

CLD 2019 Award Recipients

J. Lee Wiederholt Distinguished Lecturer

Dr. Michael Behrmann, *Professor Emeritus of Special Education; George Mason University*



Keynote address:

“Technology Rich Environments Demand Instructional Change: Are Teachers Ready?”

We are mired in old ways of teaching and need to use all of the strategies and tools we can to bring explicit instruction of reading and writing/spelling to every child with learning disabilities. Teachers are not empowered by their schools with adequate scientifically proven tools, and schools of education need to change what they’re doing. We also need to change policies as some state requirements actually prevent teachers from getting enough instruction on reading and writing. Changing practice to maximize accessibility is critical, with schools providing inclusive technology that opens doors to content so diverse learners can stay on grade level.

Biography: <https://cehd.gmu.edu/people/faculty/mbehrman/>

Outstanding Researcher Award

The Council for Learning Disabilities has awarded the 2019 Outstanding Researcher Award to Alex Smith. The award winner is selected from individuals submitting a paper based on their doctoral dissertation completed within the past 5 years. Dr. Smith will present his research during the Outstanding Researcher Presentation and Must Reads panel.

Alex Smith is an Assistant Professor at The University of Southern Mississippi in the School of Education. He received his Ph.D. at the University of Missouri where his advisor was Dr. Erica Lembke. His research interests include data-based instruction, the integration of academic and behavioral data, early writing, and culturally and linguistically responsive tiered systems of support for diverse students.



Floyd G. Hudson Outstanding Service Award

The Council for Learning Disabilities has awarded the distinguished 2019 Floyd G. Hudson Outstanding Service Award to Lori Severino. The award is given for outstanding performance and commitment by a professional who works in the field of learning disabilities in a role outside the classroom.

Dr. Lori Severino is an Assistant Professor in Special Education at Drexel University. Prior to joining Drexel in 2012, she taught for 26 years. Her teaching experience focused mainly on students with dyslexia. She teaches courses on literacy and struggling readers to undergraduates and graduates. Her research interests involve teacher preparation, dyslexia, and structured literacy interventions.



Must Read Award: *Intervention in School & Clinic*

The Must Read award is presented in acknowledgement of outstanding work published in CLD's two journals, Learning Disability Quarterly and Intervention in School and Clinic. In consultation with the editors of each journal, the Research committee selects one article from each journal to receive this award.

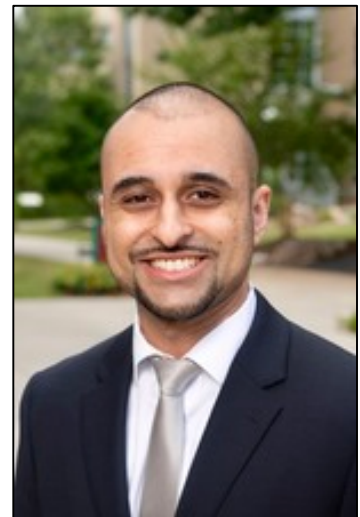
Tracy Spies is an Associate Professor of English Language Learning in the College of Education at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Her research focuses on the oral academic language development of bilingual students with and without disabilities. Her recent research projects include an analysis of academic oral language opportunities for students across content areas as well as a federally funded teacher development project in which she examines variables leading to shifts in teacher practice related to academic language development.



Must Read Award: *Learning Disability Quarterly*

The Must Read award is presented in acknowledgement of outstanding work published in CLD's two journals, Learning Disability Quarterly and Intervention in School and Clinic. In consultation with the editors of each journal, the Research committee selects one article from each journal to receive this award.

Rajiv Satsangi is an Assistant Professor of Special Education in the College of Education and Human Development at George Mason University. His research focuses on studying technology-based interventions in mathematics for promoting conceptual and procedural learning for students with a learning disability. His recent projects evaluated the use of virtual manipulatives and video modeling for teaching Algebra and Geometry curricula to students in inclusionary settings.



Teachers of the Year

The Council for Learning Disabilities recognizes outstanding teachers who are CLD members and who consistently provide quality instruction to students with learning disabilities. These teachers, selected by local chapters, provide direct services to students. The 2019 Teacher of the Year recognition goes to Jessica Draper from Virginia, Julia Mackay from Colorado, and Veronica Twining from Texas.

Jessica Draper is a Special Education teacher at Galax Elementary School in VA. She serves as an RTI specialist not only for the school but for the county as well. Her academic credentials include two Master's degrees, the most recent being an Administrative Leadership in Special Education.



Mrs. Julia Mackay has been a Special Education teacher at Chipeta Elementary School in Colorado Springs School District 11 for 8 years. She is passionate about meeting the social, emotional, and academic needs of all of her students and all others with whom she interacts. Julia has a bias towards action. She analyzes strengths and weaknesses in our learning systems, explores and learns different strategies, and implements them. For example, her second-grade students are engaged in project-based learning to set up a marker recycling program and her fifth graders engage in flipped learning for math. This drive and passion to meet student needs exemplifies Julia Mackay as a Special Education



Teacher. Prior to teaching, Julia was a Special Education Aid at Chipeta Elementary School for many years. She volunteered extensively in her children's classrooms and throughout the school. She was a troop leader for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts. Julia believes in supporting communities and engaging deeply with those around her. She is an asset to any organization or group with whom she works.

Veronica Twining is an enthusiastic and motivated mathematics educator with a passion for working with at-risk youth, students with varying learning disabilities, and diverse language abilities. She achieved her Texas teaching certificate in Math 4-8 and earned her B.A. in Mathematics from The University of Texas at Austin (2011) and a B.S. in Biology from The University of Texas at San Antonio (2007). Veronica is seeking National Board Certification in EA Mathematics. She is entering her 9th year in the classroom and she continues to aspire to develop a strong foundation of language acquisition in order to help her students cultivate deep connections between grade-level and future concepts and skills. She is in constant pursuit of learning best teaching practices to spark and foster students' curiosity in learning.

