
Melissa E. Sullivan-Walker
Assistant Professor of Special Education
Montana State University Billings
(406) 657-2335
melissa.walker4@msubillings.edu

EDUCATION

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Ph.D., Specialized Education Services, December 2017

Recipient of OSEP funded LINK-2-LEAD grant, focusing on leadership and teacher preparation

Saint Bonaventure University

M.S. Ed., Advanced Inclusive Processes, *summa cum laude*, 2008

Saint Bonaventure University

B.S. Ed., Elementary Education and Special Education, *summa cum laude*, 2008

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Resource Teacher, K – 5

Wake County Public School System, 2008 – 2011

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Teacher preparation and interprofessional education

Students experiencing homelessness and students in foster care

UNIVERSITY TEACHING AND SUPERVISION

Teaching

MSUB

EDSP 204 – Introduction to Teaching Exceptional Learners

EDSP 301 – Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities (online)

EDSP 402 – Individualizing Curriculum. (online & blended)

EDSP 462 – Special Education Law, Policy & Practice (online)

SPED 510 – Professional Issues in Special Education (online)

SPED 560 – Best Practices in Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities

(online)

UNC Greensboro

January – May 2016

SES 659 – Behavior Management (online)

September – December 2015

SES 447 – Service Delivery Systems and Role Management (blended)

January – May 2015

SES 401 – Understanding and Teaching Students with Disabilities (online)

Supervision

August 2017 – January 2018

Supervised four students; two in double major undergraduate student teaching placements, two in graduate clinical placements

September – December 2015

Supervised nine students in an early field experience connected to a course in reading instruction for students with mild disabilities

January – May 2015

Supervised five students; three in an early field experience, one in student teaching, and one in the PAIL (Post-Baccalaureate Alternative Initial Licensure) program

September – December 2014

Supervised four students during a late field experience in the special education program

January – May 2014

Supervised three students in the PAIL (Post-Baccalaureate Alternative Initial Licensure) program

September – December 2013

Supervised nine students in an early field experience connected to a course in reading instruction for students with mild disabilities

Advising

October 2017 – Present

Advising 16 students – 12 undergraduate double majors (elementary and special education) and four graduate special education majors

RESEARCH

Research

January – March 2018

Collaborative study of the use of humor in online courses

- Reviewed current literature on motivation to participate in online course and the use of humor in college teaching
- Developed mixed methods study, including requesting IRB, recruiting participants, creating mock course content and data collection sheets, and analyzing qualitative data
- Presented the study and results at a national conference

Internships

June – July 2015 (U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness)

- Participated in daily meetings of the Homeless Youth Working Group
- Created a chart detailing USICH member agencies' programs involving youth
- Helped develop and edit presentations for quarterly Council Meeting
- Summarized targeted federal programs specifically geared toward youth to be included in a report to Council

May – July 2014 (North Carolina Homeless Education Program – Browns Summit, NC)

- Researched information and resources for homeless and unaccompanied youth
- Created an FAQ document for NCHPEP to use with homeless liaisons
- Developed a spreadsheet for McKinney-Vento compliance tracking
- Conducted a focus group with summer program teachers of youth who were homeless or at risk of becoming homeless
- Developed and administered a survey for North Carolina homeless liaisons

Publications

Sullivan, M. E., Rock, M. L. & Popp, P. (2017). Meeting the needs of students with disabilities experiencing homelessness: Federal, community, and educator roles. *Preventing School Failure, 61*(2), 155-162.

Rock, M. L., Cheek, A. E., Sullivan, M. E., Jones, J. L., Holden, K. B. & Kang, J. (2016). Looking back and moving ahead: A content analysis of two teacher education journals. *Teacher Education and Special Education, 39*(1), 7-27.

Bruce, D., Di Cesare, D. M., Kaczorowski, T., Hashey, A., Boyd, E. H., Mixon, T., Sullivan, M. (2013). Multimodal composing in special education: A review of the literature. *Journal of Special Education Technology, 28*(2), 25-42.

In Preparation

Sullivan-Walker, M. E., Popp, P. A. & Rock, M. L. (2016). *Quality of life measures in homeless education research: A review of the literature*. Manuscript in preparation.

Rock, M. L., Idol, W., Letson, S., Cheek, A., Holden, K., Jones, J. & Sullivan, M. (2016). *Trends in student outcome research*. Manuscript in preparation.

Rock, M. L., Holden, K., Jones, J., Cheek, A., & Sullivan, M. (accepted). The eCoaching of teaching and learning in the digital age.

Published Digital Scholarship

Rock, M. L., Sullivan, M. E., Jones, J. L., Cheek, A. E., Holden, K. B. (2013). *Coach live. Personalized coaching: Transforming teaching and learning one classroom at a time* [Online module]. Retrieved from <http://inearcoaching.com/>

Presentations

National

- Sullivan-Walker, M.E. (2018, November). *Taking small steps to tackle a big problem: Differentiating professional development for homeless education*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Council for Exceptional Children, Teacher Education Division, Las Vegas, NV.
- Young, A. & Sullivan-Walker, M. E. (2018, March). *Effects of instructor use of humor in an online course on students' motivation to participate*. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Council on Rural Special Education, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Sullivan-Walker, M. E. (2017, April). *Quality of life for students with disabilities experiencing homelessness: A review of the literature*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Council for Exceptional Children, Boston, MA.
- Sullivan-Walker, M. E. & Rock, M. L. (2017, April). *Analysis of web-based resources for teachers of students with disabilities experiencing homelessness*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Council for Exceptional Children, Boston, MA.
- Sullivan-Walker, M. E. (2016, October). *Check-In/Check-Out: Helping teachers and teams meet the needs of students experiencing homelessness*. Presented at the annual meeting of the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children & Youth, Orlando, FL.
- Jones, J. L. & Sullivan, M. (2016, July). *Next Generation Leaders: An Update*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Office of Special Education Programs: Project Directors Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Rock, M. R., Cheek, A., Holden, K., Jones, J., Sullivan, M. (2016, April). *Advancing teacher development research, practice, and policy through content analysis*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Council for Exceptional Children, St. Louis, MO.
- Sullivan, M. (2015, November). *Teachers leading: Fostering the success of shadow children through multiagency collaboration*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Council for Exceptional Children, Teacher Education Division, Tempe, AZ
- Rock, M. R., Idol, W., Cheek, A., Holden, K., Jones, J. & Sullivan, M. (2015, April). *Students first: Furthering K-12 student outcomes in teacher development research*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Council for Exceptional Children, Teacher Education Division, Tempe, AZ.
- Holden, K. B., Sullivan, M., & Rock, M. L. (2015, April). *Transforming traditional teacher support: Using technology during coaching and mentoring*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Council for Exceptional Children, San Diego, CA
- Rock, M. L., Sullivan, M., Cheek, A., Holden, K. B., & Jones, J. (2015, March). *eCoaching: Transforming supervision and improving effectiveness through*

technology enabled in ear feedback. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Association for Colleges of Teacher Education, Atlanta, GA.

- Sullivan, M. (2014, November). *Seeing the Invisible: Creating Awareness of Homelessness in Pre-service Teachers.* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Council for Exceptional Children, Teacher Education Division, Indianapolis, IN.
- Sullivan, M., Holden, K. B., & Rock, M. L. (2014, November). *Using Technology in Coaching: Transforming Traditional Pre-service Teacher Supervision.* Presented at the annual meeting of the Council for Exceptional Children, Teacher Education Division, Indianapolis, IN.
- Williamson, P., Rock, M. L., Sullivan, M., Jones, J. J., Holden, K. B., & Cheek, A. E. (2014, November). *Putting it all together: Coursework, clinical experiences, and coaching.* Presented at the annual meeting of the Council for Exceptional Children, Teacher Education Division, Indianapolis, IN.
- Holden, K. B, Sullivan, M., & Rock, M. L., & Williamson, P. (2014, July). *Transforming traditional supervision: Using technology enabled coaching for pre-service teachers.* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Office of Special Education Programs: Project Directors Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Cheek, A. E., & Sullivan, M. E., Rock, M. L. (2013, July). *Next generation teacher education leaders: Learning to research, researching to learn.* Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Office of Special Education Programs: Project Directors Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Rock, M. L., Billingsley, B. S., with Cheek, A. E., Jones, J. L., Holden, K. B., Sullivan, M. E. (July, 2012). *Linking Important Networks of Knowledge to Lead Personnel Recruitment, Development, and Retention.* Presented at the annual meeting of the Office of Special Education Programs: Project Directors Conference, Washington, D.C.
- State and Local**
- Rock, M. L., Sullivan, M. & Cheek, A., (2014, August). *Putting it all together: Lessons learned.* Presented at George Mason University. Fairfax, VA.
- Rock, M. L., Cheek, A. E., Jones, J., Holden, K. & Sullivan, M. (2014, April). *The coaching continuum done well: Online and on site.* Presented at the North Carolina State Improvement Project Spring Network Meeting. Greensboro, NC.
- Cheek, A. E., Holden, K. B., Jones, J. L., & Sullivan, M. E. (2014, February). *Conflict Management.* Presented at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Specialized Education Services Doctoral Seminar. Greensboro, NC.
- Rock, M. L., Cheek, A. E., Holden, K. B., Jones, J. L., & Sullivan, M. E. (2014, January). *Coaching feedback essentials: Supporting teacher and student success.* Presented

at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Coaching Partnership Meeting. Raleigh, NC.

Rock, M. L., Cheek, A. E., Holden, K. B., Jones, J. L., & Sullivan, M. E. (2013, November). *Coaching done well*. Presented at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction 63rd Conference on Exceptional Children. Greensboro, NC.

Rock, M. L., Sullivan, M. E., Jones, J. L., Cheek, A. E., & Holden, K. B. (2013, September). *The feedback loop: Understanding interactions during virtual coaching*. Presented at The North Carolina Department of Instruction and LINK-2-LEAD Coaching Partnership Meeting. Greensboro, NC.

Cheek, A. E., Holden, K. B., Jones, J. L., & Sullivan, M. E. (2013, February). *Leadership*. Presented at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Specialized Education Services Doctoral Seminar. Greensboro, NC.

Invited Presentations

Sullivan-Walker, M. E. (2018). *Check-In/Check-Out: Helping teams and teachers meet the needs of students experiencing homelessness*. Presented at the Montana State Title I Conference, Helena, MT.

Sullivan-Walker, M. E. (2018). *Building H.O.M.E.S.: Working together to meet the needs of students experiencing homelessness*. Keynote presentation at the Montana State Title I Conference, Helena, MT.

Sullivan-Walker, M. E. (2017). *Teacher Supports for Students with Disabilities Experiencing Homelessness*. Presented at the North Carolina Homeless Education Program's Annual Learning Institute at the UNCG SERVE Center, Greensboro, NC.

Rock, M. L., Sullivan, M., Cheek, A., Holden, K. B., & Jones, J. (2015). *eCoaching: Transforming supervision and improving effectiveness through technology enabled in ear feedback*. Presented at the Council of Program Coordinators (CPC) at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC.

Teaching the exceptional learner in a foreign language class. University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY (November 8, 2011).

Introduction to Assistive Technology for pre-service general educators. Mercyhurst College, Erie, PA (October 23, 2011).

Changing landscapes in education and the evolution of technology. State Librarian Association of Western New York, Buffalo, NY (October 15, 2011).

SERVICE

January – May 2018

- Disability Support Services Advisory Board
MSUB
- TED Ad Hoc Committee on Research
Teacher Education Division of CEC
- Graduate Committee
MSUB, College of Education
- Social Committee
MSUB, Department of Educational Theory & Practice

August – December 2017

- TED Ad Hoc Committee on Research
Teacher Education Division of CEC
- Graduate Committee
MSUB, College of Education
- Social Committee
MSUB, Department of Educational Theory & Practice

March 2017

- Reviewer for LEA McKinney-Vento subgrant applications
North Carolina Homeless Education Program (NCHEP)

June 2015

- CAN Representative and Advocate, Day on the Hill
Children and Youth Action Network (CAN) of CEC

June 2014 – Present

- Reviewer for Kaleidoscope (doctoral student organization of the Teacher
Education Division of CEC) proposals

January 2014 – December 2015

- Student Representative, North Carolina Teacher Education Division
(NCTED) of CEC

June 2013 – December 2016

- Customized Coaching and Consulting (NC SIP Coaching Collaborative)
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

July 2013

- Representative and Advocate, Day on the Hill
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)

June 2012

- CAN Representative and Advocate, Day on the Hill
Children and Youth Action Network (CAN) of CEC

LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Center for Creative Leadership, Greensboro, NC

The Art of Leadership, May, 2017
Navigating Change, October, 2016
Psychological Capital, February, 2016
Leadership and Mentoring, September, 2015
Shared Leadership (TeachingHorse), May, 2015
Neuroscience and Leadership, January, 2015
Presentation Skills, August, 2014
Women's Leadership Program, July 2014
Decision-Making, January 2014
Conflict Management, August 2013
Work-Life Balance, January 2013
Leadership Development Program, August 2012

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
Teacher Education Division of CEC (TED)
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)
Montana Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MTACTE)
National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth
(NAEHCY)