

# SUSAN HERNANDEZ FIEHRER

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## EDUCATION

**PhD. Education. The University of Texas**—Austin. Spring 2006.

Dissertation: *Exploring and Situating the Experience of Learning to Think Critically: A Case Study Highlighting the Student Voice*

- Coursework: education administration and programs, academic affairs and instructional leadership, cognitive psychology, curriculum and instruction, public affairs
- GPA: 3.96/4.0.

**MA Philosophy, University of Oklahoma**—Norman. Summer 2001.

*Thesis Title: Democracy, Education, and Culture*

- Coursework: Metaphysics, epistemology, logic, ethics
- GPA: 3.75/4.0

**BA English: Southern Methodist University** (Dallas). Spring 1997.

- Major: Literature (British, American, colonial, latino, and chicano) with a creative writing concentration
- Minor: Philosophy
- GPA: 2.88/4.0

**AAS: El Centro College.** (Dallas). Spring 1994.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**08/2017 to PRESENT: Professor and Philosophy Coordinator**

Liberal Arts Division, Cedar Valley College, Lancaster, Texas

### Teaching

- 4-4 course load (including distance learning sections)
- Introduce students to various significant philosophical issues and thinkers as well as the practice of philosophical analysis (introduction to philosophy, ethics, and logic)
  - Emphasis on philosophical method (Socratic questioning, testing of definitions, argument analysis/clarification, and argument construction)
  - Emphasis on character in thinking and learning, especially when acquiring new skills or thinking critically about big ideas and/or theories (explicit attention given to the character traits of good thinkers and learners and the student's identity as a knower)
- Utilize latest research on the brain and learning to enhance student performance
- Utilize diverse, engaging, interactive teaching methods that facilitate the learning of all students
- Utilize technology to advance learning goals (e.g., interactive, media-rich modules, SmartBooks, discussion boards, and online reading reviews)
- Advise students as requested and make referrals as needed

### Administrative

- TBA

**08/2006 to 08/2017: Professor**

Department of Philosophy, Religion, and Humanities  
Austin Community College, Austin, Texas

**Teaching**

- 5-5-2 course load (including distance learning sections)
- See bullet points for current position

**Other duties/projects (present and/or past)**

- Granted sabbatical: developed media-rich, interactive SoftChalk modules that help students become more cognizant of the link between mindset, character, thinking, and learning (made available to all and any interested professors).
- Service on Departmental Governance Committee (ongoing)
- Conduct professional evaluation (ongoing)
  - Conduct teaching observations (five to six professors per year; includes detailed write-ups and scoring)
  - Conduct one-, two-, and three-year teaching portfolios (three to four professors per year; includes detailed write-ups and scoring)
- Faculty ambassador: facilitate monthly informal gatherings to discuss teaching-related topics, problems, concerns, interests (one and a half years)
- Grant participant: program targeted struggling students, included section-embedded student support services and supplemental instruction (three years); included a six-hour course reduction
- Faculty coach: worked with colleagues to make data-driven decisions with respect to student learning outcomes (three years); led to the development of interactive argument modules used by many professors; included a six-hour course reduction

**09/2005 to 07/2006:** wrote my dissertation while living in Germany and traveling

**06/2002 to 09/2005: Education Specialist / Student Affairs Administrator**

Longhorn Link Program (TRIO/SSS), Academic Enrichment Services (AES),  
*Office of the Dean of Students (formerly known as "Retention Services"), University of Texas (Austin)*  
*Contributed to the development of first-generation, low-income students through a federally funded program focused on learning skills, college success skills, and graduation; Helped students make wise decisions, adapt to the institution, and learn how to solve their own problems*

- Assisted director with program implementation, compliance, and evaluation; Monitored progress of students, especially first-year students; Followed up with students who were placed on academic probation to ensure satisfactory academic progress; Provided personal, professional, and academic support through mentoring, advising, problem-solving, registration, and referrals
- Led efforts to design and facilitate student development opportunities; Coordinated workshops that encouraged students to pursue graduate studies; mentored said students; Worked with peer advisors to design and coordinate workshops and events relating to students' general well-being, leadership skills, and cultural enrichment; Designed and facilitated *Travel and Learn* opportunities, packaging visits to graduate schools, leadership development, and cultural enrichment into one travel opportunity—throughout the nation (included annual trip to National Conference on Undergraduate Research)
- Assisted in the supervision of peer advisors: facilitated commitment to program and departmental mission; supervised professional development; evaluated performance
- Contributed to the overall mission of the program, Academic Enrichment Services, the Office of the Dean of Students, and the university: led Academic Enrichment Service's efforts to reconstruct mission statement, philosophy statement, and code of ethics; led efforts to establish new identity of a former retention office to reflect new potential-based model; Served on committee to rethink and rewrite the mission statement for the Office of the Dean of Students in a manner that achieved the

“buy-in” of all DOS staff (60+ full staff); Served on Student Success Conference (for UT faculty and staff) Team: Co-chair of marketing and recruitment campaign

**08/2003 to 05/2004: Assistant Instructor** (part-time appointment)  
 Spring 2004: Teaching Assistant (functioned as instructor on record)  
 Fall 2003: Instructor (not on record)—College of Natural Sciences  
 College of Liberal Arts and College of Natural Sciences  
 University of Texas, Austin

*Developed and taught new critical thinking seminar targeting first-generation, low-income, students who were mostly from under-represented backgrounds*

### Teaching

- Emphasized higher-order thinking and learning
- Utilized diverse, engaging, interactive teaching methods to facilitate the learning of all students

### Instructional leadership

- Led Academic Enrichment Services faculty team on the development of the curriculum and selection of effective instructional strategies (syllabus creation, text book selection, and professional development opportunities)
- Collaborated with key academic units in setting up and advertising course to students and the UT community; Worked with Texas Interdisciplinary Program in thinking about and further developing the seminar for students from under-represented backgrounds

**2001/05 to 2005: Assistant Professor** (adjunct)  
 Department of Philosophy, Religion, and Humanities  
 Austin Community College, Austin, TX

- Introduced students to various significant philosophical issues and thinkers as well as the practice of philosophical analysis (introduction to philosophy)
- Strong emphasis on critical thinking skills, problem solving skills, questioning, and intellectual attitudes required of fair-minded thinking
- Utilized diverse, engaging, interactive teaching methods to facilitate the learning of all students

**10/2002 to 02/2003: Research Associate** (temporary, part-time position)  
 Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE), University of Texas (Austin)  
*Utilized understanding of community college mission and programs, human relations skills, and communication skills to assist in the organization and administration of a major national study on quality student success initiatives*

- Assisted project manager in the development of campus visit materials; participated as the assistant moderator during focus groups
- Wrote up report for each campus visit (published by project administration); assisted in the development of the project video

**06/2002 to 05/2003: Tutor and Learning Specialist** (part-time position)  
 Longhorn Link Program (LLP), Academic Enrichment Services (AES),  
 Office of the Dean of Students (formerly known as “Retention Services”), University of Texas (Austin)  
*Contributed to the development of first-generation, low-income students through a federally funded program focusing on learning skills, college success skills, and graduation; Helped students make wise decisions, adapt to the institution, and learn how to solve their own problems*

- Assisted the program coordinator with administrative duties and program needs as assigned: formatted and edited program newsletter; conducted student assessment, provided academic advisement, registered students for classes
- Fostered and built commitment of team to mission of LLP and Academic Enrichment Services
- Participated in outreach to Austin Community College campuses

**08/2000 to 05/2002: Graduate assistant administrator, various appointments as needed/assigned**

Academic Enrichment Services (formerly known as "Retention Services")

Office of the Dean of Students, University of Texas (Austin)

*Assisted student support programs with student intake, assessment, advising, and registration and student development offerings; Appointments with various programs include the following*

Faculty-Staff Mentor Program

*Assisted program coordinator with the implementation, support, and evaluation of program in order to enhance the development of new students from diverse backgrounds*

- Promoted successful mentoring relationships; assisted in the recruitment of and orientation for faculty-staff mentors and student mentees; assisted in the coordination of social activities
- Served as mentor to diverse student population; advised students on personal, social, cultural, and career matters; offered encouragement and support for successful matriculation to UT
- Designed and managed mentor-mentee database; generated reports for program evaluation; monitored academic progress of mentees
- Developed program publications such as Mentor Handbook, newsletter, brochures
- Co-supervised peer advisors; led in professional development for advisors

Achieving College Excellence Program

*Educated, motivated, and inspired underserved, underrepresented students to consider the merits and utility of a graduate-level education*

- Developed an initiative to inform under-served populations of opportunities in graduate studies: guided students through the decision-making process
- Advised and made referrals as needed

Preview Program

*Assisted in the organization and execution of a summer bridge program focused on the successful matriculation of incoming under-served freshmen*

- Offered support, guidance, and encouragement
- Registered students for summer courses, tracked academic progress
- Designed weekly workshops related to academic, personal, and social aspects of college life; organized cultural enrichment activities

**01/1999 to 05/2000: Teaching Assistant**

Department of Philosophy

University of Oklahoma (Norman)

*Assisted professors with course operations and instruction; Academic appointments included courses in critical reasoning, introduction, and ancient*

- Graded homework, exams, and papers; monitored and tracked performance of students
- Held office hours, assisted students with comprehension
- Supported and participated in departmental programming

**07/1998 to 07/2000: Graduate Resident Director**

Housing and Food Services Office, Residence Life, University of Oklahoma (Norman)

*Assisted the hall coordinator with the daily operations of the largest residence hall at a major university*

- Co-supervised twenty-two resident advisors: coordinated and delegated duties; conducted monthly meetings; conducted comprehensive evaluations of job performance two times each semester; Assisted in resident advisor biannual orientations
- Co-supervised all resident check-in and closing periods; Monitored and tracked occupancy of residence hall with a capacity of fourteen hundred students; collected and compiled data on a weekly basis

**10/1997 to 07/1998: Advisor**

Student Support Services--SSS/TRIO

El Centro College (Dallas County Community College District)

*Contributed to the development of first-generation, low-income students and those with disabilities through a federally funded program focused on basic learning skills, college success skills, and graduation and or transfer to a four-year college or university*

- Developed and designed student assessment instrument for recruiting purposes; Contributed to the design and implementation of orientation processes
- Advised students on their degree programs and registered students for classes
- Coordinated transfer programming (to four-year colleges and universities): assisted students in selecting transfer school and suitable major; assisted students in designing and implementing course sequence consistent with professional, personal, and educational factors; identified contacts at area and state universities
- Coordinated academic workshops, technology workshops, and cultural enrichment programming
- Assisted students with crisis management and community agency referrals

**05/1997 to 10/1997: Interim Grant Coordinator**

Adult Resource Center, El Centro College (Dallas) (temporary, full-time position)

*Grants: Community in College and POWER (single parents/displaced homemakers grant)*

- Managed lending library; managed child care and parking reimbursement program
- Provided academic advisement and registration; assisted with crisis management

**08/1994 to 07/1997: focused on undergraduate coursework at Southern Methodist University****03/1992 to 07/1994: Department Assistant I**

Adult Resource Center

El Centro College (Dallas)

- Grants: Community in College and POWER
- Informed students of services offered; collected intake forms; made referrals
- Assisted coordinator with data collection for compliance reporting to various agencies
- Provided general administrative support

**SELECTED PRESENTATIONS, PANELS, & WORKSHOPS**

- **The Intellectual Virtues and Authentic Learning.**  
Professional Development Day at Austin Community College. August 2013.
- **Using the Elements of Critical Thinking to Move Your Organization from Ideas to Action**  
Presenter and Session Facilitator, National Conference on Student Leadership, Atlanta, GA, forthcoming April 4, 2005
- **Thinking that Meets High Standards: Leading by Example**  
Presenter and Session Facilitator, National Conference on Student Leadership, Atlanta, GA, forthcoming April 4, 2005
- **Professional *Interthinking*: How We Talk to Get Things Done in Higher Education**  
Presenter, Association of Professionals in Student Affairs (APSA) Professional Development Day, University of Texas, February 13, 2005
- **What Does Fair-mindedness Have to Do with Cultural Intelligence?**  
Guest Lecturer, Communication Studies, Jurgen Streeck, Associate Professor, College of Communications, UT Austin, January 2005
- **Communicating Respect and Care Through the Intellectual Virtues**  
Presenter, Association of Professionals in Student Affairs (APSA) Professional Development Day, *Mind, Body, and Spirit*, University of Texas—February 2004
- **Critical Thinking as a Form of Student Development: Implications for Retention and First-Year Courses**  
Presenter, Southwest Association of Student Services Professionals (SWASAP), *TRIO: Advocating Excellence for Educational Opportunities*, Nov. 2003

- **Taking Charge of Your Life and Learning: Empowerment for Young Women**  
Presenter and workshop facilitator, Longhorn Leadership Day, Kappa Delta Chi, University of Texas (Austin)—March 2003
- **ACC-UT Transfer Open House Day**  
Guest Speaker and Panelist, *Mooov-in On Transfer Program*, University of Texas—Fall 2002, Fall 2001
- 1. **On Leibniz' Monadology and Free Will**  
Commentator and Critic, Student Conference in Philosophy, University of Oklahoma (Norman)—Spring 1999

### **MINOR PUBLICATIONS**

1. "Character in Thinking and Learning: One Teacher's Classroom Practice" in the *National Forum on Teaching and Learning*, Vol. 25, No. 4. May 2016.
2. "Intellectual Entrepreneurship: A New Approach to Increasing Diversity." *College and University* 79.3 (Winter 2004): 39-4.
3. "Intellectual entrepreneurship: A new approach to increasing diversity." *College & University*, 79. (2004).
4. "Intellectual entrepreneurship: Educational vision and recruitment strategy." *Journal for Higher Education Strategists*, 2(1). (Spring 2004)
5. "Intellectual entrepreneurship: Successfully engaging hearts, minds in graduate education." *Black Issues in Higher Education*. (October 9, 2003).
6. "Increasing diversity by engaging hearts, minds." *Austin American-Statesman*. (September 6, 2003).

Items 2 - 6 were co-written with Richard Cherwitz who is a communications professor at the University of Texas at Austin; my name included "Boyd" at the time.

### **HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS, & FELLOWSHIPS**

#### **University of Texas**

- The Ellis Fellowship in Education
- The Culvert Fellowship
- The Community College Endowment Fund
- EDA Community College Education Program Scholarship

#### **University of Oklahoma**

- College of Liberal Arts Scholarship

#### **Southern Methodist University**

- Dean's List
- DCCCD – SMU Transfer Scholarship

#### **El Centro College**

- Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges
- Phi Theta Kappa Society