**Caroline M. Fitchett, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor of Special Education

California State University San Bernardino

Watson College of Education, Room 228

San Bernardino, CA

caroline.fitchett@csusb.edu

**Education and Professional Credentials**

**Degrees**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ph.D. | 2023 | University of Louisville, Louisville, KY | Curriculum and Instruction |
| M.S. | 2020 | University of Louisville, Louisville, KY | Teacher Leadership/Autism |
| B.A. | 2017 | University of Louisville, Louisville, KY | Special Education/Elem. Education |

**Previously Held Licenses**

KMS: Professional Certificate for Teaching Exceptional Children, Moderate and Severe Disabilities, Grades Primary Through 12

KEL: Professional Certificate for Teaching In Elementary School, Primary Through Grade 5

**Professional Experiences**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2023 | California State University San Bernardino, Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, and Counseling |
|  | *Assistant Professor* (2023) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2017 - 2020 | Exceptional Children’s Teacher (students with moderate/severe intellectual disability), Churchill Park School, Louisville, KY |
| 2017 - 2019 | Mentor Teacher to Multiple Practicum Students |
| 2017 | International Teaching in Belize |

**Honors and Leadership**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2023 | College of Education Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award |
| 2019 | Selected to introduce Alumni Fellow of the Year in Education at the  University of Louisville Alumni Awards Ceremony |
| 2018 - 2021 | Graduate Student Council Department Representative |
| 2018-2019 | Graduate Student Ambassador |
| 2017 | Delta Zeta Award (for achievement, leadership, and service in the field) |
| 2017 | Summa Cum Laude recipient (B.A.) |
| 2016 - 2017 | President of Kappa Delta Pi Academic Honors Society |

**Publications**

**Journal Articles**

**Fitchett, C.**, Courtade, G., Mims, P., Landrum, T., Sheffield, C. (in review). Using graphic novels to teach economics content to high school students with extensive support needs. *Journal of Special Education.*

Newton, N., **Fitchett, C.**, Norberg, S. (in review). Engagement Access Through Story-Based Lessons: A Strategy Description. *Research, Advocacy, and Practice for Complex and Chronic Conditions: A Journal for Physical, Health, and Multiple Disabilities Services*.

Newton, N., **Fitchett, C.**, Norberg, S. (in preparation). Intellectual Access Through Story-Based Lessons: A Strategy Description. *Research, Advocacy, and Practice for Complex and Chronic Conditions: A Journal for Physical, Health, and Multiple Disabilities Services*.

Elliott, M., Long, A., Pollard, J. M., **Fitchett, C.,** & and Courtade, G. (2024). Bridging the rural special educator gap: Mentoring to support alternative teacher preparation candidates. *Rural Special Education Quarterly*, *43*(1). Online first.

**Book Chapters**

Wood, L., **Fitchett, C**., Spooner, F. (in preparation). Expanding cultural and social competence through social studies. In G. Courtade, F. Spooner, D. Browder (Eds), *Teaching Students with Moderate and Severe Disabilities: 3rd Edition.* Guildford.

Courtade, G., **Fitchett, C**., Jimenez, B. (in preparation). Using assessment data for planning standards-based individualized education programs. In G. Courtade, F. Spooner, D. Browder (Eds), *Teaching Students with Moderate and Severe Disabilities: 3rd Edition.* Guildford.

**Fitchett, C.** & Purser, J. (2024). Social studies for the inclusive classroom. In B. L. Hott & P. Williamson (Eds.), *Quality Instruction and Intervention: Strategies for Elementary Educators.* Rowman & Littlefield.

Walte, S. **Fitchett, C.,** & Courtade, G. (2022). Using student assessment data, analyzing instructional packages, and making necessary adjustments that improve student outcomes. In R. Pennington, M. J. Ault, G. Courtade, J. M. Jameson, & A. Ruppar (Eds), *High leverage practices: Ensuring access for students with extensive support needs.* Routledge.

**Presentations**

**National Presentations: Refereed**

**Fitchett, C.** (2025, January). *Charting new territories: Designing accessible social studies instruction.* International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disability and Other Developmental Disabilities (DADD). Clearwater, FL.

**Fitchett, C.** & Wood., L. (2025, January). *Evaluating the effects of a social studies curriculum for elementary students with ESN*. International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disability and Other Developmental Disabilities (DADD). Clearwater, FL.

Courtade, G. & **Fitchett, C.** (2024, March). *Publishing and reviewing in Rural Special Education Quarterly*.American Council on Rural Special Education (ACRES), Las Vegas, NA.

**Fitchett, C.** (2024, January). *Using graphic novels to teach economics content to high schoolers with extensive support needs.* International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disability and Other Developmental Disabilities (DADD). Honolulu, HI

**Fitchett, C.** & Pollard, J. (2023, March) *Mentoring alternative certification teachers: Teacher candidates’ experiences and preferences.* Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), Louisville, Kentucky.

Courtade, G. & **Fitchett, C.** (2023, February). *Publishing and reviewing in Rural Special Education Quarterly*.American Council on Rural Special Education (ACRES), Pittsburg, PA.

**Fitchett, C.** (2023, January)*What about social studies for students with ESN? A review of the literature.* International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disability and Other Developmental Disabilities (DADD). Clearwater, FL.

**Fitchett, C.,** Hott, B., Courtade, G., & Boveda, M. (2022, November) *Special education journals: Who is publishing and who is reviewing?* Council of Exceptional Children, Teacher Education Division (TED), Richmond, VA.

Courtade, G., Ault, M., & **Fitchett, C.** (2022, March) *Publishing in and reviewing for rural special education quarterly.* American Council on Rural Special Education (ACRES). Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

**Fitchett, C.,** Heiniger, S., & Webster, F. (2022, March)*Rural special education quarterly: A review of publications and author Data over the last decade*. American Council on Rural Special Education (ACRES), Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

**Fitchett, C.,** Elliott, M., & Pollard, J. (2022, March) *What’s working in an ATP program? Survey results and next steps for program development.* American Council on Rural Special Education (ACRES), Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Courtade, G., Wakeman, S., Jimenez, B., **Fitchett, C.,** & Taber Doughty, T. (2022, January). *Developing, planning for, and using assessment data for students with ESN: HLPs for assessment.* International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disability and Other Developmental Disabilities (DADD). Clearwater, FL.

Courtade, G., Elliot, M., Long, A., **Fitchett, C., &** Pollard, J. (2022, Jan.16) *Ready or not? feedback from teachers of students with ESN in an alternative teacher preparation program on their preparedness for implementing HLPs*. Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), Orlando, Florida.

Hott, B., Courtade, G., & **Fitchett, C.** (2022, Jan.16) *Special education journals: Who is publishing and who is reviewing?* Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), Orlando, Florida.

Landrum, T., Page, D., & **Fitchett, C.** (2021, Nov.3) *Building relationships with evidence-based behavioral interventions: Guidelines for teacher educators*. Teacher Education Division (TED), Fort Worth, Texas.

Heiniger, S., **Fitchett, C.,** & Webster, F. (2021, Nov. 3) *Single case research design: Guidelines and training advancements*. Teacher Education Division (TED), Fort Worth, Texas.

**Fitchett, C.,** Courtade, G., & Hott, B. (2021, November). *Special education journals: Who is publishing and who is reviewing?* Annual Conference of the Teacher Education Division (CEC) Conference. Fort Worth, TX.

**State and Regional Presentations: Refereed**

**Fitchett, C.** & Gage, N. (2024, November). *Rural special education quarterly: Exploring issues facing rural special educators.* Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI). Regional Conference, Virtual.

Courtade, G. & **Fitchett, C.** (2022, November) *Reviewing and Publishing in Rural Special Education Quarterly (RSEQ*). Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI). Regional Conference, Virtual.

Elliott, M., Long, A., **Fitchett, C.,** & Pollard, J. (2022, April 29) *What’s working in an ATP program? Survey results and next steps for program development: HLPs, cultural competencies, & more.* KEEP Kentucky Excellence in Educator Preparation (KEEP) Summit. State Conference, Virtual.

Courtade, G., Hott, B., Berry, A., & **Fitchett, C.** (2021, Nov. 18) *Rural special education quarterly: Discussion of issues facing rural special educators.* Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI). Regional Conference, Virtual.

**Fitchett, C.,** Courtade, G., & Walte, S. (2021, Sept. 25) *Progress monitoring and high leverage practices for students with extensive support needs.* Kentucky Association for Teacher Educators (KATE). State Conference, Virtual.

**Fitchett, C.** (2021, April 24) *Virtual structured literacy instruction for students with intellectual disabilities*. Kentucky Excellence in Educator Preparation (KEEP) Summit. State Conference, Virtual.

**Fitchett, C.** & Delano, M. (2018). *Making it meaningful: Shared reading strategies for students with autism spectrum disorder and low incidence disabilities*. Kentucky Excellence in Educator Preparation (KEEP) Summit. State Conference, Lexington, KY.

**Fitchett, C.** & Delano, M. (2018). *Making it meaningful: Shared reading strategies for students with autism spectrum disorder and low incidence disabilities.*Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI). Regional Conference, Columbus, Ohio

**Fitchett, C.** & Delano, M. (2018). *Making it meaningful: Shared reading strategies for students with autism spectrum disorder and low incidence disabilities*. Graduate Student Regional Research Conference, Louisville, KY.

**Grant Work**

**Internal Awards**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Fall, 2024 | Academic Affairs Research Reassigned Time Award |

**Service to the Profession**

**Professional Organization Memberships**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2024 | Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), Complex and Chronic Conditions (CCC) |
| 2021-present | American Council on Rural Special Education (ACRES)  Ad-hoc Board Member as RSEQ Managing Editor (2021-2024) |
| 2019-present | Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities (DADD) |
| 2018-present | Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), Teacher Education Division (TED) |
| 2018-present | Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) |

**Editorial Work**

Editorial Board Membership

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2024 | *Journal of Special Education Apprenticeship (JOSEA)*, Review Board |
| 2023 | *Education and Training in Autism and Developmental Disabilities (ETADD),* Review Board |
| 2021, 2024 | *Rural Special Education Quarterly (RSEQ),* **Managing Editor** (2021-2024), Review Board (2024) |
| 2024 | *Rural Special Education Quarterly (RSEQ),* **Associate Editor** |

Reviewer

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2023 | *Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities (RPSD)* |

**Committee Work**

Professional Organizations

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2024 | American Council on Rural Special Education (ACRES)  Member- Research Committee |
| 2023 | American Council on Rural Special Education (ACRES)  **Chair**- Social Media and Communications |

College Level

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2024 | Research and Scholarship Committee (Member) |
| 2023 | Awards and Scholarship Committee (Member) |

Department Level

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2024 | Retention, Promotion, and Tenure Guidelines Committee (Member) |
| 2024 | Graduate Equity Fellowship Award Committee (Member) |

Advisory Boards

|  |
| --- |
| 2023 |

University Center on Developmental Disabilities (CSUSB)

**Other Service Activities**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2022 | CEC-DR Doctoral Student Scholars’ Seminar Nominee (not selected) |
| 2021 | Nominee for StudentDivision on Autism and Developmental Disabilities (DADD) Representative Candidate (not elected) |
| 2021 - 2024 | *Rural Special Education Quarterly*- Managing Editor |
| 2020 - 2022 | Alternation Certification Special Education Teacher Mentor |
| 2020 - 2022 | Graduate Student Ambassador |
| 2019 - 2022 | Graduate Student Council Department Representative  Research Grant Awarding Committee  Conference Planning Committee |

**Teaching**

**California State University San Bernardino**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Spring 2024 | ESPE 6663 | Methods for Students with Extensive Support Needs II |
| Spring 2024 | ESPE 6632 | Supportive Learning Environments (2 Sections) |
| Spring 2024 | ESPE 6620 | Student Teaching Supervision, Mild/Moderate |
| Spring 2024 | ESPE 6621 | Student Teaching Supervision, Extensive Support Needs |
| Spring 2024 | ESPE 6622 | Internship Supervision, Mild/Moderate |
| Fall 2023, 2024 | ESPE 6662 | Methods for Students with Extensive Support Needs I |
| Fall 2023, 2024 | ESPE 6632 | Supportive Learning Environments (2 Sections) |

**University of Louisville**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Spring 2023 | EDSP 611/440 | Curriculum and Methods II: Moderate/Severe Disabilities |
| Fall 2022 | EDSP 395 | Autism: Science, Identity, and Culture |

**Co-Teaching**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Spring 2022 | EDSP 611/440 | Curriculum and Methods II: Moderate/Severe Disabilities |
| Fall 2021 | EDSP 520 | Assessment of Students with Moderate/Severe Disabilities |
| Fall 2020 | EDSP 260 | Classroom Behavior Management |

**Teaching Refinement**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Summer 2024 | IRIS Seminar Course |
| Fall 2023 | CSU Equity-Minded Pedagogy Course |

**Master’s Thesis Advising**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| October, 2024 | Second Reader | Stephany Garcia, Early Signs of Autism in Babies and Toddlers | California State University San Bernardino |

**Doctoral Advising**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2024 | Core Doctoral Faculty | California State University San Bernardino |

**Guest Lectures**

December, 2024. *Doctoral seminar*. Guest lecture for first year doctoral students- taught by Tim Landrum, University of Louisville.

November, 2024. Lecture was part of the PRIME grant workshop series. Guest lecture on Data-based Decision Making and Goal Writing.

October, 2024. *Adolescent Development & Educational Theory.* Guest lecture for general education teacher candidates on Universal Design for Learning- taught by Jeanette Zambrano, California State University San Bernardino.

December, 2023. *Doctoral seminar*. Guest lecture for first year doctoral students- taught by Tim Landrum, University of Louisville.

August, 2022. *Professional doctoral seminar*. Guest lecture for first year doctoral students- taught by Brittany Hott, University of Oklahoma.