



REGIS UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Faculty Appointments

FALL 2013



Dr. Ellie Baldwin joins the School of Education as an Assistant Professor in Curriculum and Instruction/Assessment. Her areas of scholarly expertise include multicultural education, online curriculum development, and program assessment.

She joins Regis University from Jones International University, where she served as Dean of the School of Education. She has also held positions as an Associate Professor of Education at Metropolitan State College of Denver, where she served as Chair of Teacher Education and Mesa State College, where she earned tenure in 2007.

Dr. Baldwin has written a number of publications and spoken at several refereed conferences. She has served on numerous college committees, including Teacher Education Advisory Councils, search committees for faculty and departmental chairs, curriculum, and faculty senate. Her community service work includes presentations on cultural differences with children. Dr. Baldwin earned her Ed.D. from Washington State University's College of Education in Curriculum and Instruction of Diverse Learners and her MA and BA in Physical Education from California State University Chico.



Dr. Todd Fantz joins the School of Education, Graduate Secondary Licensing, as an assistant professor, where he will focus the program on STEM education. His areas of scholarly expertise include K-12 engineering and technology education, project-based learning in science classrooms, and the development of engineering self-efficacy through formal and informal experiences. He has written and coauthored articles for journals including the *Journal of Engineering Education*, the *Journal of Technology Education*, and the *Technology and Engineering Teacher*.

Before joining the School of Education, Fantz was an assistant professor of technology and engineering education in the Department of STEM Education at Old Dominion University. Building on his B.S. degree in Civil Engineering with an emphasis in structures, professional experience working as a structural engineer, M.A. degree in Physics Education, and teaching science at the secondary level, Fantz completed a doctoral degree in Engineering Education at Colorado State University in 2009. His dissertation “Pre-Collegiate Factors Influencing the Self-Efficacy of First-Year College Engineering Students” examined K-12 formal and informal factors that determine persistence and success in engineering programs.



Dr. Charles Igel joins the College for Professional Studies as an assistant professor in the School of Education. His areas of expertise include cooperative learning, metacognition, and the application of contemplative practices in educational settings.

Of particular interest is helping teachers develop mindfulness practices to foster resiliency and classroom environments supportive of learning and affective development. Charles is the co-recipient of numerous public and private grants. His scholarship has been presented at numerous conferences and is published in journals such as *School Science and Mathematics*, *The Middle School Journal*, and the *International Journal of Yoga Therapy*.

Charles holds a Ph.D. in Education with an emphasis on applied statistics and research methods from the Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia, and a Master of Teaching from Virginia Commonwealth University. Charles joins us from a Department of Education Regional Educational Laboratory where he served as a senior researcher on multiple research and development projects. Among these are an Institute of Education Sciences funded randomized control trial of a commercial vocabulary program, a meta-analysis of instructional techniques, and development of a mindfulness curriculum for preservice teachers. Prior to this Charles served as a licensed elementary teacher in Virginia and Colorado.



Assistant Professor **Dr. Linda Merkl** joins the College for Professional Studies, School of Education where she will serve as the Department Chair for the M.S. in Adult Education and Training. Her areas of scholarly interest include diversity discourse, faculty development, and adult learning. The practical focus of her work is helping students to recognize themselves as adult learners and matching instructor and student expectations.

Before joining the School of Education, Merkl was the Director of the Center of Professional Development at Arapahoe Community College. Throughout her career Merkl has worked with adult learners in a variety of settings including military, corporate, and higher education. Merkl earned her Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration: Adult Learning at the University of Denver in 2011 where her dissertation focused on the evidence of historical majoritarian values and beliefs within university diversity statements. While serving in the U.S. Navy, Merkl earned her M.S. in Systems Management from Capital College in Laurel, MD and her B.S. Business Administration from the University of West Florida in Pensacola, FL.



Dr. Jenny Nordman joins the School of Education as an Assistant Professor of Reading and Literacy and coordinator of the Master of Education in Reading program. Her areas of expertise include reading assessment and intervention, literacy curriculum, and evidence-based practices. She also has extensive experience in online higher education, curriculum writing, peer coaching, staff development, and classroom teaching. From 2005-2013, she served as an affiliate faculty member for Regis, receiving the Excellence in Teaching Award in 2011 and the Keystone Award for Curriculum Writing in 2005.

Nordman earned a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Teaching with a Reading emphasis from Northcentral University, where her dissertation focused on executive function and reading aptitude. She holds a Master of Education in Professional Leadership from Regis University, a Graduate Certificate in Early Literacy from the University of Colorado, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and education, also from the University of Colorado.



Dr. Sperry was a classroom teacher for children with autism and related disabilities for 8 years before serving as a state consultant for the Autism Division in South Carolina. She received her Ph.D. in Child Development and Family Studies and did postdoctoral work at the University of North Carolina , Chapel Hill where she worked with Division TEACCH. She has published numerous articles and written a book chapter related to ASD.

Dr. Sperry served as the State Director of Autism Services in Hawaii where she co-wrote performance standards and practice guidelines. She served as a co-principal investigator on a federal grant to support the professional development of people working with children with ASD .

Dr. Sperry was a co-principal investigator on a longitudinal treatment comparison study and has taught graduate level classes in child development and ASD at a number of universities. She has provided services to families and agencies in Australia, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Africa, Saipan, Jordan and Singapore and developed a school in Bangalore, India. She was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship's Senior Specialist position which allowed her to work in Australia from 2010-2012, establishing early intervention centers in rural and remote communities.