

Curriculum Vitae
Ejana Bennett
Bennette2@vcu.edu · Richmond, VA · (347)860-0612

EDUCATION

| | |
|---|---|
| Virginia Commonwealth University August 2019-Anticipated 05/2023 | Richmond, VA Ph.D. in Education: Curriculum, Culture & Change |
| University of Virginia May 2015 | Charlottesville, VA Masters of Teaching: Special and Elementary Ed |
| University of Virginia May 2015 | Charlottesville, VA Bachelor of Arts: Psychology |

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 2022 | Teaching Educational Psychology SIG Travel Award |
| 2022 | National Holmes Scholar of the Month (January) |
| 2021 | VCU School of Education Academic Scholarship |
| 2020 | Schumacher Fund for Dissertation Research in Education |
| 2014 | Sandra Feagan Stern Fellowship Recipient (2014) |
| 2014 | Psi Chi International Psychology Honor Society |
| 2010-2014 | NAACP Lehman Scholarship |

LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

| | |
|------|---|
| 2015 | Special Education (Grades K-12) Virginia Teacher Licensure |
| 2015 | Elementary Education (Grades PreK-6) Virginia Teacher Licensure |

RESEARCH POSITIONS AND INTERNSHIPS

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Intern Racial Equity Institute Supervisor: Dr. Wanda Legrand <ul style="list-style-type: none">Created series called REI impact (social media campaign)Provided input on the cultural aspects of social media | Raleigh, NC August 2021-Present |
|---|------------------------------------|

Virginia Commonwealth University

Richmond, VA

August 2019-Present

Graduate Research Assistant

VCU School of Education: Teaching and Learning

Mentor: Dr. Hillary Parkhouse

Mentor: Dra. Rachel Gómez

- Contribute to locating and annotating articles for literature review sections of various papers
- Participate in data collection and participant support for the study of action research focused on culturally responsive teaching
- Contribute to writing literature review sections of various papers

Graduate Research Assistant

August 2019-Present

Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium

- Research Project: Professional Development for Success in Culturally Diverse Schools
- assist with qualitative coding and analysis tasks
- Interview participants
- Support data collection and participant consulting for project on action research focused on culturally responsive teaching
- Support educators' action research projects at both sites
- Programmatic support, to include: scheduling observations, determining, and implementing ideas for activities

Professional Development Co-Facilitator

VCU Summer Learning Institute

July 2020-August 2020

- Professional Development Title: Racial identity development toward transformative pedagogy
- Compiled professional development reading materials and assignments
- Planned and initiated discussions
- Developed daily agendas
- Provided immediate feedback
- Provided clear expectations and cultivated a safe and vulnerable environment

University of Virginia

Charlottesville, VA

Research Assistant

2013-2014

My Teaching Partner Math and Science

- Duties included scoring assessments, data entry, and preparing materials for participants

Research Assistant

2012-2013

Preschool Relationship Enhancement Project

- Duties included data entry, coding videos, and preparing materials for participants

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Literacy Tutor

2019-2020

Linwood Holton Elementary School

Richmond Public Schools

Richmond, VA

- Established clear objectives for all lessons
- Observed and assessed student performance and kept thorough records of progress
- Assist children in improving their reading skills and abilities to reach grade level expectations
- Build professional relationships, communicate and collaborate regularly with classroom teachers

Third Grade Exceptional Education Teacher

2018-2019

Achievement First Bushwick Empower Elementary School

Brooklyn, NY

- Planned and implemented a program of study that met the individual needs, interests and abilities of students using specially designed lesson plans
- Assessed the achievements of students on a regular basis and provided progress reports to supervisors and parents
- Met and planned regularly with grade level teams to develop unit lesson plans, identified and discussed approaches to teaching and learning, reviewed and disaggregated data
- Actively participated in faculty and/or department meetings
- Assisted in the preparation of data for local, state and federal reports
- Collected data needed for appropriate implementation of interventions

Summer Site Coordinator

2018-2019

Children Defense Fund Freedom School Imagine U Charter School

Brooklyn, NY

- Developed a culturally relevant reading curriculum
- Maintained the safety of all staff and students at their site
- Ensured proper implementation of the CDF Freedom Schools program model by managing daily site activities
- Coordinated afternoon activities, field trips, family engagement initiatives and volunteer responsibilities
- Supervised servant leader interns, provide feedback, and maintain team spirit

Fourth Grade Exceptional Education Teacher

2017-2018

Linwood Holton Elementary School

Richmond Public Schools

Richmond, VA

- Planned and implemented a program of study that met the individual needs, interests, and abilities of students using specially designed lesson plans
- Assessed the achievements of students on a regular basis and provided progress reports to supervisors and parents

- Met and planned regularly with grade level teams to develop unit lesson plans, identified and discussed approaches to teaching and learning, reviewed and disaggregated data
- Actively participated in faculty and/or department meetings
- Assisted in the preparation of data for local, state and federal reports
- Collected data needed for appropriate implementation of interventions

Summer Servant Leader Intern Lead

2016-2017

Children Defense Fund Freedom School Imagine U Charter School
Brooklyn, NY

- Administered the Children Defense Fund reading curriculum
- Wrote and performed differentiated lessons based on grade and reading level
- Instituted classroom positive behavior reward system
- Established positive relationships with parents by sending notes home and communicating during dismissal times

Kindergarten Teacher

2015-2017

Linwood Holton Elementary School
Richmond Public Schools
Richmond, VA

- Determined students' performance using informal and formal assessments and observations
- Maintained great communication and relationships with parents and students by various lines of communication and attendance at student extracurricular activities
- Developed and implemented an appropriate class-wide behavior management system
- Developed individual behavior plans for students with emotional and behavior needs
- Aided students in developing self-confidence and a positive self-image
- Effectively executed elementary curriculum content, standards, and teaching methodologies including technology
- Reflected an attitude that valued diversity
- Differentiated instruction based on data from formal assessments

Substitute Teacher

2015

Charlottesville City Public Schools

- Developed behavior plan for three-week middle school special education substitute teacher assistant position
- Demonstrated and reinforced behavior standards of each school
- Exhibited problem solving behaviors during classroom instruction

Senior Resident Advisor

2014-2015

University of Virginia Housing and Residence Life
Charlottesville, VA

- Facilitated an effective and efficient operation of assigned residential areas including: providing supervision of the staff members in the area, ensuring proper maintenance of the area, developing educational and social programs which meets the needs of the community, and serving as a referral resource.

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

Line of Research: Examining how teacher and student critical racial consciousness impacts their racial identity development, student learning outcomes, student belonging and opportunity gaps which positively address the racial/ethnic student-teacher mismatch.

Interests: student-teacher relationships, teacher critical racial consciousness, student critical consciousness, critical whiteness studies, critical race theory, culturally relevant education

PUBLICATIONS

Tichnor-Wagner, A., **Bennett, E.**, Parkhouse, H., & Scholnik, A. (accepted) Towards a Cohesive Union? Currents and Cleavages in State Civic Education Policy Discourses. *American Journal of Education*.

Parkhouse, H., **Bennett, E.**, Pandey, T., Lee, K., & Wilson, J. (accepted) Opposition to Culturally Relevant Education Among Practicing Educators: Is CRE a Choice or a Professional Expectation? *Educational Researcher*.

Peer-reviewed Manuscripts in Preparation (titles are tentative):

Parkhouse, H. & **Bennett, E.** The Power of Action Research for Developing Culturally Responsive Teaching Practices: A Case Study of Three Secondary Social Studies Teachers.

Bennett, E., Merritt, A., & Parkhouse, H. Towards Effective Culturally Responsive Teaching Professional Developments for Black Teachers.

Gómez, R., & **Bennett, E.**, & Cammarota, J. The Battle for Curriculum: Reconciling Racism with Critical Race Theory and Ethnic Studies.

Gómez, R., Apugo, D. & **Bennett, E.** “We Look Like the Brady Bunch”: Chicana and Black Women Faculty Critical Incidents of Microaggressive Attacks as Barriers to Decolonization Work.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

National Refereed Presentations:

Gómez, R., & **Bennett, E.** (2022, April) *Racial Identity Development Toward Transformative Pedagogy*. In Nicolai, K. & Chen, K. (Chairs), *Discussing Race, Ethnicity, and Culture While Teaching Educational Psychology* [Symposium]. American Education Research Association, San Diego, California.

Bennett, E (2022, March). *Turning the Mirror on Yourself: Racial Identity Development in Teacher Education*. Presentation at the AACTE Holmes Preconference, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Bennett, E., Merritt, A., & Parkhouse, H. (2021, April) *Towards Effective Culturally Responsive Teaching Professional Development for Black Teachers*. Presentation at the American Education Research Association, Virtual.

Tichnor-Wagner, A., **Bennett, E.**, Parkhouse, H., & Scholnik, A. (2021, April) *Towards a Cohesive Union? Currents and Cleavages in State Civic Education Policy Discourses*. Presentation at the American Education Research Association, Virtual.

Bennett, E (2021, February). *The Need for Professional Development on Culturally Responsive Teaching for Black Educators*. Presentation at the AACTE Holmes Preconference, Virtual.

Parkhouse, H. & **Bennett, E.** (2020, December). *The Power of Action Research for Developing Culturally Responsive Teaching Practices: A Case Study of Three Secondary Social Studies Teachers*. Presentation at the National Council for Social Studies Conference, Washington, DC.

Bennett, E. (2020, February). *The Need for Critical Racial Consciousness in a Colorblind Teaching Force*. Presentation at the AACTE Holmes Preconference, Atlanta GA.

Regional Refereed Presentations:

Yingling, T., Lyn, R., **Bennett, E.**, Lambert, A., Hanley, E., Nicolai, K., Venning, C., Rawls, M. (2020, October). *Anti-Racist Transdisciplinary Coalition in Higher Education*. Presentation at the 17th Annual Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium Conference, Richmond, VA.

Parkhouse, H., Senechal, J., **Bennett, E.**, Gui, J., Lyn, R., Merritt, A., Mann, M., Kenup, A., O'Neal, C., & Macaulay, S. (2019, October). *Designing Effective Professional Development to Support Culturally Responsive Teaching*. Presentation at the 16th Annual Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium Conference, Richmond, VA.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS/WORKSHOPS

Virginia Commonwealth University

Bennett, E. (2021, November). Igniting Progress: Using My Voice to Respond to Resistance. Moderator.

Bennett, E. (2021, April) Truth, Transparency and Transformation Series: A Three Part Advocacy Series. Panelist.

Gómez, R., **Bennett, E.** (2021, March) Justice or Just Us: Transcending Survival and Unifying our Communities Symposium. Virtual Presentation. University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Gómez, R., **Bennett, E.**, Yingling, T. (2020, October). Developing an antiracist mindset. Virtual Presentation. Virginia Commonwealth University. Richmond VA.

Greene, M.D., Nicolai, K. D., & **Bennett, E.** (2020, August). Positioning yourself for a Ph.D. program and student voice. [Panel Discussion]. VCU Holmes Scholars 2020 Research and Mentorship Summit, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.

TEACHING

Virginia Commonwealth University

Instructor

Spring 2022

- Supervisor: Dr. Joan Rhoades
- Teaching Education 207: Urban Education & Urban Awareness

Teacher Assistant

Spring 2022

Supervisor: Dra. Rachel Gómez

- Teaching Education 651: Race, Ethnicity & Education

Instructor

Fall 2021

- Supervisor: Dr. Joan Rhoades
- Teaching Education 410: Building Communities of Learners: Classroom Management for Elementary Education

Teacher Assistant

Fall 2021

Supervisor: Dra. Rachel Gómez

- Teaching Education 207: Urban Education & Urban Awareness

Teacher Assistant

Spring 2021

Supervisor: Dra. Rachel Gómez

- Teaching Education 651: Race, Ethnicity & Education

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Curriculum Developer

2019-Present

Henrico Public Schools

Henrico, VA

- Developed a micro credential course in Schoology for in-service educators with approximately 40 hours of professional development

- Compiled resources, such as reading and videos relevant to culturally relevant education
- Created assignments that supported reflection on the course content, and created opportunities to put theory into practice

Curriculum Developer

2020-Present

Hanover Public Schools

Hanover, VA

- Developed a micro credential course in Schoology for in-service educators with approximately 4 hours of professional development
- Compiled resources, such as reading and videos relevant to cultural relevant education
- Created assignments that supported reflection on the course content, and created opportunities to put theory into practice

PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND SERVICE

National:

Executive Board Member

AACTE National Holmes Scholars Program

2019-Present

- Social Media Coordinator

University:

Committee Member

Ruch Award Selection Committee

2021-2022

VCU School of Education, Richmond, VA

- Review of the nominations and contribute to decision

President

2021-2022

VCU Holmes Scholars Program

VCU School of Education, Richmond, VA

- Represents organization at official functions
- Schedules and coordinated meetings and activities of the organization
- Coordinates organizational recruitment efforts
- Established the Newsletter and Writing Committees

President Elect

2020-2021

VCU Holmes Scholars Program

VCU School of Education, Richmond, VA

- Assume the duties of the President as needed
- Coordinates organizational recruitment efforts
- Represents organization at official functions

Scholar 2019-Present
VCU Holmes Scholars Program
VCU School of Education, Richmond, VA

- Participated in conference presentations and policy/advocacy training.
- Attended monthly scholar meetings and professional development.

Committee Member 2019-Present
Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
VCU School of Education, Richmond, VA

- Help coordinate events that raise awareness about the experiences of individuals with diverse backgrounds and provide resources to encourage discourse among faculty, staff, and students

Committee Member 2019-2021
VCU SOE Student Standing Action Collective

- Collaborative support group for doctoral students

Community:

Step Team Coach 2018-2019
AFBES Step Team
Brooklyn, NY

Step Team Coach & Founder 2016-2018
Holton Steppers
Richmond Public Schools

MEMBERSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

National Council for Social Studies 2020-Present
American Education Research Association 2020-Present
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Holmes Scholar 2019-Present
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. 2014-Present