

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

College of Education
Faculty Curriculum Vitae

Donna E. Dugger Wadsworth, Ph.D.

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| Title Department Office Number Extension Email Address | Professor and Graduate Coordinator Special Education Curriculum and Instruction Girard Hall 108E 337-482-6415 dwadsworth@louisiana.edu |
| Education | Doctorate of Philosophy, Special Education Curriculum and Instruction, Louisiana State University Education Specialist, Early Childhood, University of Southwestern Louisiana Master's of Education – University of Southwestern Louisiana Bachelor of Science – Southern Illinois University Professional Certifications – Current Illinois Certification - Early Childhood Special Education, Elementary Education Learning Behavior Specialist I, Learning Behavior Specialist 1-Supervising Current Louisiana Certification – Childfind, Early Intervention/Noncategorical Preschool, Elementary Education, and Mild/Moderate Mental Impairment 1-12 |
| Teaching Philosophy | I believe as a teacher of future special education teachers I have a responsibility to model as many of the principles of our field as possible in my classes. I try to differentiate instruction and individualize my instruction as needed. I want to push each of my students to reach higher than they may believe possible and to provide the supports they need to reach those potentials. At the same time I want to foster their independence and motivate them in their desire to seek out new evidence based practices to meet the unique needs of their future students. I want to emphasize the importance of forming partnerships with families and other professionals to enhance the field of special education and in particular inclusive education. I want to provide concrete instructional content and pedagogy that will assist them in linking their new skills to real life experiences in the classroom. In order to meet the principles of individualized special instruction I need to stay current in the field and to model the importance of participating in ongoing professional development and professional learning communities to promote maximal learning for all children. |

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| <p>Bio</p> | <p>Throughout Dr. Wadsworth’s teaching career she has actively participated in community, state, university, and professional organizations at the local, state, and national levels in the areas of special education. At the community level Dr. Wadsworth is a member of Lafayette Parish Schools Community Transition Team, and Lafayette Parish Preschool Inclusion Committee.</p> <p>At the state level she was appointed by the LA Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to serve as higher education’s representative on the Louisiana Special Education Advisory Panel from 1995-2012. She was appointed by the governor of Louisiana to serve on State Interagency Coordinating Council for services to children Birth to three years of age with disabilities and their families from 2000 to 2008. She was selected in 2008 to serve as a member of the State’s Special Quest Leadership Team for inclusive early childhood education.</p> <p>At the university Dr. Wadsworth currently serves as Chair of the College of Education Commencement Committee since 2014, faculty advisor to the Student Council for Exceptional Children, member of the Faculty Senate since 2004, selected member of the university Academic Affairs Committee, the College of Education’s representative on the university Strategic Program Review Committee, Co-Chair and co-author of special education programs’ accreditation reports, and Program Advisor to the university LIFE (Learning Is for Everyone) Program for student with intellectual disabilities</p> <p>Dr. Wadsworth is an active member of the Council for Exceptional Children. She is currently a member of the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Executive Board and has served this organization as president, treasurer, finance chair and representative to its international delegate assembly. She is also an active member of the Division for Early Childhood of CEC and was an elected member of its international executive board for three years (2008-10). She has been a treasurer, secretary and president of the Louisiana Sub-division for Early Childhood.</p> <hr/> |
| <p>Courses Taught</p> | <p>Selected Courses Taught: SPED 405G – Foundations of Early Childhood and Early Intervention SPED 406G – Physical and Medical Management in the Classroom</p> |

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| | <p>SPED 414G – Interdisciplinary and Interagency Teaming</p> <p>SPED 420G – Reading, Instructional Program Planning and Implementation for Early Intervention Special Education</p> <p>SPED 422G – Working with Families of Young Children</p> <p>SPED 423G - Identification and Evaluation of Young Children</p> <p>SPED 428G – Language Arts Intervention for Students with Disabilities</p> <p>SPED 426G – Prevocational and Vocational Skills for Students with Mild/Moderate Disabilities</p> <p>SPED 453G – Methods for Secondary Students with Disabilities</p> <p>SPED 468 – Content Intervention for Secondary Students with Disabilities</p> <p>SPED 483G – Methods for Elementary Students with Disabilities</p> <p>SPED 474G – Assessment and Evaluation for Secondary Students with Disabilities</p> <p>SPED 484G – Assessment and Evaluation for Elementary Students with Disabilities</p> <p>SPED 491G – Foundations in Special Education</p> <p>SPED 507 – Clinical Education Diagnosis</p> <p>SPED 535 – Consultation and Collaboration in Special Education</p> <p>SPED 539 – Advanced Assessment</p> <p>SPED 560 and 561 – Elementary and Secondary Special Education Inclusion Internships</p> <p>SPED 890 – Contemporary Issues in the Education of Exceptional Learners</p> |
| Research Interests | <p>Inclusive education for all ages, Partnerships and collaboration with families and professionals, and Post-secondary education for students with intellectual disabilities.</p> |
| Teaching Experience | <p>-Teaching experience beyond UL Lafayette include adjunct instructor McNeese State University, guest lecturer at Southeastern Louisiana University and Louisiana State University.</p> <p>-Public school teaching experience in Illinois, Maryland, and Louisiana with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with disabilities, resource room with students with learning disabilities, and self-contained classrooms of students with cognitive disabilities.</p> |
| Selected Publications | <p>Trahan, M., Olivier, D., & Wadsworth, D. (2014-2015). Fostering Special Education Certification Through Professional Development, Learning Communities, and Mentorship. <i>Journal of the American Academy of Special Education Professionals (JAASEP)</i></p> |

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| | <p>Wadsworth, D. E. (2014) Diversity in the Classroom. In W. A. Rieck <i>Teaching in Secondary Schools</i>, 5th edition. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishing Co.</p> <p>McCartney, R. W. & Wadsworth D.E. (2013). Learning Benefits for K-5 Students with Pets and Other Living Organisms on the Environmental Playground. <i>Teaching and Learning</i>, 8(1) 35-55.</p> <p>McCartney, R. W. & Wadsworth D. (2012). Middle School Students with Exceptional Learning Needs Investigate the use of Visuals for Learning Science. <i>Teaching and Learning</i>, 7(1), 1-20.</p> <p>Rieck, W. A., Dugger-Wadsworth, D. E. and Bourque, A. (September 2011). <i>Making PDS Work for Inclusive Special Education</i>. PDS Partners, 7(2), 7-8.</p> <p>Wadsworth, D. & Handler, B. (2011). <i>The History of Special Education in Louisiana</i>, Richardson, Crain-Dorough, Lane, and Roberts(Eds.),. <i>Education in Louisiana</i>, Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishing Co.</p> <p>Rieck, W. A. & Wadsworth, D.E. (2008-9) From Broadway to the Classroom. <i>The Clearing House</i> 81(4), 165-168.</p> |
| Presentations | <p>2018, July 26. Invited presenter to Governor’s Symposium on the American Disabilities Act. “Post-Secondary Education.” With C. Jurisich, Baton Rouge, LA</p> <p>2018, April 20. “Crumbling the wall of a university to build meaningful relationships” with Caroline Jurisich and Keita Rone Wilson at SEPSEA Compacity Building Institute in Memphis, TN.</p> <p>2017, July 27. Invited presenter to Governor’s Symposium on the American Disabilities Act. “Post-Secondary Education Opportunities for Students with Disabilities in Higher Education.” With Caroline Jurisich, Baton Rouge, LA</p> <p>2017, January 30, “Firing Up Synapses: The Importance of Authentic Experience and Intentional Play” with Dr. Roxanne Bourque. Louisiana 36th Super Conference on Special Education, Lafayette, LA</p> |

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| <p>Presentations</p> | <p>2017, January 31, “ Successful Creation of a Post-Secondary University Program for Students with Intellectual Disabilities” with Dr. Maria Ruiz, Mary Carolyn Duffy, Caroline Jurisich and students. Louisiana 36th Super Conference on Special Education, Lafayette, LA.</p> <p>2016, November 10, “Creating Space for Professional Dispositions Training within a Special Education Teacher Preparation Program.” with Dr. Maria Ruiz, National Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children Conference, Louisville, KY</p> <p>2016, November 11, “Learning is for Everyone” with Dr. Maria Ruiz, National Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children Conference, Louisville, KY</p> <p>2016, April 13, “One Partnership with Families in Play: A literacy and sensory carnival with Roxanne Speer. International Council for Exceptional Children Conference, St. Louis, MO</p> <p>2016, Jan 26, “Super Play Days for Teachers, Parents, and University Students” with Roxanne Speer. Louisiana 35th Super Conference on Special Education, Lafayette, LA</p> <p>2015, November 6, “Taking the Preparation of Early Childhood Teacher Candidates One Step Further”. International Teacher Education Conference – Council for Exceptional Children, Tempe, AZ .</p> <p><i>2015 , January 26-27. “Special Education Teacher Certification: An Assessment and Professional Development Needs Model” with Dr. Mitzi P. Trahan and Dr. Dianne F. Olivier, Louisiana 34th Super Conference on Special Education, Lafayette, LA.</i></p> <p><i>2015 , January 26-27. “Collaboration, Mentoring, and Survival Skills for First Year Teachers” with Lauren Jeffrey, Cemone Credeur, Sultonah Scott, Amanda Clark, and Caroline Jurisich, Louisiana 34th Super Conference on Special Education, Lafayette, LA.</i></p> <p>2015, January 7. “Making Connections with your Graduate Program Coordinator”, Graduate School Orientation for New Students, Olivier Hall, University of Louisiana at Lafayette.</p> <p>2014 – October 9, “Play Benefits for All Children on an Integrated Playground”. Division of Early Childhood</p> |
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International Conference with R. McCartney and P. E. Wadsworth, Jr., St. Louis, MO

2014– January 27, “Different Perspectives: A Common Core Discussion” with G. Beckers, and D. Strauss. Louisiana 33rd SuperConference on Special Education, Lafayette, LA.

2013–November 9, “Using Pets and an Environmental Playground to Enhance Teacher Candidate and Student Learning,” with R. McCartney and P. E. Wadsworth, Jr., 35th Annual International Teacher Education Division Conference of the Council for Exceptional Children, Fort Lauderdale, FL

2013–January 28-29, “COMPASS: Where are We Going? A Panel Discussion with G. Beckers, D. Strauss, K. Guillot, J. LaFleur, S. Julian Robinson. Louisiana 32nd Super Conference on Special Education, Lafayette, LA

2013– January 28-29, “Creating a Playground that Enhances Learning Opportunities for ALL Children with R. McCartney. Louisiana 32nd Super Conference on Special Education, Lafayette, LA

2012, April “Play Benefits Enhanced On An Integrated Playground” with R. McCartney and J. Downs, International CEC Annual Convention and Expo, Denver, CO.

2012, April “Lessons from the Arts” with W. Rieck and P. Wadsworth, Jr. International CEC Annual Convention and Expo, Denver, CO.

2012, April “Collaboration to Improve Transition and Postschool Outcomes with L. Price and J. Downs, International CEC Annual Convention and Expo, Denver, CO.

2012, March “Administrators and Inclusion”, with W. A. Rieck, Professional Development Schools National Conference, Las Vegas, NV

2012, February “Fostering Special Education Certification Through Professional development, Learning Communities, and Mentorship with M. P. Trahan and D. F. Olivier, Southwest Education Research Association, New Orleans, LA

2012, January “Science Learning on the Playground for all Children”. With R. McCartney, LA Super Conference on Special Education, Lafayette, LA

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| | <p>2012, January “Update on Transition in Louisiana” . LA Super Conference on Special Education, Lafayette, LA</p> <p>2011, March 13 “<i>Accent on Special Education</i>”, with W. A. Rieck, 2011 Professional Development Schools National Conference, New Orleans, LA</p> <p>2011, January 24-25. <i>Best Practices in Transition Academics</i>, half day workshop with L. Price, P. Bole, and K. Wilson, Super Conference on Special Education. Lafayette, LA</p> <p>2011, January 24-25. <i>Best Practices for Successful Employment</i>, half day workshop with L. Price, P. Bole, & K. Wilson, Super Conference on Special Education. Lafayette, LA</p> |
| Grants | <p>Graduate School Recruitment Grant for Special Education MAT Program, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, \$500., December 2012</p> <p>Putting a Face on Transition, D. Wadsworth, Project Director, \$48,000. (<i>LA Department of Education – IDEA Discretionary Funds.</i>) (2009-2011).</p> <p>Special Education Inclusive Professional Development Site Project from Louisiana Department of Education, IDEA Discretionary Funds, 2007-2010, funded, Wadsworth – Project Director in collaboration with W. A. Rieck, H. Beasley, and L. Prejean, Total \$377,224.</p> <p>Very Special Arts, W.A. Rieck Project Director, D. Wadsworth co-investigator, \$5000., 2008-2009.</p> <p>TOTAL Grants during tenure at university to present \$971,743.60</p> |
| Conferences Attended | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Southeastern Postsecondary Education Alliance Capacity Building Institute -State of the Art Conference on Post-Secondary Education -Think College, Syracuse, New York -International Conference -Council for Exceptional Children -International Teacher Education Division of CEC Conference -International Division for Early Childhood Conference -National Professional Development School Conference -Louisiana Super Conference on Special Education |

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| Professional Memberships | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Council for Exceptional Children -Teacher Education Division CEC -Division of Early Childhood CEC -Special Education Small Programs Caucus – TED -Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society -ASCD |
| Awards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Kathy Authement Prouet Endowed Professorship in Special Education 2004-2019 -Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children State Special Education Leadership Award – 2013 -University Outstanding Advisor – multiple years -Joan and Alexander Haig Endowed Professorship in Education 2000-2004 -Outstanding graduate – College of Education, USL 1998 -Chapter 376 Council for Exceptional Children Outstanding University Special Educator Award 1998 -Nominee National Student Council for Exceptional Children Advisor Award 1994-95 |
| Additional Skills | <p>Strategic Instruction Methods Training (SIM) University of Kansas.</p> <p>Special Quest Training – Inclusion and Head Start</p> |
| Dissertation | <p>“Understanding families’ definitions and perspectives of family-centered early intervention programs”.</p> |
| Other Professional Experience | <p>Consultant Claiborne Parish Early Childhood Education Programs,</p> <p>Consultant St. Landry Parish Early Childhood Education Programs.</p> <p>Service Coordinator Regional Special Education Service Unit for Low Incidence Disabilities</p> |
| Service - | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Established and co-direct Special Education Learning Clinic (2007-present)- tutoring services for students with disabilities in area school districts at university -Instructor as needed in the Intellectual Disabilities Project at the university/LIFE -In service provider in Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, and Vermilion Parishes |