

Sonja M. Brandt
Curriculum Vitae

Assistant Professor in Elementary Education
University of North Dakota
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Education

Doctor of Philosophy in Teacher Education, University of North Dakota, *December 2015*
Doctoral Dissertation: *Elementary Teachers' Nonverbal Immediacy Behaviors During Math Instruction*

Master of Arts in Education, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, *January 2008*
Master's Thesis: *Student-Centered Teaching and Learning*

Bachelor of Arts in Education, Concordia College, Moorhead, MN, *April 2004*, Cum Laude
Elementary Education: K-6 All Subjects; 5-8 Communication Arts/Literature
Undergraduate Semester Abroad: Concordia CREDO Honors Program, Greece and Italy.
Independent Study Project: *An Equal Education? A Comparison of Special Education in the United States and Greece*

Academic Experience

University of North Dakota (Grand Forks, ND)
Assistant Professor in Elementary Education Methods (August 2017-present)

East Grand Forks School District (East Grand Forks, MN)
Fifth Grade Teacher (South Point Elementary School, 2008-2019)

University of Minnesota Crookston (Crookston, MN)
Teaching Specialist in the Liberal Arts and Education Department (Spring 2018)

University of North Dakota (Grand Forks, ND)
Instructor (Spring and Fall 2017)

Princeton School District (Princeton, MN)
Fourth and Fifth Grade Looping Teacher (North Elementary School, 2005-2008)

East Grand Forks Community Education (East Grand Forks, MN)
School Readiness Preschool Teacher (2004-2005)

Courses Taught

University of North Dakota undergraduate courses taught:

TL324: Integrating the Arts in the Elementary Classroom
TL328: Survey of Children's Literature
TL409: Reading in the Content Areas
TL410: Teaching Reading in the Elementary School (TEAM)
TL440: Teaching Mathematics in the Elementary School (TEAM)
TL443: Mathematics for Primary Grades
TL444: Assessing and Correcting Mathematics Difficulties
TL486: Various field experience courses and supervision of students in classrooms

University of Minnesota Crookston undergraduate course taught:
EDUC 2300: Introduction to Early Childhood and Elementary Education

University of North Dakota graduate reading courses taught:
TL524: Reading in the Content Areas
TL528: Children's and Young Adult Literature
TL536: Innovations in English Language Arts Instruction

Graduate Student Advising

Advisor: Graduate Advisor and Chair for four PhD student candidates, one EdD candidate, and four MEd in Elementary Education students
Member: Doctoral Dissertation Committee for 14 PhD and EdD student candidates

Curriculum Development Activities

Designed the following course for UND's Literacy Minor and as part of the Science of Reading Certificate:
TL412: Science of Reading: Research-Based Literacy Practices

Redesigned the following courses for online synchronous, asynchronous, hybrid, and/or HyFlex modalities:

TL328: Survey of Children's Literature
TL409: Reading in the Content Areas
TL410: Teaching Reading in the Elementary School Classroom
TL440: Teaching Mathematics in the Elementary School Classroom

Service

Department

Elementary Education Department Coordinator (2024-present)
Graduate Director for the Elementary Education (M.Ed.) and the Accelerated Elementary Education (M.Ed.) Program (2023-present)
Elementary TEAM Methods Coordinator & TEAM Field Experience Coordinator (2023-present)
Elementary Education Department Committee (2019-present)
Elementary Education Department Hiring Committee (Summer 2022)
Elementary Education Department Hiring Committee Co-Chair (2022-23)

College

Faculty Champion for the Office of Teacher Recruitment and Retention (2022-present)

Essential Skills in Teaching and Learning Committee (2022-present)
Learning Gardens Committee (2021-2022)
Undergraduate Initial Licensure Assessment Committee (ILAC) (2020-present)
Teaching, Leadership & Professional Practice Committee (TLPP) (2019-present)
Teacher and School Professionals Education Committee (TSPEC) (2019-present)

University

University Senate Committee (2021-22)
University Senate Honors Committee (2020-21)
Alice T. Clark/UND Alumni Association & Foundation Scholars Mentoring Program (2019-21)

State

North Dakota Association of Colleges of Teacher Education Committee (NDACTE) (2021-present)

National

Reviewer of Lesson Plans for Corwin Publishing & NCTM for *Early Elementary Mathematics Lessons to Explore, Understand, and Address Social Injustice* (Fall 2021)
Reviewer of Conference Proposals for NCTE (Spring 2022; Spring 2023)
Reviewer of Book Proposal for Routledge Publishing Company for *Injustice and the Little World of Children: Why School Psychology Matters* by Kathleen Ness (Spring 2022)

Professional Associations

Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) (2023-present)
National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) (2021-present)
National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) (2019-2021)
Sons of Norway (2004 - present)

Community

Wilder Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization Vice President (Spring 2021); President (2021-2023); Secretary (2023-present)
Valley Middle School PTO member (2022-23)
Grand Forks Public School District Community Task Force (2020)
Grand Forks Public School District Valley New Build Committee (Spring 2023)
YMCA Youth Basketball Coach (2020-2022)
Girl Scouts Troop Volunteer (2023-present)
Medical Benefit Chairperson (Fall 2015)
Hope Church Sunday School Volunteer (2012-present)
HOPEful Beginnings Preschool and Daycare Advisory Committee Vice President (2011)

Publications

Peer Reviewed

Rabenn, M. & Brandt, S. (in press). A is for asynchronous. *eLearn Magazine*.

Rabenn, M., & Brandt, S. (2024). Fostering empathy and understanding: The transformative role of diverse children's literature in confronting racism. *Language Arts*, 101(6), 423 - 425. <https://doi.org/10.58680/la20241016423>

Rabenn, M., & Brandt, S. (2023). Shifting North Dakota teacher beliefs about the science of reading through an online asynchronous professional development course. *The Reading League Journal*, 4(3), 16-20.

Professional Presentations

International

Brandt, S. & Rabenn, M. (2024, May 13-14). *The Transformative Role of Diverse Children's Literature in Confronting Racism* [Conference presentation]. Eurasia 5th World Conference on Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education, Vienna, Austria.

Brandt, S. (2023, January 6). *Teaching Methods in U.S. Schools: SEL, School Communities, and Constructivist Teaching*. [Virtual presentation]. University of Taxila, Myanmar.

Brandt, S. (2022, September 9). *Teaching Methods in U.S. Schools: SEL, School Communities, and Constructivist Teaching*. [Virtual presentation]. University of Taxila, Myanmar.

National

Elahi, S., Raviv, T., Curry, C., Ramos, B., Lever, N., Brandt, S., Grijalva, T. (2024, December 5-7). *Examining pre-service educators' perspectives on a trauma learning series: Comparing live and hybrid training models*. [Conference presentation]. National Center for School Mental Health (NCSMH), 2024 Advancing School Mental Health Conference, Orland, FL, United States.

Rabenn, M. & Brandt, S. (2024, March 30). *Teacher Preparation Programs in North Dakota and Wisconsin Navigate Science of Reading Legislation While Adapting Curriculum and Programs*. [Conference presentation]. Journal of Literacy Innovation National Conference, Virtual.

Brandt, S. & Rabenn, M. (2024, March 29). *Adapting Curriculum and Programs: Navigating Science of Reading Legislation for Teacher Preparation in North Dakota and Wisconsin*. [Roundtable presentation]. Association of Teacher Educators, Anaheim, CA, United States.

Brandt, S. (2021, April). *Nonverbal Immediacy During Instruction to Enhance Student Learning*. [Conference presentation]. National Council of Teachers of Mathematics National Conference, Virtual.

State/Local

Brandt, S. & Rabenn, M. (2024, June 19). *Digital literacy resources for K-8 student learning*. [Conference presentation.] Pages & Pathways: The Science of Learning: Literacy Conference, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND.

Bear, J., Brandt, S., Burgad, A., Conn, D., Theis, C. (2023, August 15). *Pioneering solutions:*

Transforming teacher education to tackle the shortage crisis. [Conference session]Governor's Summit on Innovative Education, West Fargo, ND.

Leavitt, H. & Brandt, S. (2023, May). *Open Education Resources at Community Colleges.* [Poster presentation]. College of Education and Human Development Research Conference, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND.

Brandt, S. & Rabenn, M. (2022, August 19). *The Science of Reading.* [Professional development]. North Border School District, Pembina, ND.

Brandt, S. & Rabenn, M. (2022, June 8, 2022). *Digital Structured Literacy Resources.* [Conference presentation]. IgniteND Conference on Innovative Curriculum Focused on Computer Science and Cybersecurity, Bismarck, ND.

Brandt, S. (2020, March). *Elementary Teachers' Nonverbal Immediacy Behaviors During Math Instruction.* [Accepted conference presentation]. ND Council of Teachers of Mathematics STEM Conference, Fargo, ND. (Canceled due to COVID-19)

Brandt, S., Hagen, B., & Peterson. E. (2012). *Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports in the Elementary School.* [Poster presentation]. University of North Dakota Graduate School Scholarly Forum, Grand Forks, ND.

Brandt, S., Hagen, B., & Peterson. E. (2011). *Impact of Teacher Anxiety on Student Test Performance.* [Poster presentation]. University of North Dakota Graduate School Scholarly Forum, Grand Forks, ND.

Grants

East Grand Forks School District SmartBoard Technology Grant (2009-2010)

East Grand Forks Education Foundation Educator Mini-Grant: STEM Materials for the Elementary Classroom (2018-2019)

Professional Education Activities

University of North Dakota

Graduate Student Organization (GSO) Vice-President

East Grand Forks, MN School District

District Building Leadership Team

District PLC Team 5th Grade Leader

Positive Behavior and Intervention Supports (PBIS) District Committee

District Math Committee

District Reading Committee

South Point Elementary Carnival Committee

Elementary “I Love to Read” Month Committee

Princeton, MN School District

District Academic Yearly Progress (AYP) Cohort Member

Camp Tiger Pride Committee (Positive Behavior and Intervention Supports - PBIS)

Student Climate Committee

Track and Field Day Committee

Elementary Book Club Leader

Professional Continuing Education

- Quality Course Design for the Transition to Blackboard Ultra (Summer 2024, TTaDA)
- Ten Step Accessibility Course Challenge (Spring 2024, TTaDA)
- *Diversity's Promise for Higher Education: Making It Work* by Daryl G. Smith Book Study (Fall 2021, Hosted by UND's Teaching Transformation and Development Academy (TTaDA))
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Course Design Workshop (Summer 2021, TTaDA)
- Online Course Development and Charrette Transparent Assignment workshops (Summer 2020, TTaDA)
- *Reach Everyone, Teach Everyone: Universal Design for Learning in Higher Education* by Thomas J. Tobin and Kirsten T. Behling Book Study (Spring 2020, TTaDA)
- Implementing High-Impact Practices Across Modalities Workshop (October 2019, TTaDA) based on the book *High-Impact Practices in Online Education: Research and Best Practices* Edited by Kathryn E. Linder and Chrysanthemum Mattison Hayes
- *Small Teaching: Everyday Lessons from the Science of Teaching* by James L. Lang Book Study with the Alice T. Clark/UND Alumni Association & Foundation Scholars Mentoring Program (Fall 2019)
- *The Next Step Forward in Guided Reading* by Jan Richardson PLC Book Study, East Grand Forks, MN, (2018-19 school year)
- Bridges Math Curriculum Trainings (Spring 2018, 2019-2019 school year)
- Positive Behavior and Intervention Supports (PBIS) Committee Trainings, Bemidji, MN (2016-2018)
- Pearson enVision Math Curriculum Trainings (2011-2012; 2013)
- Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System Trainings, East Grand Forks, (2010-2011; 2012; 2015; 2017-2018; Fall 2018)
- Benchmark Universe Curriculum Trainings, East Grand Forks (2010-2011; 2012)
- Six + 1 Traits of Writing Training, East Grand Forks, MN (August 2008)
- Responsive Classroom Training, Bemidji, MN (August 2008)
- PBIS District Training, Princeton, MN, (2006-2008)

Honors and Awards

UND's College of Education and Human Development Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award (2023)

UND Foundation Award for Outstanding Departmental Service for the Department of Teaching, Leadership & Professional Practice, 2020