

# Victoria (Tory) Pennington

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## EDUCATION

- 2025 Ph.D., Clemson University, Literacy, Language, and Culture, GPA: 4.0.  
*Committee:* Lindsey Rowe (chair), Amanda Bennett, Sally Ann Brown, Emily Howell  
*Dissertation Title:* *Designing multilingual (maker)spaces: Exploring the intersections of play, posthumanism, and pre-kindergarten.*
- 2019 M.A., Clemson University, Literacy with ESOL Focus
- 2014 B.A., University of South Carolina, Early Childhood Education
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## PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- 2022 – 2025 Graduate Research Assistant, Clemson University
- 2019 – 2022 ESOL Teacher, Greenville County Schools, SC  
Simpsonville Elementary, Virtual Program
- 2014 – 2019 First Grade Teacher, Greenville County Schools, SC  
Oakview Elementary, Taylors Elementary
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## CERTIFICATIONS AND LICENSURES

- 2019 South Carolina K-12 Reading Teacher Certification
- 2018 South Carolina K-12 Teaching Certification, ESOL
- 2014 South Carolina Teaching License, Early Childhood Education
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## AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2013 Magellan Scholarship for Undergraduate Research, Proposal: The art of children's storytelling. University of South Carolina, *Columbia, South Carolina*, \$1500
- 2017 Building STEAM Grant, Public Education Partners, *Greenville, South Carolina*, \$1500
- 2023 American Educational Research Association (AERA), Sponsored Registration, Writing and Literacies SIG. *Chicago, Illinois*, \$450
- 2023 Clemson University Education and Human Development, CORE (Cultivating Opportunities for Research in Education) Award for Conference Travel, \$1000
- 2024 Clemson University Education and Human Development, CORE (Cultivating Opportunities for Research in Education) Award for Conference Travel, \$1400
- 2024 Clemson University Education and Human Development, CORE (Cultivating Opportunities for Research in Education) Award for Research, \$2,000

- 2024 Clemson University Graduate Student Government, Graduate Student Travel Grant, Award for Travel, \$750
- 2025 American Educational Research Association (AERA), Sponsored Registration, Writing and Literacies SIG. *Denver, Colorado*, \$450
- 2025 Clemson University College of Education, Dean Gehsmann's Graduate Student Travel Grant for First Authored AERA Accepted Proposals. *Denver, Colorado*, \$750
- 2025 Graduate Student Award of Excellence in Research, Clemson University, *Clemson, South Carolina*

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## COURSE AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

**EDLT 4580:** Early Literacy, Birth to Five Years Old- Instructor of Record. Class size: 28. Delivered face-to-face instruction with a Student Experience Survey mean score of 4.85/5.

### Literacy with ESOL Focus (MEd)

Graduate Research Assistant, Clemson University, 2022-2025

Modules designed:

- Writing Instruction for Multilingual Learners
- Small Group Instruction for Multilingual Learners
- Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Digital Escape Room for Teachers

**Emergent Curriculum Project Lead** (Confidential Early Learning Initiative): Designed play-based, inquiry-driven curriculum and educator supports for a new early learning environment. Contributed to space planning, professional development, and stakeholder messaging.

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## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Ferguson-Sams, N., Rowe, L.W., Howell, E., **Pennington, V.**, & Gazioglu, M. (under review). Unique yet universal: Insights on literacy instruction from secondary multilingual learners. *Language & Education*

Gazioglu, M., Rowe, L.W., Howell, E., Ferguson-Sams, N., **Pennington, V.**, Mittapalli, K., & Banerjee, A. (In Press). Empowering multilingual caregivers: Strategies for supporting literacy development at home. *International Journal of Lifelong Education*.

**Pennington, V.**, & Rowe, L. W. (Accepted). Sticker stories: Exploring playful digital composing in multilingual classrooms. *Language Arts*.

Howell, E., Rowe, L. W., Gazioglu, M., Ferguson-Sams, N., **Pennington, V.**, Mittapalli, K., & Banerjee, A. (Accepted). Addressing instructional capacity for English Learners through professional development. *English Teaching: Practice, and Critique*

- Gazioglu, M., Rowe, L. W., Howell, E., **Pennington, V.**, Ferguson-Sams, N., Mittapalli, K., & Banerjee, A. (2025). From awareness to action: Caregivers' roles in multilingual learners' literacy development. *Studies in the Education of Adults*, 1–22.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/02660830.2025.2475534>
- Pennington, V.** & Rowe, L. W. (Accepted). Playing with possibilities: Multilingual elementary students (un)composing digital-sticker roles. *International Journal of Play*.
- Gazioglu, M., Howell, E., Rowe, L. W., **Pennington, V.**, Ferguson-Sams, N., Mittapalli, K., Banerjee, A. (2024). Multicultural perspectives on building instructional capacity for multilingual learners: Synergy of teachers, community members, and academics. *Multicultural Education Review*. 1–19.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/2005615X.2024.2436327>
- Gazioglu, M., Howell, E., Kaminski, R., **Pennington, V.**, Ferguson-Sams, N., Mittapalli, K., & Banerjee, A. (2025). Bridging the knowledge gap: Professional development connecting teachers and caregivers of multilingual learners. *Journal for Multicultural Education*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1108/JME-09-2024-0122>
- Pennington, V.**, & Howell, E. (Under Review). AI and algorithms: Navigating our future through literacy. In E.A. Baker (Ed.) *Research handbook on digital literacies*. Elgar Publishing.
- Pennington, V.**, Howell, E., Rowe, L. W., Ferguson-Sams, N., Gazioglu, M., Mittapalli, K., & Banerjee, A., (2025). Escaping inequity: A digital escape room PD for justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy (JAAL)* 68(6). <http://doi.org/10.1002/jaal.70004>
- Rowe, L. W. & **Pennington, V.** (2025). Multilingual learners' digital book composing: Examining circulation of translanguaging, multimodal resources in an elementary classroom. *Journal of Second Language Writing*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jslw.2025.101180>
- Ferguson-Sams, N., Howell, E., Kaminski, R., Gazioglu, M., & **Pennington, V.** (2025). *Multilingual voices: Modifying professional development based on student perceptions of literacy learning*. *TESOL Journal* 16(1). <https://doi.org/10.1002/tesj.70005>
- Pennington, V.**, Howell, E., Kaminski, R., Ferguson, N., Gazioglu, M., Mittapalli, K., Banerjee, A. (2024). Translanguaging with digital, collaborative writing: Early multilingual composers. *The Reading Teacher* 78(1). <https://doi.org/10.1002/trtr.2344>
- Ferguson-Sams, N., Howell, E., Kaminski, R., **Pennington, V.**, Gazioglu, M., Mittapalli, K., & Banerjee, A. (2024). A crosswalk of digital storytelling and multilingual learning. *Middle School Journal*, 55(3), 27–36. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00940771.2024.2329511>
- Pennington, V.**, Howell, E., Kaminski, R., Ferguson, N., Gazioglu, M., Mittapalli, K., Banerjee, A., Cole, M. (2024). Multilingual teaching and digital tools: The intersection of new media literacies and language learning. *Journal for Multicultural Education*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1108/JME-09-2023-0092>

## PROFESSIONAL PROJECTS

- Jerasa, S. & **Pennington, V.** (Producer and Host), (2023, April 10). Written literacies and joy [Podcast episode]. In *Inquiring Minds AERA Writing and Literacies SIG Podcast*, <https://youtu.be/B-R4xP8Ti6U>
- Pennington, V.** & Riesco, H. (Producer and Host), (2023, August 9). Ph.InisheD: Graduates of the Writing and Literacies SIG Communication Team [Podcast Episode], In *Inquiring Minds AERA Writing and Literacies SIG Podcast*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-89gMVR8Ac>.
- Pennington, V.** & Bahlmann-Bollinger, C.. (2023, September) Concept Books (Book Review Blog Post) *Children's Literature and Reading Special Interest Group, ILA* <http://www.clrsig.org/book-reviews/concept-books-for-preschoolers>
- Pennington, V.** & Terrazas, C. (Producer and Host), (2023, December 15). Writing critical feminist pedagogies [Podcast Episode], In *Inquiring Minds AERA Writing and Literacies SIG Podcast*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-89gMVR8Ac>.
- Pennington, V.** & Riesco, H. (Producer and Host), (2024, March 13). Translanguaging across literacies [Podcast Episode], In *Inquiring Minds AERA Writing and Literacies SIG Podcast*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZNewaQ4qZo>
- Terrazas, C. & **Pennington, V.** (Producer and Host), (2024, May 20). Indigenous languages and literacies [Podcast Episode], In *Inquiring Minds AERA Writing and Literacies SIG Podcast*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nU3tWUU PX8>
- Pennington, V.** (Producer and Host), (2024, May 23). Career Paths Panel for Future PhD Graduates [Webinar], In Literacy Research Association, *Doctoral Student Innovative Community Group*.
- Pennington, V.** & Marek, M. (Producer and Host), (2024, October 22). Multimodal practices of literacy scholars [Podcast Episode], In *Inquiring Minds AERA Writing and Literacies SIG Podcast*. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrUq\\_S\\_V5XQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrUq_S_V5XQ)
- Marek, M. & **Pennington, V.** (Producer and Host), (2025, April). Climate Justice Literacies [Podcast Episode], In *Inquiring Minds AERA Writing and Literacies SIG Podcast*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kRmVM6A1aCU>
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## PEER-REVIEWED INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Gazioglu, M., Rowe, L. W., Howell, E., Ferguson-Sams, N., **Pennington, V.**, & Lawton, A. (2026, April). *Collaborative literacy support for multilingual caregivers: A stakeholder-informed approach*. Paper under review for presentation at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA.

**Pennington, V.**, Rowe, L. W., Howell, E., Ferguson-Sams, N., & Gazioglu, M. (2025, December). *The JEDI Library PD: A Digital Escape Room Facilitating Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion with In-Service Teachers* [Paper presentation accepted and to be given] Literacy Research Association (LRA) Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV.

Gazioglu, M., Rowe, L. W., Howell, E., Ferguson-Sams, N., & **Pennington, V.** (2025, accepted). *Supporting Literacy at Home: Strategies for Empowering Multilingual Caregivers* [[Paper presentation accepted and to be given] Literacy Research Association (LRA) Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV.

Andrei, E., Gazioglu, M., Stewart, M., Vega, H., Howell, E., Zitek, S., Rowe, L., Ferguson-Sams, N., **Pennington, V.**, Crook, K., & Arthur, T. (2025, accepted). Navigating differences, uniting voices: Collaborative literacy initiatives for multilingual communities. [Alternative session accepted and to be given] Research Association Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV.

Reeves, M., Ventura-Kalen, K., Dobbs, C., Flint, T., Hao, L., Hwang, K., Kershen, J., **Pennington, V.**, Wickramaarachchi, T., & Xue, M. (2025, accepted). *Multimodal Authoring as Creative Reflective Practice: Leveraging Creativity, Openness, and Curiosity to Build Community*. [Alternative session accepted and to be given] Literacy Research Association (LRA) Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV.

**Pennington, V.** (2025, February). *Inverting the gaze: Four-year-olds re-composing a researcher in a multilingual prek classroom*. 2025 Clemson College of Education Graduate Research Conference, Clemson SC.

**Pennington, V.** & Rowe, L. W. (2025, April). *Multimodality, translanguaging, and community repertoires: Exploring second-graders' digital composing*. Paper Presentation to be given at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting (AERA).

Ferguson-Sams, N., Howell, E., Kaminski, R., Gazioglu, M., & **Pennington, V.** (accepted, 2025, April). Multilingual Voices: Modifying Professional Development Based on Student Perceptions of Literacy Learning. (Conference Roundtable), To be presented at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Conference. Denver, Colorado.

Gazioglu, M., Howell, E., Rowe, L. W., **Pennington, V.**, Ferguson-Sams, N., Mittapalli, K., & Banerjee, A. (2025, March). *From Home to Classroom: Supporting Multilingual Learners Through Family Literacy Initiatives*. Paper presentation to be given at the American Association of Applied Linguistics 2025 conference, Denver, Colorado.

**Pennington, V.**, Rowe, L. W., Howell, E., Ferguson-Sams, N., Gazioglu, M., Mittapalli, K., & Banerjee, A. (2025, February). *The ripple effect: The impact of multilingual literacy pedagogies on teachers, students, and families*. Paper presentation to be given at the National Council for Teachers of English Assembly on Research (NCTEAR). Columbus, Ohio.

**Pennington V.**, & Rowe, L. W. (2025, February). *Elementary multilingual learners composing and uncomposing roles in digital sticker play*. Paper presentation to be given at the National Council for Teachers of English Assembly on Research (NCTEAR). Columbus, Ohio.

- Reaves, M., Dobis, C., Ventura-Kalen, K., Callahan, L., Flint, T. K., Hao, L., Hwang, K., Kershen, J., **Pennington V.**, Wickramaarachchi, T., & Xue, M. (Accepted, January 2025). *Creating community through multimodal authoring: Creative reflective practice for education professionals* [Paper presentation accepted and to be given]. Hawaii International Conference on Education, Honolulu, HI.
- Howell, E., Rowe, L., Gazioglu, M., Ferguson-Sams, N., **Pennington, V.**, Mittapalli, K., & Banerjee, A. (2025, January). *Addressing instructional capacity for English learners* [Paper presentation accepted and to be given]. Hawaii International Conference on Education, Honolulu, HI.
- Pennington, V.** & Rowe, L. W., (November 2024). *Multilingual Learners' Multimodal Layers of Meaning Making in Digital Book Composing*. Paper presentation to be given at the 2024 LRA Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- Pennington, V.** (November 2024). *AI and Algorithms: Navigating our future through literacy*. Symposium to be given at the 2024 LRA Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- Gazioglu, M., **Pennington, V.**, Ferguson-Sams, N., Howell, E., Kaminski, R., Mittapalli, K., & Banerjee, A. (2024, May 8). *Advancing Multilingual Learners' Educational Experience Through Digital Tools*. Poster presentation given at the 2024 Clemson University Research Symposium, Clemson, SC.
- Howell, E., Kaminski, R., Gazioglu, M., Ferguson-Sams, N., **Pennington, V.**, Mittapalli, K., & Banerjee, A., (2024, April). *Modification-driven professional development for teaching multilingual learners*. Round table presentation to be given at American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- Ferguson-Sams, N., Howell, E., Kaminski, R., **Pennington, V.**, & Gazioglu, M. (2024, April). *Multilingual voices: Examining student perceptions of literacy learning*. Round table presentation given at American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- McGee, K., **Pennington, V.**, & Ferguson-Sams, N. (2024, February). *"What if this goes viral?" Engaging Preservice Teachers in Multimodal Responses to Multicultural Young Adult Literature Through #BookTok*. [Paper Presentation], National Council of Teachers of English Assembly on Research (NCTEAR) Annual Conference, Austin, TX (February 23-25).
- Pennington, V.**, Howell, E., Kaminski, R., Ferguson, N., Gazioglu, M., Mittapalli, K., & Banerjee, A. (2023, November). *Participatory Digital Composition for Multilingual Learners*. Paper presentation given at the 2023 Literacy Research Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- Gazioglu, M., Howell, E., Kaminski, R., **Pennington, V.**, Ferguson, N., Mittapalli, K., & Banerjee, A. (2023, November). *Developing Teachers, Community Members, and Academics for Multilingual Learners*. Paper presentation given at the 2023 Literacy Research Association, Atlanta, GA.
- Jerasa, S., Anagnostopoulos, J., Holcomb, E., Ely, L., **Pennington, V.**, Ferguson-Sams, N., & Hutchison, L. (2023). *Connecting the Science of Teaching Reading with Culturally Responsive Approaches to Support Pre-Service Teachers' Practice in Future Classrooms*. [Conference Roundtable], National Council for Teachers of English (NCTE) Annual Conference, Columbus, OH (November 16-19).

**Pennington, V.**, Howell, E., Kaminski, R., Ferguson-Sams, N., Gazioglu, M., Mittapalli, K., Banerjee, A., Cole, M. (2023, July). *CALL Crosswalk: The intersection of new media literacies and multilingual learning*, Paper presentation given at International Science and Technology Conference, Rome, Italy.

Howell, E., Kaminski, R., Pirolla, T., Mittapalli, K., Banerjee, A., **Pennington, V.**, & Ferguson, N. (2023, April). *Needs assessment toward building district capacity for English Learners*. Round table presentation given at American Educational Research Association (AERA) Conference, Chicago, IL.

Gazioglu, M., Howell, E., Kaminski, R., **Pennington, V.**, Ferguson, N., Mittapalli, K., & Banerjee, A. (2023, May). *Modifying for Capacity Building of Multilingual Learner Instruction*. Poster presentation given at the 2023 Clemson University Research Symposium, Clemson, SC.

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## PRACTITIONER AND OTHER CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

**Pennington, V.**, Luneckas, L., Foerster, J. (Under Review). *Play, Purpose, and Possibility: A Museum Preschool in the Making*. To be given at the Association of Children's Museums Annual Conference. San Diego, CA.

Oates, M., & **Pennington, V.** (2025, July). *From Play to Print: Collaboration, observation, and early writing for multilingual learners*. Greenville County Schools Summer Academy, Greenville, SC.

McGee, K., **Pennington, T.**, (2024, February). *Let's Get Digital: Developing critical consciousness through multimodal responses to diverse YAL*. 2023 Clemson College of Education Graduate Research Conference, Clemson SC

Gazioglu, M., Howell, E., Kaminski, R., **Pennington, V.**, & Ferguson, N. (2023, October). Enhancing Support for Multilingual Learners: Harnessing Teachers' Perspectives in Designing a Literacy Course for Caregivers. Conference presentation given at the 2023 Bilingualism Matters Research Symposium, Columbia, SC.

McGee, K, **Pennington, V.**, Ferguson, N., Rowe, L. W. (2023, November). *Reaching New Audiences: Creating #BookToks in Response to Culturally Sustaining Young Adult Literature*, Workshop given at the 2023 ALAN Review Annual Conference, Columbus, OH.

Crook, K., **Pennington, V.**, Turner, M, Jones, M. (2023, July). *Multilingual Learner Teacher Swap Shop*. Workshop given at the 2023 South Carolina Multilingual Learner Program Conference, online. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUMk2\\_VfjLQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUMk2_VfjLQ)

Gazioglu, M., **Pennington, V.**, Howell, E., Kaminski, R., & Ferguson, N (2023, July). *Building Bridges: Ways to Strengthen the Relationship between Teachers and Caregivers of Multilingual Students*. Conference presentation given at the 2023 South Carolina Multilingual Learner Program Conference, online. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2xXdmgovo2E>

McGee, K., **Pennington, T.**, (2023, February). *Let's Get Critical: Engaging students in critical literacy through interactive read-alouds*. 2023 Clemson College of Education Graduate Research Conference, Clemson SC

**Pennington, T.** (2022, May). *Dipping into online writing instruction*. 2022 National Writing Project in the South Conference, Virtual.

**Pennington, T.** (2021, December). *Digital engagement for Multilingual Learners*. 2021 Carolina TESOL Conference, Virtual

**Pennington, T.** (2021, October). *Google slides stretch: increasing engagement for MLs in the classroom*. Greenville County Schools, Virtual.

**Pennington, T.** (2021, July). *Utilizing games to engage multilingual learners*. Greenville County Schools Summer Academy, Virtual

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## **MEDIA INTERVIEWS AND APPEARANCES**

Susan Clarke (Interviewer). (2021). Greenville County Schools teacher appreciation week spotlight: **Tory Pennington**, ESOL virtual teacher [Video interview]. <https://fb.watch/hRlrNPxB62/>

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## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND INVOLVEMENT**

### **Invited Talks and Guest Lectures**

Guest Lecturer, *Preschool Parent Partnerships and the Reggio Emilia Philosophy*. Dr. Jill Shelnut, Clemson University (Fall, 2023)

Guest Lecturer, *Engaging Families of Multilingual Learners*. Dr. Jill Shelnut, Clemson University (April, 2024)

Guest Lecturer, *Multimodal Composition for Multilingual Learners*. Dr. Katie Kelly, Furman University (April, 2024)

Guest Lecturer, *Multilingualism, Multimodality and Transdisciplinary Literacies in Early Childhood Education*. Dr. Stephanie Madison, Clemson University (September, 2024)

Guest Lecturer, *The Academic and Industry Job Search*. Dr. Heather Dunham, Clemson University (March, 2025).

### **Peer Reviewer**

Reviewer, *Literacy Matters, The Journal of the Palmetto State Literacy Association*, Summer 2023, 2024

Reviewer, *Journal for Multicultural Education*, Fall 2023

Reviewer, *Teaching/Writing: The Journal of Writing Teacher Education*, Spring 2024

Reviewer, *Literacy Research: Theory, Method, Practice*, Spring 2024

### **Professional Leadership Positions**

Board Member, Carolina Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (2020-present)



Copy Editor, Content Committee Team, South Carolina Multilingual Learner Network  
(2022-Present). <https://www.scmlle.org/home>

American Educational Research Association (AERA) Writing and Literacies SIG, Doctoral Student  
Board - (Spring 2023- Present)

International Literacy Association (ILA) Children's Literature and Reading SIG, Children's Literature  
Reviewer, (Fall 2022- Present)

Literacy Research Association (LRA) Doctoral Student Innovative Community SIG: Technology Team  
Chair [Elected Position] (Spring 2023-Present)

Literacy Research Association (LRA) Authoring as Multimodal Practice Study Group, Learning  
Management Designer - (Fall 2023-present)

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

2019-Present International Literacy Association (ILA)  
Children's Literature Reviewer  
2022-Present Literacy Research Association (LRA)  
Doctoral Student Innovative Community Group, Technology Team Chair  
2022-Present American Educational Research Association (AERA)  
Writing and Literacies SIG, Communications Team, Podcast Host  
2023-Present National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)

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### **OTHER EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE**

2013-2014 – Floating Teacher, University of South Carolina Child Development Center, *Columbia, South Carolina*

2023 (ongoing) – Classroom Volunteer, Greenview Child Development Center, *Greenville, South Carolina*

2023 (Jan-May) – High School Newcomer ML Teacher, Donaldson Center for Career Development, *Greenville, South Carolina*

2023 (ongoing) – Substitute Teacher, First Baptist Day School [Reggio Emilia Preschool], *Greenville, South Carolina*

2024 (ongoing) – High School ML Teacher, The South Carolina Governor's School of Arts and Humanities, *Greenville, South Carolina*