause Center for Leadership and Ethics Liaison, Leadership Day Site Coordinator

Professional Organizations

- American Educational Research Association
- Literacy Research Association
- Computer Science Teachers Association