

**BETHANY M. MCCONNELL, PhD.**  
 University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown  
 Division of Educational Studies  
 Johnstown, Pa 15904  
 bmm93@pitt.edu

### **Key Accomplishments**

Maintaining Pennsylvania Dept Ed Certified Dual Certification Programs  
 Expanding Ed Department Social Media Platforms as a tool for recruitment  
 Providing resources and materials for Teacher Retention

### **Education**

PhD	2011	The Pennsylvania State University, Special Education
MEd	2005	Johns Hopkins University, Inclusive Special Education
B.S.	2003	Saint Francis University, Special/Elementary Education

### **Certifications**

Secondary Social Studies Content (6-12) Maryland  
 Elementary (K-8)/ Special Education (8-12) Maryland  
 Elementary (K-8)/ Special Education (K-12) Pennsylvania

**Clearances:** PA Act 151 (Child Abuse History); PA Act 34 (State Police Criminal); PA Act 114 (FBI Criminal); PA Act 24 (Arrest/Conviction)—All NO RECORD/NONE

### **Trainings:**

2024: *Camp Promethean*; Promethean Training [7 hours; scheduled]  
 2024: *Connected to Leadership*; Yale University: [30 hours in progress]  
 2023: *Mental Health Champion Certificate Program*; University of Pittsburgh [12 hours]  
 2021: *The Science of Well-Being*; Yale University Laurie Santos, PhD [20 hours]  
 2013: *The Provost Diversity Seminar*; University of Pittsburgh [2 weeks]

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

University Teaching

**University of Pittsburgh- Johnstown, Johnstown, PA** **Fall 2011 to present**

Curriculum Prepared and Courses Taught:

- Student Teaching Seminar
- Teacher Assess & Instruct Evidence Based Effective Instruction – High Incidence
- Intensive Reading, Writing and Mathematics Intervention Methods for Teachers
- Educating Students with Emotional and Behavioral Disturbances
- Inclusion Strategies
- Applied Behavioral Analysis

- Teaching in the Inclusive Classroom with High Incidence Disabilities
- Introduction to Students with Special Needs
- History and Philosophy of Education

#### Student teaching Supervision

- Early Childhood Education PreK-4<sup>th</sup> grade Classrooms
- Special Education Classrooms PreK-12 (Inclusive, Supplemental Learning Support, Life Skills, Emotional Support)

#### K-12 Teaching

- US History (Small Group and Co-taught)
- National, Maryland State, and Montgomery County Government (Small group and Co-taught) \* *State testing requirement*
- Read 180 Intervention (Small Group)
- Biology (Co-Taught)

### SCHOLARSHIP

McConnell, B. M., (Under Review). Progress Monitoring Your Way Through Student Teaching: Maintaining Skills and Behaviors for a Lifelong Career in Teaching.

Drahnak, D., **McConnell, B. M.**, Jimenez, S.T., Barnes Rowland, C., & Dahlin, C. D. (Under Review, April 2024). Classroom in the Community: A University-City Collaboration. *International Journal of Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement*.

Easley, J. E., Ankrum J. W., Girard, N. R., & **McConnell, B. M.** (2017). Professional Learning through P-16 Partnership Design: Emergent Lessons Learned toward Improving and Sustaining Partnership Development. *School-University Partnerships* doi: [EJ1147234.pdf](https://doi.org/10.1111/147234) (ed.gov)

McConnell, B. M. (2017). Navigating School to Home communication. In W. W. Murawski & K. L. James (Eds.). *What Really Works in Special Education*. CA: Corwin Press. doi: [\\_What Really Works With Exceptional Learners - Google Books](https://doi.org/10.1111/147234) [Cited by 3]

**McConnell, B. M.**, & Kubina Jr, R. M. (2016). Parents using explicit instruction to teach reading to their children at-risk for reading difficulties. *Education and Treatment of Children*. doi: [Project MUSE - Parents Using Explicit Reading Instruction with Their Children At-Risk for Reading Difficulties \(jhu.edu\)](https://doi.org/10.1111/147234) [Cited by 27]

Myers, J. M., Ankrum J. W., & **McConnell, B. M.** (2015). Interactive read-alouds: A qualitative study of kindergarten students' analytic dialogue. *Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers Yearbook*. doi: [Literacy Educators and Researchers: Making a Difference in our Diverse Communities \(ymaws.com\)](https://doi.org/10.1111/147234)

- McConnell, B. M. (2015). Increasing parent-teacher communication to improve school attendance for a student with a learning disability: A case study. *Betwixt and Between: Education for Young Adolescents*.
- McConnell, B. M.,** & Kubina Jr, R. M. (2014). Connecting with families to improve students' school attendance: A review of the literature. *Preventing School Failure: Alternative Education for Children and Youth*, 58(4), 249-256. doi: Connecting With Families to Improve Students' School Attendance: A Review of the Literature: Preventing School Failure: Alternative Education for Children and Youth: Vol 58, No 4 (tandfonline.com) [Cited by 119]
- Ankrum, J. W., & **McConnell, B.M.** (2013). Lost in translation: Understanding common terms of RTI in reading. *Pennsylvania Teacher Educator*. doi: My publications - Journal 2013 - Ankrum and McConnell - Page 1 - Created with Publitas.com
- Irvin, M. J., Farmer, T. W., Weiss, M. P., Meece, J. L., Byun, S., **McConnell, B. M.,** & Petrin, R. A. (2011). Perceptions of school and aspirations of rural students with learning disabilities and their nondisabled peers. *Learning Disabilities Research & Practice*. 26, 2-14. doi: Perceptions of School and Aspirations of Rural Students with Learning Disabilities and Their Nondisabled Peers - Matthew J. Irvin, Thomas W. Farmer, Margaret P. Weiss, Judith L. Meece, Soo-yong Byun, Bethany M. McConnell, Robert A. Petrin, 2011 (sagepub.com) [Cited by 31]

### Grants Funded

- 2024: Co-Principal Investigator. Tomorrow's Teachers: Building Culturally Responsive Communities through Cross-Age Mentoring; Pennsylvania Education Equity Project (\$34, 434; Under Review)
- 2023: Classroom in the Community, learning together: A city-university collaboration. 1889 Foundation (\$32,000.00; Funded 2 years) with renewal options.
- 2021: Classroom in the community, learning together; A city-university collaborative. 1889 Foundation Grant (\$9,200; Funded 2 years)
- 2020: United Way of Johnstown. PI; Christine Dahlin. Collaborators; Dawn Drahnak, **Bethany McConnell**, Noon Klinbubpa, Ryan Kerrigan, Susan Wieczorek, Gerald Zahorchak. (\$1000)
- 2015: *Partnerships for Effective Research (Project PER)*. Early Career SIG by the Teacher Education Division of Council for Exceptional Children (\$200; funded).

### Research Activities

- 2024: Consultant, *Preparing Autistic Students for the Artificial Intelligence Workforce*, National Science Foundation Project.
- 2019: *Classroom in the community, learning together; A city-university collaborative*. Pitt Momentum Funds- Scaling Grant (Principal Investigator- \$60,000; not funded).

2014: Data Collection, Interactive read-alouds: A qualitative study of kindergarten students' analytic dialogue Jackson Elementary.

2009-11: Research Team, Administrators perceptions of Special Education Services in Rural Schools: Preparing highly qualified teachers.

2008-11: Research Team, Aspirations and Preparation for the Transition from High School in Rural America: Students', Parents', and Teachers' Perspectives

2008-9: Data collection, writing instruction for adolescents with behavior disorders: Scaffolding procedural learning to extended discourse (Project SPLED)

2008: Data collection, Writing Instruction for Adults Project

2008: Data collection, Rural Early Literacy Initiative and the Rural Early Adolescent Learning

2005-2007: Educational Administrator and Home Tutor, ClubZ Tutoring, Frederick, Md. NCLB in-home tutoring grant

### **Peer Reviewed Presentations**

**McConnell, B. M.,** & Marsh, E. N. (under review). *Working with Student Social Media Ambassadors for Teacher Recruitment*. Teacher Education Division Conference, (Supporting Student Research).

**McConnell, B. M.,** Hilyer, C. J., Homer, M. E., Karl, E. M. (under review). *Discussing the Support options for CEC Mentorship from the Student Teachers' Perspective*. Teacher Education Division Conference, (Supporting Student Research).

Owiny, R. L., Strong, J., **McConnell, B. M.,** (March, 2024). *The CEC Student Teacher Network: Support and Resources*. CEC Convention, San Antonio, TX.

**McConnell, B. M.,** Lim, L., O'Kelley, H. J., & DiMaria A. D., (March, 2023). *Community Engagement for Equity*. CEC Convention. Louisville, KY.

**McConnell, B. M.,** (November, 2022). *Hidden Curriculum in Higher Education*. Conference Teacher Education Division, Richmond, VA

**McConnell, B. M.,** (February, 2020). *CEC Mentorship helping teachers succeed through "first years." This could be you!* CEC Convention. Portland, OR.

**McConnell, B. M.,** (November, 2019). *Yes! You will need to get on a 17- hour flight to get to School on Monday: Providing Teacher Candidates with Student Teaching in New Zealand*. 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference Teacher Education Division, New Orleans, LA.

**McConnell, B. M.,** & Harkins, E. A., (January, 2019). *BRIDGE for Transition: Teacher Candidates as Job Coaches for Individuals Preparing for Employment*. 20th International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disability & Developmental Disabilities. Lahaina, Maui, Hi.

- McConnell, B. M.**, Bialka, C. E. & Harkins, E. A., (November, 2018). *Habits of Productivity to Teacher Candidates within Teacher Preparation Programs to Promote Collaboration*. 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference Teacher Education Division, Las Vegas, NV
- McConnell, B.M.**, Hartmann, E., & Brown, L. A. (November, 2018). *Mentoring through mid-career a winning hand for individual success*. 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference Teacher Education Division, Las Vegas, NV.
- McConnell, B. M., (February, 2018). *From Teacher to Doctoral Student to Professor: How CEC Can Help You Change Careers*, at the CEC Conference in Tampa, FL.
- McConnell, B. M. (November, 2017). *Changing course: How Interviewing Families of Students with Disabilities Impacts*. 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Teacher Education Division, Savannah, GA.
- McConnell, B. M.**, Stevens, A., & Martin, S. M., (November, 2017). *Dispositions of Teacher Candidates and Women in Higher Education: Collaboration as the Hidden Gem for Success*. 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Teacher Education Division, Savannah, GA.
- Bateman, D. F., **McConnell, B. M.**, & Cline, J., (April, 2017). *Teaching General Educators about Special Education*, at the 39<sup>th</sup> annual Council for Exceptional Children Conference in Boston, MA.
- Stevens, A., **McConnell, B. M.**, Martin, & S. M., (November, 2016). *Women in Higher Education: Racing toward Equity and Excellence in Leadership*. 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Teacher Education Division, Lexington, KY.
- Harkins-Monaco, E. A., & **McConnell, B. M.** (November, 2016). *Goals, roles, communication, and time: Collaboration among faculty in teacher preparation programs*. 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Teacher Education Division, Lexington, KY.
- Goran, L., **McConnell, B. M.**, & Bateman, D. F. (April, 2016). *Focus on parenting: Teacher candidates learn from families of students with disabilities*. Council for Exceptional Children St. Louis, MO.
- McConnell, B.M.**, Hartmann, E., & Brown, L. A. (April, 2016). *The first four years for three women in academia: Using collaboration to overcome challenges*. Council for Exceptional Children St. Louis, MO.
- Harkins-Monaco, E. A., & **McConnell, B. M.** (March, 2016). *Engaging differential learners in math through cooperative learning*. 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mathematics Educator Mini-Conference at University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
- McConnell, B. M.**, & Harkins-Monaco, E. A. (November, 2015). *Fitting in the new neighborhood: Strategies for special educators working with general educators in the classroom*. 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the PA-Council for Exceptional Children Harrisburg, PA
- Monsour, K. J., **McConnell, B. M.**, & Harkins-Monaco, E. A. (November, 2015). *Goals, roles, communication, and time: Co-teaching as a model for secondary education teacher-candidates*. 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Teacher Education Division, Tempe, AZ.

**McConnell, B. M.,** Goran, L., Bateman, D. F. (November, 2015). *Sharing stories: How interviewing families of students with disabilities impacts dispositions of teacher candidates*. 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Teacher Education Division, Tempe, AZ.

Hartmann, E., **McConnell, B. M.,** & Brown, L. A., (November, 2015). *From digital immigrant to UDL citizenship: How SSEPC members use technology to innovate and improve instructional practice*. 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Teacher Education Division, Tempe, AZ.

**McConnell, B. M.,** & Monsour, K. J. (April, 2015). *Marketing the college experience: Providing a college day visit for high school students*. Poster Session Presented at the Council for Exceptional Children Conference, San Diego, CA.

**McConnell, B. M.** (November, 2014). *Teacher candidate interview with parents of children with disabilities using MAPs*. Roundtable discussion at the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Teacher Education Division in Indianapolis, IN.

Myers, J. M., Ankrum J. W., & **McConnell, B. M.** (October, 2014) *Interactive read-alouds: A qualitative study of kindergarten students' analytic dialogue*. Paper presentation at the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers, Delray Beach, FL.

Easley, J. E., Ankrum, J. W., Girard, N. R., & **McConnell, B. M.** (May, 2014). *Collaboration in a p-16 partnership: Enhancing clinical experiences of pre-service teachers and professional development for partnership members through a professional learning community*. Roundtable discussion at the 110<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.

#### State Level

**McConnell, B.M.,** Cronauer, M. E., (April, 2020). *I Don't Have Time" to Go to This Panel*. Medical Humanities Conference, Pitt-Johnstown. (Supporting Student Research)

**McConnell, B. M.** (November, 2014). *Parents can teach reading and teachers can help!* 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the PA-Council for Exceptional Children Harrisburg, PA.

Ankrum, J. W., & **McConnell, B. M.** (October, 2013). *Lost in translation: Understanding common terms of RTI in reading*. The Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators 42nd Annual Teacher Education Assembly, Harrisburg, PA.

Easley, J. E., Ankrum, J. W., Girard, N. R., **McConnell, B. M.,** Kristobak, K., Rullo, A., & Wilson, J. (October, 2013). *A model of collaboration through a P-16 partnership: Cultivating a professional learning community to enhance clinical experiences of pre-service teachers and professional development for partnership members*. The Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators 42nd Annual Teacher Education Assembly, Harrisburg, PA.

Ankrum, J. W., & **McConnell, B. M.** (2013, March). *Don't let good teaching get lost in translation: Understanding common terms in RTII*. Presentation for members at the meeting of the Cambria Area Reading Council, Johnstown, PA.

Ankrum, J. W., & **McConnell, B. M.** (October, 2012). *The bright side(s) of RTII*. Presentation at the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Keystone State Reading Association, Seven Springs, PA.

McConnell, B. M. (November, 2011). *Incorporating parents teaching reading to their children at risk within our community*. Presentation at University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown Faculty Dialogue Series.

### **Invited Presentations**

*The Vira I. Heinz Annual Luncheon* (March, 2020). "Funding for Career Goals in the Real World."

*Pitt-Johnstown Educational Law Series* (March, 2020). "The Call for Success: Recess!" - the benefits are dynamic for students and schools."

*Pitt-Johnstown Teaching Showcase*. (April, 2017) "Providing Teacher Candidates with Tools to Navigate Conversations with Parents of Children with Disabilities".

*Diversity Symposium*. (April, 2017). "The BRIDGE Program: Community Service Opportunities while Promoting Inclusivity."

*Future Teacher Day*. (March, 2019). "When should I start planning for study abroad?"

### **Public Scholarship**

- McConnell, B. M. (March 2023) Cooperative Learning: A Student-Centered Approach to Learning, 2-Day Training; The American International School of Bolivia [52 Attendees].
- McConnell, B.M. (August 2021) Transitioning to Preschool: Parent Workshop; Two 2-hour sessions; Forest Hills School District. [58 Family Members].
- McConnell, B.M. (August 2020) Getting Ready for Preschool: Parent Workshop; Two 2-hour sessions; Forest Hills School District. [42 Family Members].
- Harkins, E. A. & **McConnell, B. M.** (September 2016) Altoona-Johnstown Diocese Workshop. "Let me see how much you've grown: Using self-reflection and goal setting to promote independence."
- McConnell, B. M. (September 2015) Altoona-Johnstown Diocese. *How to teach the Differential Learner*. (Presenter)
- McConnell, B. M. (September 2010). *Effective strategies to support reading in your home*. Workshop presented at Penns Valley Public Schools. (Presenter)
- McConnell, B. M. (January 2009). *Increasing positive communication between parents and teachers to increase school attendance*, Workshop presented at Philipsburg Ocoola. Public Schools. (Presenter)

- McConnell, B. M. (January 2008). *The effects of the signature academy on special education*, Montgomery County Public Schools. (Presenter)
- **McConnell, B. M.** & Harp, L. (August 2006). *Co-teaching in the high school setting*, In-service at Montgomery County Public Schools. (Trainer)

## **MEDIA**

### **BRIDGE**

Building Realistic and Integrated Daily-living Skills, Gaining Experiences and Employability Skills; *The Advocate*; BRIDGE Recycling; December 2017  
[Program allows learning exchange - The Advocate \(upj-advocate.com\)](#)

### **Study Abroad**

**Pitt Wire**; Workshop in Bolivia; Study Abroad; April 2023

[Pitt-Johnstown educators are teaching and learning in Bolivia | University of Pittsburgh](#)

**YouTube**: Student Recruitment in Bolivia; August 2023

[Student Teaching - Connect2Bolivia](#)

### **CommuniTEAMS**

**Tribune Democrat**; Take home Activities during Covid; June 2020

[PHOTO GALLERY | Communi-TEAM adapts to continue engaging with city youth | News | tribdem.com](#)

**Tribune Democrat**; STEM Event; March 2022

[PHOTO GALLERY | UPJ hosts evening of STEM learning for local youth | News | tribdem.com](#)

**WJAC**; March 2020

[Pitt-Johnstown students volunteer at Solomon Homes \(wjactv.com\)](#)

**Tribune Democrat**; June 2023

[Juneteenth Youth & Family Day | Central Park | | tribdem.com](#)

## **PROFESSIONAL OUTREACH/SERVICE**

[Service to the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown](#)

Strategic Planning Committee: Faculty Success Subcommittee of the Success of Our People: Students, Faculty, Staff & Alumni Committee	2020-2021
Communi-TEAMS	2019- present
Campus Status Committee	2017-present
Study Abroad Advisory Board	2016, 2018, 2019
Education Division Chair Search Committee	2015-2016

CV Bethany M. McConnell, PhD (May 2024)

General Education Committee	2015 – present
Educational Psychology Program Coordinator	2015
Special Education Faculty Search Committee, Chair	2015-present
Diversity Committee	2014 - present
Deputy Coordinator for Certification in Special Education: Programming, Curriculum Design, and Recruitment	2011 – present
Deputy Coordinator for Dual Certification Special Education Program and Program Approval	2014-present
Educational Policies Committee	2011-2016

### **Service to the Division of Education**

Marketing and Recruitment Committee Chair	2023-present
PDE Special Education Competency Review	2023
Study Abroad, Coordinator/Advisor Bolivia and New Zealand	2016-present
Professional Educator Portfolio Committee, Reviewer	2015-present
Field Placement Committee	2015-present
Advisory Council (Elementary and Secondary Programs)	2011-present
Professional Learning Community	2012-2014
Collaboration with Richland School District, Johnstown, PA	

### **OTHER SERVICE TO THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY**

#### **National**

Professional Development Committee; Teacher Education Division	2019-present
Student teacher Support Network	2023- present
Mentoring Steering Committee; Council for Exceptional Children	2015-2020

#### **Caucasus/ Special Interest Groups**

Small Special Education Programs Caucus, Teacher Education Division  
Early Career Educators, Teacher Education Division

#### **State**

Board member; Pennsylvania Council for Exceptional Children	2016- 2020
Vice-President; Pennsylvania Teacher Education Division	2017- 2019

#### **Consultant**

Central Cambria Cross Country, Vice President	2023-present
Central Cambria Baseball, Vice President	2023-present
Central Cambria Track and Field, Secretary	2023-present
Ebensburg Youth Little League, Covid Safety Consultant	2020-2023
CV Bethany M. McConnell, PhD (May 2024)	

Cambria County 4-H, Educational Support Team	2017-present
Richland School District, Professional Learning Community	2012- 2014
Smart Start Centre County, Transition into Kindergarten Team	2009- 2012
Easter Seals of Central PA, Parent and Teacher Connection	2009- 2012
Signature Academy Leader- Students in Special Education, Montgomery Public Schools, Gaithersburg, Md	2005 -2008

Reviewer of Manuscripts and Proposals

<i>Betwixt-Between: Education for Young Adolescents</i>	2012 -2023
<i>Journal for Emotional and Behavioral Disturbances</i>	2013 - 2016
<i>Pennsylvania Reads</i>	2011-2014
Journal of the Keystone State Reading Association (KSRA)	

Memberships

The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC):

- Division of Research (DR)
- Teaching Education Division (TED)
- Pennsylvania Division (PACEC)

Fellowship

2009- 2011	Preparing Outstanding Scholars for Special Education (POSSE)
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