



# April Sanders, Ph.D.

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## Education

**Ph.D., *Curriculum and Instruction (Specialization in Language & Literacy Studies)***

University of North Texas, Denton, TX (2013)

**M.Ed., *Educational Administration***

Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX (2002)

**M.A., *English Literature***

University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR (1996)

**B.A., *English Literature***

University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR (1995)

## Professional Certificates

**Principal (EC-12), *Texas Professional Certificate***

06/2003 - 04/2024

**Secondary English (6-12), *Texas Provisional Teaching Certificate***

08/1999 - 04/2024

## Research Interests

Research interests include the use of the New Literacies in the K-12 classroom and how pre-service teachers are prepared to teach in a modern classroom with the New Literacies.

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## Publications

Dixon, K., **Sanders, A.**, & Putman, R. (2018). Using microblogging as a social media tool for discussions in higher education classrooms. *The Journal of Social Media in Society*, 7(1), 339-365.

**Sanders, A.** (2018, April 29). A Study of courage and caring. [Review of the book *Early childhood literacy teachers in high poverty schools* by M. Landa]. *Teachers College Record*, <http://www.tcrecord.org>, ID 22344.

**Sanders, A.** & Isbell, L. (2017). "Preservice teachers' self-reflection practices when integrating educational technology in the classroom." (p. 254-271). In *Fostering reflective teaching practice in pre-service education* edited by Z. Djoub. IGI Global: Hershey, PA.

**Sanders, A.** (2016). Understanding the video game experience through reader response theory. *READ: An Online Journal for Literacy Educators*, 2(3), 45-62.

**Sanders, A.** (2016). Preservice teachers' perceptions of reader response and motivation when traditional and digital read-aloud are combined. *The Reading Paradigm* 10(1), 5-10.

Isbell, L., & **Sanders, A.** (2016, September). Incorporating modern professional development to enhance pre-service teachers' knowledge. *The Journal of the Effective Schools Project*, 23, 31-36.

**Sanders, A.** (2015). "Emotional response to gaming producing Rosenblatt's transaction." In *Emotional, Technology, and Digital Games*, edited by S. Tettegah & W.D. Huang, Academic Press.

## Publications

**Sanders, A.**, & Voorhees-Dixon, K. (2014). A brave new world: Pre-service teachers understanding and integrating new literacies in the language arts classroom. *The Reading Paradigm*, 8(1), 4-9.

**Sanders, A.** (2013). Safety for K-12 students: United States policy concerning LGBT student safety must provide inclusion. *Confero*, 1(2), 1-10. doi: 10.3384/confero.2001-4562.13v1i21c

**Sanders, A. M.**, & Mathis, J. B. (2013). Gay and lesbian literature in the classroom: Can gay themes overcome heteronormativity? *Journal of Praxis in Multicultural Education*, 7(1), doi: 10.9741/2161-2978.1067

**Sanders, A.** (2012). Rosenblatt's presence in the new literacies research. *Talking Points*, 24(1), 2-6.

Mathis, J. B., Bailey, A., Knezek, L., Morton, T., **Sanders, A.**, Shearer, R., & Stewart, M. (2011). Nonfiction access to information, insight, and imagination. *The Dragon Lode*, 29(2), 3-11.

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## Presentations

### National/International:

**Sanders, A.** & Dixon, K. (2018). *LGBTQ literature in the secondary classroom as windows and mirrors for young readers*. Presented at National Council for Teachers of English, Houston, Texas.

**Sanders, A.**, Dixon, K., & Putman, R. (2016). *The roles and functions of microblogging in the classroom discussion*. Presented at National Council for Teachers of English, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Sanders, A.** (2016). *Preservice teachers' perceptions of reader response and motivation when traditional and digital read-aloud are combined*. Presented at American Education Research Association, Washington, D.C.

**Sanders, A.** & Isbell, L. (2016). *Connect 2 Learn: Preservice Teachers' Perception of Modern Professional Development*. Presented at American Education Research Association, Washington, D.C.

**Sanders, A.** & Isbell, L. (2016). *Transforming professional development for preservice teachers using connected learning theory*. Presented at Southeast Education Research Association Conference, New Orleans, LA.

**Sanders, A.**, Putman, R., & Dixon, K. (2015). *Microblogging in the classroom*. Presented at Social Media Conference, Fort Worth, TX.

**Sanders, A.** (2014). *Parallels between the gaming experience and Rosenblatt's reader response theory*. Presented at American Education Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.

**Sanders, A.** & Stewart, M. (2014). *Pinning & clipping: Using Pinterest and EduClipper for ongoing professional development*. Social Media Conference, Fort Worth, TX.

## Presentations

### National/International:

Tunks, J., **Sanders, A.**, Ray, J., & Potter, C. (2013). *The Action of action research* Presented at American Education Research Association, San Francisco, CA.

Harris, M., Field, K., **Sanders, A.**, & Cranmore, J. (2012). *Policy Matters for Learners* Presented at Association of Teacher Educators, San Antonio, TX.

Tunks, J., **Sanders, A.**, Ray, J., & Potter, C. (2012). *The Action of action research* Presented at American Association of Teaching & Curriculum, San Antonio, TX.

**Sanders, A.** (2011). *Gay and Lesbian Literature in the Classroom: Can the Saturation of Gay Themes Overcome Heteronormativity?* Presented at Whole Language Summer Institute/National Council for Teachers of English, Las Vegas, NV.

Mathis, J., **Sanders, A.**, Knezek, L., Stewart, M., Morton, T. (2010). *Teachers as first responders in selecting literature for classroom Use: Rosenblatt invites understandings into literature selections for contemporary classrooms.* Presented at the National Reading Conference/Literacy Research Association, Fort Worth, TX.

### Regional:

Smith, M., ElBassiouney, A., & **Sanders, A.** (2018). *Partnering across disciplines: Engaging students in collaborations on writing assignments (Phase II of Study).* Presented at Conference on Teaching and Learning, Mobile, AL.

**Sanders, A.** & Isbell, L. (2017). *Self-reflection process for integrating educational technology in the K-12 classroom.* Presented at Digital Frontiers Conference, Denton, Texas.

Simmons, C. & **Sanders, A.** (2017). *Smartphones in the chemistry lab: Enhancing student engagement and learning through digital lab reports.* Presented at Conference on Teaching and Learning, Mobile, AL.

Smith, M., ElBassiouney, A., & **Sanders, A.** (2017). *Collaborative support for undergraduate writing.* Presented at Conference on Teaching and Learning, Mobile, AL.

Howell, A. & **Sanders, A.** (2016). *Use of interactive notebooks in social studies for increased reading achievement and engagement.* Presented at Alabama Reading Association Fall Conference, Huntsville, AL.

McHugh, H. & **Sanders, A.** (2016). *Designing a poetry slam to increase reading motivation with students.* Presented at Alabama Reading Association Fall Conference, Huntsville, AL.

**Sanders, A.**, Nelson, A., Wojda, C., & Ackels, M. (2015). **Reader's theater in the classroom.** Presented at Alabama Reading Association Fall Conference, Birmingham, AL.

## Presentations

### Regional:

**Sanders, A.** (2014). *Creation and use of a digital library for the elementary classroom*. Presented at Alabama Reading Association Fall Conference, Birmingham, AL.

**Sanders, A.** (2014). *Integration of digital read-alouds with preservice teachers*. Presented at Fourth Annual South Alabama Conference on Teaching and Learning, Mobile, AL.

**Sanders, A.** (2013). *Using comics for visual literacy*. Presented at Alabama Reading Association Fall Conference, Mobile, AL.

**Sanders, A.** (2012). *Using social media strategies in the ELA classroom*. Presented at the Texas Association for the Improvement of Reading, Denton, TX.

**Sanders, A.** (2011). *Using graphic novels in the classroom to understand visual literacy strategies*. Presented at the Texas Association for the Improvement of Reading, Denton, TX.

**Sanders, A.,** Horsely, L., Bailey, A. (2010). *Superheroes choose their destinies: The motivating power of choice during reading workshop*. Presented at the North Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts Conference on literacy, Bedford, TX.

**Sanders, A.,** & Dixon-Krauss, L.(2010). *UNT alumni perceptions and faculty response*. Presented at the Texas National Association of Multicultural Education, Denton, TX.

**Sanders, A.** & Ray, J. (2010). *Understanding culture with Fiesta Math Night and pre-service teachers*. Presented at The Texas-Jalisco Conference in Education and Culture, Denton, TX.

**Sanders, A.** (2010). *A Brave new world: Integration of New Literacies in the classroom*. Presented at the Educational Research Exchange, University of North Texas, Denton, TX.

**Sanders, A.** (2007). *Grammar is not a four letter word*. Presented at the Reading and Writing Conference at Region IV Educational Service Center, Houston, TX.

## Grants

2016-2018: **edTPA Pilot Program Implementation** awarded by the Alabama State Department of Education - assisted in writing grant, coordinated implementation of grant funds and pilot program, and prepared yearly reports on progress.

2015: **Mitchell Faculty Grant Recipient** awarded by Spring Hill College for research development. Research focused on digital read-alouds.

2014: Awarded Spring Hill College **Faculty Summer Research Grant** - Research focused on online professional development with preserve teachers (Connect 2 Learn Project).

## Teaching Experiences

### College/University

Fall 2013-Present

**Assistant Professor, Spring Hill College,  
Mobile, Alabama**

- Instruct courses in the field of literacy instruction
- Supervise student teacher interns (elementary and secondary)

Fall 2010-Spring 2013

**Graduate Teaching Fellow, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas**

- Instruct perspective teacher candidates in the field of literacy instruction
- Cadre Coordinator for Denton ISD - supervise and coordinate student teaching program for EC-6 interns in Denton ISD (<http://dentoncadre.weebly.com>)

Fall 2009-Summer 2010

**Graduate Research Assistant, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas**

- Conducted research focused on pre-service teacher education for Associate Dean of Students (College of Education)
- Assisted in NCATE Review preparation process (reports and data collection)

### **Adjunct Instructor**

- North Central Texas College, Denton, Texas (Fall 2011- Spring 2013)
- Eastfield College (Dallas Community College District), Dallas, Texas (Spring 2011)
- Angelina College, Lufkin, Texas (Fall 2001)
- University of Central Arkansas, Conway, Arkansas (Fall 1997-Spring 1998)
- Pulaski Technical College, North Little Rock, Arkansas (Fall 1997-Spring 1998)
- University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, Louisiana (Fall 1998)

### K-12 Experience

August 2004-July 2009

**Language Arts Curriculum Coordinator (K-12), Hudson Independent School District, Lufkin, Texas**

- Coordinated and supervised English Language Arts program and personnel
- Designed and implemented ELA trainings for K-12 teachers

August 2007-July 2009

**TAKS Testing Coordinator (Grade 3-11), Hudson Independent School District, Lufkin, Texas**

- Coordinated testing materials, trained test administrators, supervised campus test coordinators

August 2001-May 2004

**English Teacher, Hudson Middle School, Hudson Independent School District, Lufkin, Texas**

- Instructor for 7th and 8th grade English

August 1999-May 2001

**English Teacher, Pineywoods Academy Charter School, Lufkin, Texas**

- Instructor for 7th and 8th grade English

## Professional Educational Experience

### Educational Consulting

2010-2011

**Mockingbird Education: Curriculum Development and Alignment**

- Developed curriculum guides for teachers of high-risk students using cognitive strategies

### Educational Scoring

2010-2011

**Educational Rater for Measures of Effective Teaching (MET) Program - Educational Testing Service (ETS)**

- Scored teachers (nationwide) based on curriculum delivery and facilitation techniques

## Courses

### Spring Hill College

- **EDU 280: Literature and Creative Drama for Children**  
Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018
- **EDU 325: The Language Arts Program**  
Spring 2018
- **EDU 326: Foundations of Reading Instruction**  
Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018
- **EDU 331: Instructional Media and Technology**  
Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018
- **EDU 565: Reading in the Content Areas**  
Fall 2013
- **EDU 328: Diagnosis and Adjustment of Reading Instruction**  
Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018
- **EDU 329: Reading in the Content Areas**  
Fall 2017, Fall 2018
- **EDU 450: Strategies and Research: Teaching in the Secondary School**  
Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018
- **EDU 503: Curriculum, Instruction, and Teaching Methods in the Secondary School**  
Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2018
- **EDU 526: Research Methodology and Evaluation in Education**  
Spring 2015, Spring 2016
- **EDU 501: Strategies for Creative Classroom Management**  
Summer 2014, Summer 2015, Summer 2016, Summer 2017, Summer 2018
- **EDU 495: Internship in the High School**  
Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018
- **EDU 496: Internship in the Middle School**  
Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018
- **EDU 499: Internship in the Elementary School**  
Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2018

### University of North Texas

- EDSE 4060: Content Area Reading in Secondary Schools**  
Spring 2011
- EDRE 4860: Reading and the Language Arts in Grades EC-8**  
Fall 2010-Spring 2012; Fall 2012; Spring 2013
- EDRE 4870: Cross-Curricular (Content Area) Literacy Materials and Resources**  
Summer 2012
- EDRE 4840: Linguistically Diverse Learners**  
Summer 2012

### Adjunct Courses at Various Institutions

- ENGL 2311: Technical Writing**  
Fall 2012; Spring 2013
- ENGL 1301: Composition I**  
Spring 1997-Spring 1998; Fall 2011; Fall 2012; Spring 2013
- ENGL 1302: Composition II**  
Spring 1997-Spring 1998; Fall 2001; Spring 2011-Spring 2012; Fall 2012
- ENGL 2305: World Literature I**  
Fall 1998-Spring 1998
- ENGL 2306: World Literature II**  
Spring 1998
- HONC 1310: Honors College Core I - The Search for Self**  
Fall 1997
- HONC 1320: Honors College Core II - The Search for Community**  
Spring 1997; Spring 1998

## Service

2018: **Conference Volunteer for Registration & Exhibits Area**, National Conference for Teachers of English, Houston, Texas. Volunteered 4 hours at Registration Desk & 4 Hours in Exhibit Hall.

2013-2019: **Secondary Placement Coordinator**, Spring Hill College Education Department, Mobile, Alabama

2013-2019: **Academic Advisor**, 43 undergraduate students and 3 graduate students, Spring Hill College Education Department, Mobile, Alabama

2015-2019: **edTPA Coordinator**, Spring Hill College Education Department, Mobile, Alabama

2014-2019: **Department Website and Social Media Coordinator**, Spring Hill College Education Department, Mobile, Alabama

2017-2018: **Education Faculty Search Committee**, Spring Hill College, Mobile, Alabama

2015-2018: **Department Representative**, Faculty Development and Compensation Committee, Spring Hill College, Mobile, Alabama. Secretary for 2015-16.

2018: **Volunteer**, Mobile Literacy Festival, Hosted by Metro Mobile Reading Council for area K-12 students, Mobile, Alabama.

2018: **Program Review Committee Member**, Reviewed Program Proposal from English Department, Spring Hill College, Mobile, Alabama.

2017: **Member of Evaluation Committee for Choosing Online SRI**, Spring Hill College, Mobile, Alabama.

2015-2017: **Faculty Member** (Administrative Faculty Appointment from University of South Alabama) of Dissertation Committee for Ed.D. in Educational Leadership student, Amanda Jones.

2015-2017: **Member and Chair**, Statewide Literacy Initiative Committee, Alabama Reading Association. Chair for 2016-2017.

2014-2016: **Faculty Representative**, Committee of Student Affairs for the Board of Trustees, Spring Hill College, Mobile, Alabama.

2016-2019: **Department Representative and Chair**, Educational Technology Committee, Spring Hill College, Mobile, Alabama. Chair for 2016-2017.

2014-2017: **Member and Secretary**, Academic Standards Committee, Spring Hill College, Mobile, Alabama. Secretary for 2015-16.

2014-2015: **Biochemistry Faculty Search Committee, Served as non-science faculty member**, Spring Hill College, Mobile, Alabama

2014-2015: **Faculty Advisor to Sigma Kappa Sorority**, Spring Hill College, Mobile, Alabama

2014: **Instructional Design Specialist Search Committee**, Spring Hill College, Mobile, Alabama

## Service

2014: **Elected to serve on Academic Standards Committee**, Spring Hill College, Mobile, Alabama

2014: **Cooper Travel Award Subcommittee**, Spring Hill College, Mobile, Alabama

2010-2011: **Curriculum & Instruction Faculty Search Committee**, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

2010-2011: **Doctoral Student Association - Vice-President**, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

2011: **Doctoral Student Association (DSA) Annual Conference** - University of North Texas - coordinated and organized all presentations, scheduling for keynote speaker, and designed conference booklet

2012: **Texas Association for the Improvement of Reading (TAIR) Conference** - University of North Texas - coordinated and organized all breakout presentations

## Editorial Work

- **Co-Editor**, *Journal of Teacher Action Research* (2016-Present)
- **Associate Editor**, *Journal of Teacher Action Research* (2016)
  
- Reviewer, *Journal of Homosexuality* (2018)
- Reviewer, *School Library Journal* (2013-Present) - See details below
- Reviewer, *Journal of Teacher Action Research* (2015)
- Reviewer, Informing Science + IT Education Conference (InSITE) (2015)
- Reviewer, *Talking Points* (2014, 2015)
- Reviewer, SIIA CODiE Awards (2016)
- Reviewer, *Current Issues in Education* (2012-13)
- Reviewer, *Learning and Instruction* (2013)



## School Library Journal Reviews

### Published reviews of adolescent and children's literature:

- May 2014: *The Secret Hum of Daisy* by Tracy Holczer (quote from review published on book jacket)
- June 2014: *Everyone Dies in the End: A Romantic Comedy* by Brian Katcher
- June 2014: *The Day in June* by Gayle E. Pitman
- September 2014: *Friends for Freedom: The Story of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass* by Suzanne Slade
- September 2014: *Alice + Freda Forever: A Murder in Memphis* by Alexis Coe
- September 2014: *This is a Book for Parents of Gay Kids: A Question and Answer Guide to Everyday Life* by Dannielle Owen-Reid and Kristin Russo
- November 2014: *Winnie: The True Story of the Bear Who Inspired Winnie-the-Pooh* by Sally Walker
- January 2015: *Channel '63* by Bruce Edwards
- February 2015: *Capital Days: Michael Shiner's Journal and the Growth of Our Nation's Capital* by Tonya Bolden
- March 2015: *When Everything Feels Like the Movies* by Raziel Reid
- October 2015: *Marvelous Cornelius* by Phil Bildner
- March 2016: *America's Tea Parties: Not One but Four!* by Marissa Moss
  - *Brave Like Me* by Barbara Kerley
  - *Lola Knows A Lot* by Jenna McCarthy and Sara Palacios (Published review pending)
  - *Super Bugs* by Michelle Meadows and Bill Mayer (Published review pending)
  - *Use Your Imagination* by Nicola O'Byrne (Published review pending)
- July 2015: *Dead Boy* by Laurel Gale
- October 2015: *Hidden Gold* by Ella Burakowski
- April 26, 2016: *The Nest* by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney
- June 2016: *What is Not Yours is Not Yours* by Helen Oyeyemi
  - *When Everything Feels Like the Movies* by Raziel Reid
- July 2016: *All the Single Ladies: Unmarried Women and the Rise of an Independent Nation* by
- August 2016: *Fastpitch: The Untold History of Softball and the Women who Played the Game* by Rebecca Traister
- September 2016: *Chasing the North Star* by Robert Morgan
- October 2016: *A Voyage in the Clouds: The (Mostly) True Story of the First International Flight by Balloon in 1785* by Matthew Olshan
- February 2017: *Top Dogs that Made History* by Elizabeth MacLeod
- April 2017: *The Cities Book*
- June 2017: *The Friendship Bracelet* by Arlene Stewart
- July 2017: *The Barrowfields* by Phillip Lewis
- October 2017: *The Underworld* by Kevin Canty
- January 2018: *Last Things: A Graphic Memoir about ALS* by Marissa Moss
- March 2018: *We Kiss Them With Rain* by Futhi Ntshingila
- May 2018: *Stray City* by Chelsey Johnson

## Professional Development Presentations

### Spring 2014:

Professional development for Forest Hill Elementary in Mobile County School District – Training focused on Use of Twitter as Professional Development for Educators.

### Fall 2014:

Presented at Dawes Intermediate School in Mobile County Public School District in Mobile, Alabama. Presentation: Using Tech Smackdowns for Professional Development.

### Fall 2014:

Presented at Mary B. Austin Elementary in Mobile County Public School District in Mobile, Alabama. Presentation: Tech Tuesday: Using EdPuzzle to Flip Your Classroom.

### Spring 2015:

Presented at Mary B. Austin Elementary in Mobile County Public School District in Mobile, Alabama. Presentation: Integration of Mobile Apps in the Elementary Classroom.

## Professional Memberships

- American Educational Research Association (2010-2017)  
Division B: Curriculum Studies  
Sig: Qualitative Research  
Sig: Queer Studies
- International Literacy Association (2015-2018)
- Alabama Reading Association (2013-2018)
- National Council of Teachers of English (2009-2018)
- North Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts (2009-2013)
- Literacy Research Association (2009-2013)
- Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts (2004-2013)
- Texas Statewide Network of Assessment Professionals (2004-2010)
- Texas Association of School Administrators (2004-2010)
- Association of Teacher Educators (2012-2013)
- American Association of Teaching and Curriculum (2012-2013)

## Awards

2017: **St. John Berchmans Award** awarded by Spring Hill College Student Organization and Leadership Awards - honors an individual who has fostered a love of learning in students.

2014: **Honorable Mention for Best Dissertation** in the College of Education, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

2010-2012: **Fellowship Recipient** for the College of Education, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

2010: **State Textbook Review Panel Member**, Texas Education Agency, Austin, Texas

2011: **Outstanding Doctoral Student in Curriculum & Instruction**  
College of Education, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

2011: **North Star of Texas Writing Project (NSTWP) Tuition Scholarship for Summer Institute 2011** - NSTWP is a local site of the National Writing Project - Summer Institute is an intensive program where participants explore research-based approaches to writing instruction and work on both professional and personal writing

2011, 2012: **UNT Doctoral Student Travel Grant Recipient** awarded for presentations at national conferences.