

BIOGRAPHIES FOR SUMMER INSTITUTE 2017

Linda Bruenjes

Acting Director of the Center for Teaching and Scholarly Excellence at Suffolk University. Her primary role is to work collaboratively with faculty in the Schools of Business, Arts & Science and Law in their efforts to strengthen, improve, and assess teaching and learning in face-to-face, hybrid, and online learning environments. She currently serves as the campus coordinator for Quality Matters, and she has recently joined the New England Faculty Development Consortium Board. Prior to working at the University, Linda was the Assistant Dean for Teaching and Instructional Technology at MCPHS University as well as the Director of Online Learning and the Technology for Learning Center at Lasell College. During her 16-year tenure at Lasell College, she served as chair and faculty member of the Computer Information Science Department. Dr. Bruenjes earned the Ed.D. in Leadership in Schooling at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, an M.B.Ed at Suffolk, and a B.S. at Salem State.

Christopher Cratsley

Director of Assessment and Professor of Biology at Fitchburg State University. He oversees institutional and program level assessment initiatives, providing technical support and professional development for learning outcomes assessment. He is currently co-PI on the Davis Foundation funded Learning Assessment Research Consortium, presents at both national and regional assessment conferences, and represents Fitchburg State University on the Massachusetts Task Force on Statewide Assessment, as central region coordinator for Advancing Massachusetts Culture of Assessment, and as Institutional Lead for the Multi-State Collaborative for Learning Outcomes Assessment. Dr. Cratsley has served for 6 years as Director of Assessment and has over 10 years of experience as a faculty member in Biology and Chemistry, including serving as both Graduate Program Chair and Interim Department Chair. He has served as Co-PI on two collaborative National Science Foundation Grants, supporting student-faculty research on behavioral ecology and teacher preparation in science and engineering, as well as AAC&U, Massachusetts DHE and DESE grants supporting professional development, curriculum redesign, learning outcomes assessment and science teacher preparation. Dr. Cratsley received his PhD in Biology from Tufts University and completed the Undergraduate Teacher Education Program and his Bachelor's Degree at Brown University.

Lisa Hansen

Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science and the Associate Coordinator of Assessment at Western New England University. Her current assessment interests include inter-rater reliability, assignment design, assessing general education, and fostering a culture of assessment. As a mathematician, she is passionate about the mathematical preparation of elementary teachers and enjoys teaching courses that fall in the intersection of mathematics and computer science. She earned the Ph.D. in Mathematics with emphasis in Graph Theory and Computer Science from Western Michigan University.

Jennifer H. Herman

Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching at Simmons College and Associate Professor of Practice in Education. She develops and facilitates research-based professional development opportunities for faculty around teaching and scholarship, and provides structured support for curriculum design at all curricular levels. She is currently a Co-Principal Investigator on three major grant-funded projects, regularly presents at both national and international conferences, and facilitates multiple high-impact signature programs, including course design institutes, a teaching institute for Harvard Medical School, and faculty writing retreats. She has also worked as a curriculum development consultant and writing coach for over 10 years, including designing training programs and curricula for the U.S. Department of State and the New York State Small Business Development Center. Herman received her Ph.D. in Higher Education from the State University of New York at Buffalo and her M.A. in International Training and Education from American University.

Patricia O'Brien, SND

Senior Vice President, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Previously, she worked at Bridgewater State University as Director of Institutional Research and Assessment, later as associate Vice President for Planning and Assessment. She was a former adjunct faculty member at Harvard University and Emmanuel College in Boston. Ms. O'Brien received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Wellesley College and a Master of Arts in Education from Harvard University.

Josephine Rodriguez

Director of Assessment at Western New England University. For over a decade, she was the Director of the Math Center at Western New England and, prior to that, she taught Mathematics at Trinity College in Hartford, CT. Since 2008, she has been involved in institutional assessment and accreditation endeavors. She has presented at regional and national conferences on topics such as assessing general education, measuring inter-rater reliability, program assessment and assessing co-curricular learning outcomes. She earned a master's degree in Mathematics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Biology at Providence College.

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