

Sarah Bonner, Ed. D

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Summary

Education

Illinois State University, Graduated May 2023
Doctor of Education in Teaching and Learning
Areas of Emphasis: Middle Level Literacy, Transformative Teaching Practices, Inquiry-Based Pedagogies, and Teacher Education and Induction

Illinois State University, Graduated August 2014
Master of Science in Teaching and Learning
Areas of Emphasis: Adolescent Literacies, Reading Comprehension and Drama-Based Play

Eastern Illinois University, Graduate May 2003
Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with Emphasis in Middle Level Education and dual certification in Language Arts and Social Sciences.

Dissertation

"You Have To Find Your People:" A Design-Based Approach To Transforming Teacher Practices Using Socially Just Innovation

Master's Research

Bringing Books to Life! Using Drama-Based Action Strategies to Increase Engagement, Comprehension, and Critical Thinking in the Middle School Classroom

Present Positions

University of North Carolina Wilmington, Watson College of Education,
Assistant Professor

Previous Positions

Language Arts Teacher, Heyworth Junior High School
Illinois State University, Instructional Assistant Professor
Language Arts Teacher, Edward A. Fulton Junior High School
Literature Teacher, Stephen Decatur Middle School

Teaching	Significant teaching experience at a variety of settings: middle school (twenty years - various grade levels) and university (four years).
Publications	Nine articles, one book, three book chapters, 19 presentations, and numerous professional development workshops.
Memberships	National Council of Teachers of English Studies in Literacies and Multimedia Assembly of NCTE Association of Middle Level Educators Illinois Reading Council
References	<p>Dr. Robyn Seglem Professor School of Teaching and Learning Illinois State University Normal, IL 61760 309-825-4670</p> <p>Dr. Antero Garcia Professor Department of Learning Sciences and Technology Design Stanford University Stanford, CA 94305 310-739-1885 antero.garcia@stanford.edu</p> <p>Dr. Michael Dominguez Associate Professor Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies San Diego State University San Diego, CA 92182 703-851-6671 michael.dominguez@sdsu.edu</p> <p>Dr. Sara Kajder Clinical Associate Professor and Director of Clinical Practice Department of Language and Literacy Education University of Georgia Athens, GA 30602 706-542-8146 skajder@uga.edu</p>

Teaching Experience

Present Positions

University of North Carolina Wilmington
Wilmington, NC

Watson College of Education, Assistant Professor, (2023 to present)
EDN 355 Language Arts Methods for Middle Grades
LIC 555 Advanced Language Arts Methods for Middle Grades
EDN 411 Middle Grades Internship
LIC 511 Middle Grades Internship

Previous Positions

Illinois State University
Normal, IL

School of Teaching and Learning, Instructional Assistant Professor, (2018 to present)
TCH 236: Teaching Literacy Through Adolescent Literature
TCH 238: Literature Methods for Middle Level Education
TCH 306: Literacy and Technology Across Middle Level Disciplines

8th Grade Language Arts Teacher
Heyworth Junior/Senior High School
Heyworth, IL

Implements guided reading, shared reading, workshop methods and independent reading
Creates lessons that support inclusive instruction and anti racist design
Fashion curriculum to align with Illinois State New Learning Standards
Fosters a no-grades learning environment in connection to student assessment practices
Active in creating and supporting the intervention program (specifically in literacy)
Achieves a “distinguished” rating in all formal observations
Facilitates extra-curricular activities such as student council and tutoring

Heyworth Junior/Senior High School
Heyworth, IL

Social Studies Teacher, (August 2009 to May 2010)
Created lessons that foster differentiated instruction
Fashioned curriculum to align with Illinois State Learning Standards
Achieved an “excellent” rating in all formal observation

Heyworth Junior/Senior High School
Heyworth, IL

Junior High Response to Intervention Coordinator, (August 2009 to May 2010)

Fulton Junior High School
O'Fallon, IL

Language Arts Teacher, (August 2007 to May 2009)
Implemented guided reading, shared reading, and independent reading within the classroom
Accomplished successful teaching in a co-taught classroom
Created lessons that foster differentiated instruction
Fashioned curriculum to align with Illinois State Learning Standards
Conducted and facilitated professional development seminars
Achieved an "excellent" rating in all formal observations
Mentored several new teachers under the direction of the Mentor-Protégé Program
Participated in the Student Assistance Team committee and the School Leadership team
Facilitated extra-curricular activities such as scholastic bowl, yearbook, and tutoring

Stephen Decatur Middle School
Decatur, IL

Literature Teacher (August 2004 to May 2007)
Accomplished successful teaching in a co-taught classroom
Developed daily lesson plans for six sections of literature
Worked collaboratively with staff and team members within the middle school concept
Trained and practiced in the Turning Points school reform model

Teaching Certifications - Illinois Licensed

K-9 Self Contained Classroom
Middle School Language Arts
Middle School Social Studies
K-12 Reading Specialist

Publications

Books

Seglem, R. & **Bonner, S.** (2022). *Igniting social action in the ELA classroom: Inquiry as disruption*.
New York: Teachers College Press.

Book Chapters

Bonner, S., Seglem, R., & Garcia, A (2018). Creating wobble in a world of spin: Positioning students to challenge media poses. In *Critical Media Literacy and Fake News in Post-Truth America*.

Bonner, S. (2019). "The classroom that inquiry built: Using inquiry and genius hour to support writer agency and strengthen student voice." *NCTE Principles in Practice*.

Gierhart, A., **Bonner, S.**, Smith, A., & Seglem, R. (2019). "Fostering cosmopolitan dispositions through collaborative classroom activities: *Ethical digital engagement of K-12 learners*" *Ethical dimensions of teaching digital literacy*.

Manuscripts in Progress

Bonner, S. (2022). "You have to find your people like I did at teacher church." A design-based approach to transforming teacher practices. Manuscript in preparation.

Bonner, S. (2022). "I saw the world around us changing... and I wanted more": Examining the figured worlds of experienced teachers seeking to transform teaching practices. Manuscript in preparation.

Bonner, S. (2022). "You're letting the kids really go there": Instructional practices of novice ELA teachers mentored by experienced and innovative educators. Manuscript in preparation.

Seglem, R. and **Bonner, S.** (2024). *Design pedagogy*. Book manuscript in preparation. Teachers College Press.

Articles - Peer Reviewed

Bonner, S. and Seglem, R. (2016). "It just gives you another look on things": Using adolescent literature to construct inquiry and deconstruct social stereotyping," *Middle Grades Review*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 3 , Article 5. Available at: <https://scholarworks.uvm.edu/mgreview/vol1/iss3/5>

Seglem, R. and **Bonner, S.** (2016). Disrupting complacency: Helping students find their voices through inquiry, literature, and technology. *Middle School Journal*, 47:5, 21-29, DOI: 10.1080/00940771.2016.1226642

Seglem, R., VanSant, M, & **Bonner, S.** (2017). Looking back to look forward: The transformative power of ongoing, collaborative, teacher-driven professional development. *Voices from the Middle*, Vol. 25, No. 1, September 2017.

Seglem, R., **Bonner, S.** & Hays, K. (2018). "Who you gonna be? Designing novel lessons that matter to students." *Voices in the Middle*, Vol. 26, No. 2, December 2018.

Articles - Invited

Bonner, S. (2022, December). Taking skills to the next level: Infusing language arts with community action. *Voices from the Middle*.

Bonner, S. (2023, March). I design challenging learning experiences for my students because they deserve more: Exploring intellect in the ELA middle school classroom. *Voices from the Middle*.

Bonner, S. (2023, May). If you're willing to protest, then you're willing to take action: Using protest art as a critical lens into contemporary issues. *Voices from the Middle*.

Bonner, S. (2023, September). Let go and become a learner alongside them: Infusing inquiry practices in the middle grades ELA classroom. *Voices from the Middle*.

Bonner, S. (2023, December). Experts helped my students see that there were real people, real

families, and real stories: Creating a culture of networking in the ELA classroom. *Voices from the Middle*.

Bonner, S. (2024, March). Celebrating stories of student advocacy. *Voices from the Middle* (in press).

Invited Blog Posts

Bonner, S. & Seglem, R. (2018, January). “We need to speak up and be heard”: Changing worldviews with the help of Nic Stone [web log]. Retrieved from <http://www.rhteacherslibrarians.com/latest-buzz/we-need-to-speak-up-and-be-heard-chanin-gworldviews-with-the-help-of-nic-stone/>

Personal Blog

Bonner, S. (2019, November 18). If you're willing to change your hair...you're willing to do anything! *Teachwhys blog*.
<https://experienceliteracy.wixsite.com/teachwhys/post/if-you-re-willing-to-change-your-hair-you-re-willing-to-do-anything>.

Bonner, S. (2019, November 21). We have an obligation to stand up for each other. *Teachwhys blog*.
<https://experienceliteracy.wixsite.com/teachwhys/post/we-have-an-obligation-to-stand-up-for-each-other>.

Bonner, S. (2019, November 23). Teachers can learn a lot from Kendo. *Teachwhys blog*.
<https://experienceliteracy.wixsite.com/teachwhys/post/teachers-can-learn-a-lot-from-kendo>.

Bonner, S. (2020, June 4). Taking a closer look. *Teachwhys blog*.
<https://experienceliteracy.wixsite.com/teachwhys/post/taking-a-closer-look>.

Bonner, S. (2020, June 25). If you build it, they will learn. *Teachwhys blog*.
<https://experienceliteracy.wixsite.com/teachwhys/post/if-you-build-it-they-will-learn>.

Bonner, S. (2020, July 20). Don't forget about the rural people. *Teachwhys blog*.
<https://experienceliteracy.wixsite.com/teachwhys/post/don-t-forget-the-rural-people>.

Bonner, S. (2020, August 1) What teachers can learn from Disney animators. *Teachwhys blog*.
<https://experienceliteracy.wixsite.com/teachwhys/post/what-teachers-can-learn-from-disney-animators>.

Presentations

National

Bonner, S. (2020, November). *Inquiry in the Classroom: A Cultivation of Curiosity, Creativity, and Collaboration*. Roundtable presentation within *Writing Can Change Everything: Middle Level Kids Writing Themselves Into The World*. Virtual Presentation for the National Council of Teachers of English.

Bonner, S., & Seglem, R. (2018, November). *Raising voices through critical media literacy in a fake news, post truth America*. Presentation at the National Council of Teachers of English National Convention, Houston, TX.

Slater, D., **Bonner, S.**, Kajder, S., & Seglem, R. (2018, November). *Harnessing the power of inquiry: Building a collective understanding of the world through YA literature and digital media*. Presentation at the National Council of Teachers of English National Convention, Houston, TX.

Stone, N., **Bonner, S.**, Kajder, S., & Seglem, R. (2017, November). *What We Learned: How Multimodal Plugged-In Teaching of a YA Text Encouraged Students to Find Their Voices*. Presentation at the National Council of Teachers of English National Convention, St. Louis, MO.

Seglem, R., **Bonner, S.**, Stamatis, K., & Garcia, A. (2016, November). *Advocating for and Facilitating Student Inquiry in a Multimodal World*. Presentation at the National Council of Teachers of English National Convention, Atlanta, GA.

State and Regional

Bonner, S. (2015, June) *The GENIUS in All of Us! An Exploration of the Genius Hour/20% Model in the Classroom*. Presentation at Illinois State University New Teacher Conference, Normal, IL.

Bonner, S. (2016, June). *Inquiry in the Classroom: A Cultivation of Curiosity, Creativity, and Collaboration*. Presentation at Illinois State University New Teacher Conference, Normal, IL.

Bonner, S. (2015, August). *Reaching ALL Students: An Exploration of Differentiated Instruction, Motivation & Everything in Between*. Professional Development Facilitator, Regional Office of Education #39, Bloomington, IL.

Bonner, S. (2018, April). *Inquiry in the Classroom: A Cultivation of Curiosity, Creativity, and Collaboration*. Guest Speaker for the Central Illinois Teachers Applying Whole Language (TAWL) committee, Normal, IL.

In-Service

Bonner, S. (2013, October). *Common Core Content Area Literacy and English/Language Arts Literacy*. Professional Development facilitator, O'Fallon Community Unit School District #90, O'Fallon, IL.

Bonner, S. (2014, March) *Differentiation*. Professional Development facilitator, Heyworth Community Unit School District #4, Heyworth, IL.

Bonner, S. (2014, April). *Action Strategies in Literacy*. Professional Development facilitator, Heyworth Community Unit School District #4, Heyworth, IL

Bonner, S. (2015, April) *Bringing Books To Life! Using Drama-Based Action Strategies to Increase Engagement, Comprehension, and Critical Thinking in the Middle School Classroom.* Professional Development Facilitator, Regional Office of Education #39, Bloomington, IL.

Bonner, S. (2015, June). *Reaching ALL Students: An Exploration of Differentiated Instruction, Motivation & Everything in Between.* Professional Development Facilitator, Regional Office of Education #17, Decatur, IL.

Bonner, S. (2015, August). *Reaching ALL Students: An Exploration of Differentiated Instruction, Motivation & Everything in Between.* Professional Development Facilitator, Regional Office of Education #39, Bloomington, IL.

Bonner, S. (2016, January). *Cultivating Curiosity: Exploring Inquiry in the Classroom.* Professional Development Facilitator, Regional Office of Education #39, Bloomington, IL.

Bonner, S. (2016, September). *Unpacking the 21st Century Mindset.* Professional Development facilitator, Heyworth Community Unit School District #4, Heyworth, IL.

R. Seglem and **Bonner, S.** (2018, January-March). *Connected Learning.* Professional Development facilitator, Heyworth Community Unit School District #4, Heyworth, IL.

Seglem, R. and **Bonner, S.** (2019, May) *Inquiry practices.* Professional Development Facilitator, Decatur Public Schools, Stephen Decatur Middle School, Decatur, IL.

Grants

2021

“Let’s Play! Using Games to Support Young Writers’ Creativity, Collaboration, Communication and Curiosities.” Heyworth Education Foundation (\$341.50)

2020

“Speaking Up and Speaking Out: Using the Power of Stories and Inquiry to Cultivate Authentic Student Voice.” Heyworth Education Foundation (\$2,896.09)

2014

“A “Monster” Unit” Heyworth Education Foundation (\$1,145.51)

Service

To the Profession

2022 - present

Chairperson, Middle Level Section Steering Committee, National Council of Teachers of English

2020 – present

Member, Middle Level Section Steering Committee, National Council of Teachers of English

- 2020
Member, Task Force on Critical Media Literacy , National Council of Teachers of English
- 2019
Member, Task Force on Formative Assessment Practices, National Council of Teachers of English
- 2018-2019
Member, Middle Level Nominating Committee, National Council of Teachers of English

To the University

- 2016 - present
Middle Level Cooperating Teacher, School of Teaching and Learning, Illinois State University
- 2019 - 2021
Middle Level Lesson Study Participant, School of Teaching and Learning, Illinois State University

To the School

- 2016-2019
Building Leadership Team, Heyworth Junior/Senior High School, Heyworth, IL
- 2014-2019
Problem Solving Team, Heyworth Junior/Senior High School, Heyworth, IL
- 2010-2013
Building Leadership Team, Heyworth Junior/Senior High School, Heyworth, IL
PBIS committee member, Heyworth Junior/Senior High School, Heyworth, IL
- 2007-2009
Building Leadership Team, Fulton Junior High School, O'Fallon, IL
- 2004-2006
Building Leadership Team, Stephen Decatur Middle School, Decatur, IL

Awards and Honors

- Recipient of the Spycher Graduate Reading Scholarship, Illinois State University, 2012
- NCTE Media Literacy Award recipient, 2018
- NCTE Richard W. Halle Outstanding Middle Level Educator Award, 2019
- Divergent Award for Excellence in Literacy in a Digital Age Research-Dissertation, 2024