

CURRICULUM VITAE

Governors State University
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Social Media

[Twitter](#)
[LinkedIn](#)

Blogs

[Vujaklija Voice](#)
[The Writing Fog](#)
[SPMS In the Middle](#)

Portfolio

Podcast

[Teaching and Learning: Theory vs. Practice with Dr. Amy and Dr. Joi](#)

EXPERIENCED EDUCATOR

*...dedicated to guiding
students in a passion for
writing, creating, and
learning at all ages.*

Education should assist children and adults in becoming lifelong learners and part of a larger network. My philosophy has been built upon inquiry and reflection. Through reflective inquiry and action research, my students and I inquire about the world within and without our classroom spaces in search for best practices and new approaches. Being a lifelong learner is my goal for those I teach and for myself.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Curriculum and Instruction

University of Louisville, KY May 2016

M.A.T., Middle and Secondary English Language Arts

Spalding University, Louisville, KY May 2004

Masters Candidacy, English Literature and Composition

University of Louisville, KY May 2003

B.A., English

University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY May 1994

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Narrative inquiry methods
Content area literacy
University-District partnerships

Reflective inquiry
Professional development

Dissertation Study

*Understanding through
Narrative Inquiry:
Storying a National
Writing Project Initiative*

My dissertation study explored teacher leadership within the National Writing Project Assignments Matter initiative. My narrative inquiry findings showed the importance of invitation in the development of a leadership team and the necessity of trust in its successful implementation. This research carries into my teaching, committee involvement, and professional collaboration with colleagues and partner schools.

**PROFESSIONAL
EXPERIENCE**

**Post-secondary
Education**

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

Aug 2016 – Present

Coordinator Secondary English Ed Aug 2016 – Present
Assistant Professor, Middle and Secondary English

- Align and report program course sequence, rubrics, and data collection with CAEP, NCTE, and ISBE standards to accrediting agencies including the Illinois State Board of Education
- Advise undergraduate and graduate students in the Secondary English Education program
- Instruct, monitor, and assess undergraduate and graduate student progress in secondary methods course sequence (Reading Theory and Practice; Reading, ELL, SEL; English Methods)
- Monitor and assess student teacher progress toward secondary English teacher Illinois certification

PRAIRIE STATE COLLEGE

Aug 2015 – May 2016

Adjunct Instructor

- Monitored, facilitated, and assessed undergraduate student college composition progress in English 101 Composition and accelerated English 099 Reading courses
- Planned and implemented online instruction for English 102 Composition and Research

UNIVERSITY of LOUISVILLE

Jan 2013 – May 2016

Assistant Instructor/Adjunct Instructor Jan 2013 – May 2016

- Active with university literacy team to design online course sequence for Reading Endorsement Advanced Program for certified teachers
- Monitored, facilitated, and assessed graduate student progress in the Advanced Reading Methods (EDAP 636) in a new, online format
- Redesigned curriculum, syllabus, and hallmark assessment task for the graduate course Teaching Writing K-12 (EDAP 693)
- Trained by the University of Louisville Delphi Center to design, implement, and teach online and hybrid courses
- Implemented hybrid online/face-to-face class structure for the Teaching Writing K-12 (EDAP 693) to be focused on inquiry and action research
- Monitored, facilitated, and assessed graduate student progress in the Teaching Writing K-12 (EDAP 693) for three spring semesters

Graduate Research Assistant

July 2013 – July 2014

**PROFESSIONAL
EXPERIENCE**
Post-secondary
Education

- Documented progress of middle school teacher preparation program partnership between the U. of L. College of Education and one middle school within the local school district through data collection, data preparation, and field notes
- Prepared and presented demonstrations of university faculty and student collaborative success in partnership efforts
- Co-taught pre-teacher preparation classes in middle school methods and building classroom community
- Planned with middle school teachers to prepare collaborative experiences for pre-service teachers

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE **Aug 2002 – May 2003**
Adjunct Instructor/Writing Center Tutor

- Monitored, facilitated, and assessed undergraduate student college composition progress in English 101/English 102
- Tutored students in the University of Louisville Writing Center

**Middle and Secondary
Education**

MEADE COUNTY BOARD **Aug 2003 – June 2015**
of EDUCATION

Meade County High School **Aug 2014 – June 2015**

- Facilitated six daily classes of 20-30 Junior and Senior English students ranging in honors, regular, and regular with collaboration
- Co-taught with certified special education teachers to differentiate learning in collaborative settings
- Provided intervention strategies for meeting College and Career Readiness benchmarks in reading and writing

Stuart Pepper Middle School **Aug 2003 – June 2013**

- Facilitated seven daily classes of 20-30 grade 8 students
- Utilized multiple assessments to inform instruction in compliance with district and state requirements
- Used innovative methods and materials to produce effective learning experiences including cooperative learning, thematic instruction, and differentiation

Stuart Pepper Middle School **Aug 2010 – May 2012**

- Designed and implemented new 8th grade reading/writing workshop to supplement language arts curriculum
- Developed Literacy Design Collaborative Module and mini-lessons based on workshop process and assignments

PUBLICATIONS

Vujaklija, A. (2021). Reflective inquiry in teacher education: Interanimating authoritative and internally persuasive discourses. *Reflective Practice*. DOI 10.1080/14623943.2021.1952972

Vujaklija, A. (2021). Learning from Students: Implementing a “Shark Tank” in Educator Preparation. *School-University Partnerships*, Journal of the National Association for Professional Development Schools.

Vujaklija, A. & Robey, P. (2020). Locating the Map of Meaningful Work within Choice Theory. *International Journal of Choice Theory and Reality Therapy*.
<https://www.wglasserinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2021/04/IJCTRT-Fall2020.pdf>

Vujaklija, A., Hisrich, K. & Cummings, M. (2018). Technology, Feedback, and Culturally Responsive Teaching. In E. Langran & J. Borup (Eds.), *Proceedings of Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education International Conference* (pp. 1764-1769). Washington, D.C., United States: Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE). Retrieved July 16, 2018 from <https://www.learntechlib.org/primary/p/182766/>

Howell, P., Sheffield, C., Shelton, A. & **Vujaklija, A.** (2017). Backchannel discussions during classroom observations: Connecting theory and practice in real time. *Middle School Journal*.

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:
Research and Professional Development**

Howery, S., Cooney, M., Hayes, T., Memeti, A., Dominguez, A., Ure, P., **Vujaklija, A.**, Didion, C. (2021). Paving the path to the 60 x 25 goal through customized learner support. College Changes Everything conference. Recordings: <https://www.collegechangeseverything.org/events/2021-cce-conference-information.html>

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:
Research and Professional Development**

Vujaklija, A. (2021). How Relationship Building Affects Feedback in Virtual Teaching and Learning. In E. Langran & L. Archambault (Eds.), *Proceedings of Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education International Conference* (pp. 1080-1083). Online, United States: Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE). Retrieved April 8, 2021 from <https://www.learntechlib.org/primary/p/219259/>.

Cooney, M. & **Vujaklija, A.** (October, 2020). Equity-Focused Professional Development. South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium (SMHEC) Regional Faculty Development Conference

Hisrich, K. & **Vujaklija, A.** (October, 2019). *Blogs, Blogs, Blogs!* Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education Annual Convocation.

Vujaklija, A., Patterson, J., Lawal, N. (July, 2019). Partnerships for Preparation: Enhancing Multicultural Experiences. English Language Arts Teacher Educators (ELATE) summer conference.

Hisrich, K., **Vujaklija, A.**, Cummings, M. (October, 2018). *What's in your technology toolbox? Programs for the 21st-century educator*. Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education Annual Convocation.

Goode, J., Radovic-Fanta, J., **Vujaklija, A.** (July, 2018). First ever first-year student adjustment to college: Cultivating community, voice, and place for first-year students at GSU. Presentation at the meeting of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities Academic Affairs Summer Meeting, Seattle, WA. (Theme: The changing landscape of higher education: Opportunities disguised as challenges)

Cummings, M., Hisrich, K., **Vujaklija, A.** (April, 2018). How can technology-enhanced feedback improve preservice teachers' ability to be culturally responsive in their practice? Governors State University Research Day poster session.

Goode, J., Radovic-Fanta, J., **Vujaklija, A.** (April, 2018). First ever first year student adjustment to college: Cultivating community, voice, and place for first-year students at GSU. Governors State University Research Day panel presentation.

Smith, B., Athon, A., Thompson, R., **Vujaklija, A.**, White, L., Morris, K. (April, 2018). Stepping stones and stumbling blocks: Reflections on service learning/community engagement in first-year writing pedagogy. Governors State University Research Day panel presentation.

Vujaklija, A., Cummings, M., Hisrich, K. (March, 2018). *Culturally responsive teaching through technology*. Kane County Teacher Inservice Day.

Vujaklija, A., Cummings, M., Hisrich, K. (March, 2018). *Technology, feedback, and culturally responsive teaching*. Paper presentation at Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education annual conference.

Cummings, M. Harrington, T., Hisrich, K., **Vujaklija, A.** (November, 2017). *How do I teach someone who doesn't look like me?* Illinois Education Association professional development conference.

**CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS:
Research and
Professional
Development**

Vujaklija, A. (November, 2016). *Narrative inquiry: Storying a professional development planning initiative*. Paper presentation at Literacy Research Association annual conference.

Vujaklija, A. (September, 2016). *There come a soldier: Reading like a writer*. Conference presentation at Illinois Reading Council annual conference.

Nightengale, B., Putman, S., **Vujaklija, A.** (July, 2015). Multiple sessions delivered and facilitated for Louisville Writing Project Technology Academy.
<http://lwptechliteracy.wikispaces.com>

Vujaklija, A. (September, 2013). *What does a "short research project" look like?* Conference Presentation at Louisville Writing Project fall mini-conference.

Vujaklija, A. (August, 2013). *Reading like a writer with picture books as mentor texts*. Professional development workshop delivered for Okolona Elementary, Louisville, KY.

Vujaklija, A. (August, 2013). *K-5 Going green! Engaging students in short research projects; 3-8 Claims & evidence; 6-12 Nutrition! Engaging students in short research projects; 5-12 Close reading strategies and writing about great speeches*. Professional development workshop series delivered at Knott County, Kentucky.

Vujaklija, A. (June 2013). *Read like a writer: Integrating narrative reading and writing to produce powerful pieces (Maya Angelou); I-Search: Engaging students in authentic research; Read like a writer: Integrating narrative reading and writing to produce powerful pieces (There Come a Soldier)*. Professional development workshop series delivered at Kentucky Writing Project Common Core Academy in Brandenburg, Kentucky.

Vujaklija, A. (February, 2013). *Research through inquiry, presentation, and reflection: Engage in actively brainstorming avenues for inquiry in your content areas*. Conference Presentation at Kentucky Council for Teachers of English (KCTE) annual conference.

Vujaklija, A. (January, 2013). *Inquiry through I-search: Supporting students in meeting the new standards for research*. Conference presentation at Louisville Writing Project spring mini- conference.

**CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS:
Research and
Professional
Development**

Vujaklija, A. (September 2012). *There come a soldier: Reading like a writer*. Conference presentation at Kentucky Writing Project annual conference.

Vujaklija, A. (February, 2012). *Speeches: Moving from listening to writing: How can we use Maya Angelou's words spoken at Coretta Scott King's funeral as a model for writing our own speeches?* Conference presentation at Kentucky Council for Teachers of English (KCTE) annual conference.

Vujaklija, A. (January, 2012). *Research and I-search: Student inquiry and reflection*. Conference presentation at Louisville Writing Project spring mini-conference.

Vujaklija, A. (October, 2020). Using culturally-responsive protocols to enhance technology feedback for preservice teachers. Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education Annual Convocation.

Patterson, J., **Vujaklija, A.**, & Conrad, D. (November, 2020). Leveraging university partnerships to improve student achievement [Conference presentation]. Joint Annual Conference of the Illinois Association of School Boards, Chicago, IL <https://www.iasb.com/conference/> (Conference cancelled)

GRANTS & INITIATIVES

Accepted
Presentations –
cancelled by COVID-19

University

Faculty Senate (At-Large Senator)	Aug 2018 – Present
Executive Committee	Aug 2018 – Present
Academic Program Review Committee	Aug 2019 – Present
APRC Chair	Aug 2019 – Present
Faculty Professional Development (COE)	Aug 2019 – Present
Institutional Policies Committee	Aug 2018 – Aug 2019
Illinois Equity in Attainment Initiative (ILEA)	Oct 2018 – Present

Division

Student Education Association Advisor	Mar 2017 – Present
Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society Advisor	Mar 2018 – Present

External

Illinois Writing Project Leadership Team	Dec 2016—Present
IWP Co-Director Marketing	Mar 2020 – Present

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

**GRANTS &
INITIATIVES**

University Research Grant **July 2018 – May 2019**
Cummings, M., Hisrich, K., **Vujaklija, A.** *Using technology to develop culturally-responsive teaching through increased student engagement and reflection.*

- \$3499.50 with college match of \$3499.50
- Purchased GoReact student licenses
- Designed to investigate the value of guided peer and instructor feedback on video-recorded student (teacher candidate) presentations

NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT **June 2011 – May 2019**

High Needs School Partnership College, Career, Community Writers Program Co-Facilitator
March 2013—May 2019

- \$20,000 Grant funded to Illinois Writing Project by National Writing Project
- Received training from National Writing Project on school partnerships and implementation of research-based and proven argument-writing tools
- Designed recruitment and marketing to former Illinois Writing Project fellows
- Planned training

Advanced Institute College, Career, Community Writers Program Co-Facilitator **Mar 2017 – Nov 2018**

- \$20,000 Grant funded to Illinois Writing Project by National Writing Project
- Received training from National Writing Project on leadership and implementation of research-based and proven argument-writing tools
- Designed recruitment and marketing to former Illinois Writing Project fellows
- Facilitated professional development sessions, workshops, and conferences focusing on the Common Core State Standards
- Planned and facilitated community writing events with area schools

Assignments Matter Leadership Team **May 2014 – Nov 2015**

- Designed professional development focused on the Literacy Design Collaborative assignment creation
- Collaboratively created online spaces for nationwide communication among six leadership team members and twenty Writing Project site facilitators

- Presented demonstrations of professional development design
- Collected dissertation data including interviews and meeting recordings with leadership team members and facilitators

Louisville Writing Project Consultant June 2011 – May 2015

- Developed and presented professional development conference workshops aligned with Common Core State Standards in Kentucky
- Coordinated academy for area teachers to integrate technology into cross-disciplinary curriculum

**Literacy in the Common Core Leadership Team
Kentucky Writing Project Network April 2012 – May 2014**

- Collaborated with teacher leaders through the Literacy Design Collaborative and grant initiative funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Designed modules, implemented the LDC design, and analyzed resulting student work
- Facilitated professional development sessions, workshops, and conferences aligned to the Common Core State Standards and instructing on elements of the Literacy Design Collaborative

**COLLABORATIVE CENTER for LITERACY DEVELOPMENT
June 2012 – June 2014**

**Adolescent Literacy Project Facilitator
June 2012, June 2013, June 2014**

(formerly Leveraged Adolescent Literacy Learning Initiative)

- Collaborated with content area teacher leaders to design summer institutes for local school district low performing middle and high schools
- Facilitated small group discussions within English/Language Arts content area
- Presented literacy strategies through whole group demonstrations and small group interaction
- Collected data in the form of teacher feedback and reflections, surveys, videos, class observations, and individual meetings

ACHIEVEMENTS

Faculty Senate Service Award August 2020

Noted service in representation on Faculty Senate with leadership roles on Executive Committee (COE representative) and Academic Program Review Committee (Chair) in years 3 and 4 at the university

Louisville Writing Project Fellow June 2011—May 2012

- Competitive Invitational Summer Institute
- Created lesson designs, reviewed peer writing, and analyzed presentation demonstrations

- Presented demonstrations of classroom instruction at fall and spring conferences

**PROFESSIONAL
ASSOCIATIONS**

Mid-Western Education Research Association (MWERA)
English Language Arts Teacher Educators (ELATE)
Illinois Reading Council (IRC)
International Literacy Association (ILA)
Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) International Honor Society
Literacy Research Association (LRA)
National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)