

Melinda Beth Backus, Ed.D.

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Education

- 2005 Ed.D, Marshall University, Huntington, WV
Curriculum and Instruction; Literacy
- 2003 Ed.S, Marshall University, Huntington, WV
Curriculum and Instruction
- 1994 M.A., Marshall University, Huntington, WV
Reading Specialist, K-12
- 1989 B.A., Marshall University, Huntington, WV
Multi-Subject K-8

Experience

- 2000 - present Professor, Marshall University, Faculty in Teacher Education
- 1997 - 2000 Adjunct, Marshall University, Teaching Math and Technology courses
- 1991 - 2000 Middle School Teacher, Wayne Middle School, 6th, 7th, 8th Math/
Language Arts
- 1989 - 1991 Elementary School Teacher, East Lynn Elementary, 3rd, 4th grade

Selected Professional Activities, Honors and Awards

Director, PDS (Professional Development Schools)
PDK (Phi Delta Kappa)
Who's Who Among America's Teachers
Internal/External Evaluator, Project REACT: RESA II/RESA III
WV Reading Association
WV Council of Teachers of Mathematics

Scholarship

Productions

Aha Process, Inc. (2008). Strategies for today's teacher candidates: Applications of the work of Ruby K. Payne, Ph.D. West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts: Module 6—Strategies and Application

Broadcast Media

West Virginia Academic Spotlight: A Community Evaluation of College and Career Ready Standards. (2015, November). WVU Reed College of Media: Backus, M. B.

Refereed Work

Isaacs, T. M., Backus, M. B., Lucas, P. L., 2015 Annual Eastern Educational Research Association Conference, "Only the best will do: How do Educator Preparation Providers (EPPs) move away from the status quo in admission requirements? In what ways should ACT and GPA scores be used as selectivity factors?," EERA, Sarasota, FL. (February 25, 2015).

Backus, M. B. (Author Only), Sottile, J. M. (Presenter & Author), Myers, D. (Author Only), Eastern Educational Research Association 37th Annual Meeting, "Training Teachers to meet the demands of student achievement in math and science," EERA, Jacksonville, Florida. (2013).

Sottile, J. M. (Presenter & Author), Backus, M. B. (Presenter & Author), Ellison, R. (Author Only), Murphy, R. A. (Presenter & Author), Watts, K. (Presenter Only), Eastern Educational Research Association, "'Fostering Teacher English Literature Achievement through Sustained Professional Development using Applied Current Events and Electronic Modules'," Sarasota, Florida. (February 21, 2013).

Sottile, J. M. (Presenter & Author), Backus, M. B. (Author Only), Watts, K. (Author Only), Jia, L. (Presenter & Author), 2012 Eastern Educational Research Association, "Enhancing teacher math achievement through sustained professional development," EERA, Hilton Head, SC. (February 2012).

Sottile, J. M. (Presenter & Author), Cockrille, D. (Author Only), Backus, M. B. (Author Only), Lucas, P. L. (Author Only), Watts, K. (Author Only), Global Learn Asia Pacific-Global Conference on Learning and Technology, "Teacher Math Achievement through Professional Development Activities based on Shared Learning, Problem Based learning, Collaborative Technologies, Learning Communities, and Hands-On Activities," Association for the Advancement of Computing Education (ACE), Melbourne, Australia. (2011).

Backus, M. B. (Author Only), Sottile, J. M. (Author Only), Isaacs, T. M. (Author Only), Murphy, R.A. (Author Only), Kelly, W. (Author Only), Eastern Educational Research Association, "Teacher professional development through collaboration, application, and reciprocal teaching to increase student achievement," EERA, Sarasota, FL. (February 15, 2011).

Backus, M., Sottile, J., Isaacs, T., & Murphy, R.A. (2010). Teacher professional development through collaboration, application, and reciprocal teaching to increase student achievement. Paper accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Eastern Educational Research Association. Sarasota, Florida, February 2011.

Sottile, J., Backus, M., Lucas, P., Cockrille, D., & Watts, K. (2010). Teacher math achievement through professional development activities based on collaborative learning, problem-based learning, collaborative technologies, learning communities, and hands-on activities. Paper accepted for presentation at the Global Learn Asia Pacific 2011—Global Conference on Learning and Technology. Melbourne, Australia, March 2011.

Sottile, J., Backus, M., O'Connor, K., & Watts, K. (2009). Human development through professional learning communities. Paper accepted for presentation at the annual conference of the Eastern Educational Research Association. Savannah, GA, February 2010.

Sottile, J., Backus, M., Watts, K., Cockrille, D., & Blevins, D. (2008). Teacher math achievement through Project MATH and teacher professional development. Paper accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Eastern Educational Research Association. Sarasota, FL, February 25 – 38, 2009.

Sottile, J., Backus, M., & Lucas, P. (2007). Student math and science achievement/development through teacher professional development. Paper accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Eastern Educational Research Association. Hilton Head, SC, February 20 – 23, 2008.

Sottile, J., Backus, M., Dozier, J., & Watts, K. (2007). The effectiveness of RESA-II: Professional development on teacher success. Paper accepted for presentation at the 6th annual Hawaii International Conference on Education. Honolulu, HI, January 5 – 8, 2008.

Sottile, J., Backus, M., Lucas, P., Watts, K., & Blevins, D. (2007). Student math and science achievement: Development through teacher professional development. Paper accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Educational Research Association (EERA). Hilton Head, SC, February 20–23, 2008.

Watson, G., Sottile, J., & Backus, M. (2007). Myth busting: Determining if students really cheat more on web-based assessments. Paper accepted for presentation at the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education (SITE). San Antonio, TX.

Backus, M., Pauley, R., & Heaton, L. (2006). Quality Staff Development Experiences: What Teachers Think. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Eastern Educational Research Association (EERA). Clearwater, FL.

Sottile, J., Brozik, D., & Backus, M. (2006). Ethical Behavior among College Students: Seven Years Later. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Eastern Educational Research Association (EERA). Clearwater, FL.

Isaacs, T., Murphy, R., & Backus, M. (2006). What impact do gender and content area specializations have on the classroom management factors considered to be of greatest concern to secondary pre-service teacher candidates? Presentation at the annual meeting of the Eastern Educational Research Association (EERA). Clearwater, FL.

Sotille, J., Backus, M., Lucas, P., & Cockrille, D. (2005). The role of teacher development in math achievement. Paper accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Eastern Educational Research Association (EERA). Hilton Head, SC.

State Work

Backus, M. (2016). COEPD SUPER Day. Presentation at the PDS State Conference. Flatwoods, WV.

Backus, M. (2014-2016). PDS State Conference Showcase. WVDE and the Arts, Flatwoods, WV.

Lucas, P. L. (Presenter and Author), Backus, M.B. (Presenter and Author). WVCTM Annual Conference, "Concept Attainment and Critical Thinking—Part II", WVCTM, Flatwoods, WV (March 18, 2011).

Backus, M. & Lucas, P. (2010). Concept attainment and critical thinking. Presentation at the WVCTM annual conference: Mathematical Getaway. Flatwoods, WV.

Backus, M., & Lucas, P. (2009). Websites for classroom use: Ones to use and ones to Avoid. Presentation at the WVCTM annual conference: Math Mania. Flatwoods, WV.

Backus, M., & Lucas, P. (2008). Using Bloom's taxonomy to teach math. Presentation at The WVCTM annual conference: Math and Technology. Flatwoods, WV.

Lucas, P., & Backus, M. (2007). Give me a chance. Presentation at the WVCTM annual conference: Math and Technology. Flatwoods, WV.

Lucas, P., & Backus, M. (2003). Using hands-on activities to teach middle school math concepts. Presentation at the 2003 West Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics Conference: 55 years/Derive Safely. Flatwoods, WV.

Murphy, R., & Backus, M. (2002). Finding patterns in palindromes. Presentation at the 2002 West Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics Conference: 2002/The Year of the Palindrome. Flatwoods, WV.

Backus, M., & Lucas, K. (2003). Down on the farm. Presentation at the PT3 Winter Conference. Charleston, WV.

Higher Education/State Presentations

Backus, M., Allenger, M., & Jeffers, C. (2009). PRAXIS I reading support. Presentation at Reading Higher Education Symposium. Stonewall Resort, 2010.

Aha Process, Inc. (2008). Strategies for today's teacher candidates: Applications of the work of Ruby Payne, Ph.D. Presenter for Module 6. Salem University, November, 2008.

Backus, M. (2008). 21st century professional development: A framework for understanding poverty by Ruby Payne. Co-presenter, Marshall University Graduate School of Education and Professional Development, September 2008.

Backus, M. (2007). Intensive writing components in an elementary education methods course. Presentation at Reading Higher Education Symposium sponsored by the West Virginia Department of Education and June Harless Center for Rural Education, Stonewall Resort, WV, April 16, 2007.

Textbook Reviews

Celebrations: A case study for the teaching of reading and writing. (2004). Houghton Mifflin Co. Reviewed by Backus, M. Strickland, D., Galda, L., & Cullinan, B. (2003). Language arts: Learning and teaching. Thomson/Wadsworth. Reviewed by Backus, M.

Demonstrations

Backus, M. (2012-2013). Mad Scientist demonstrations at various elementary schools in Cabell County.

Dissertation

Backus, M. (2005). A descriptive analysis of the quality of staff development experiences as perceived by West Virginia teachers. UMI.