

Heather L. Soto

Home:**Work:**

The University of Mary-Hardin Baylor
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EDUCATION

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

Belton, Texas

Ed.D. in Educational Administration

Degree conferred May 2023

Dissertation Topic: *In Their Own Words: What Veterans Need for Positive Enhancement of Their Experience Transitioning Through Higher Education*

The State University of New York at Stony Brook

Stony Brook, New York

Post-Masters Advanced Certificate in Educational Leadership

School District Leader/School Building Leader Program

Degree conferred May 2010

Thesis Title: *Ethics, Morals, and Productivity in Education*

University of South Dakota

Vermillion, South Dakota

Master of Arts in English

Degree conferred August 2001

Dakota Wesleyan University

Mitchell, South Dakota

Bachelor of Arts

Major: English

Minor: Secondary Education

Degree conferred May 1996

TEACHING CERTIFICATION

University of the State of New York Education Department Public School Teacher Certificate

Permanent Certification, English 7-12, Effective date: 9/2/2006

Certificate #1443893

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

UMHB, Belton, TX, *CRUflex Conference*, Summer 2020

UMHB, Belton, TX, *Engaging f2f and Synchronous Online Students: NOT a Repeat of Spring 2020* and *Applying Canvas and Panopto to Draw out the Best in CRUflex Classes*, July 2020

UMHB, Belton, TX, *CDL 1000 Training*, October 2020.

UMHB, Belton, TX, *UMHB Risk and Safety Training*, January 2019.

UMHB, Belton, TX, Center for Effectiveness in Learning and Teaching Workshop *Google Forms*; Learning Covenant Teaching Academy, Spring 2017.

Upper Iowa University, Center for Distance Education, Fayette, IA, Online Management System Course.

Army Community Service Deployment & Mobilization Readiness Program, Ft. Polk, LA, Pre and Post Deployment PTSD Training; Family Readiness Group (FRG) CARE Team Certified; Active Shooter Training Certification.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Instructor of English (August 2015-Present)

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Belton TX

Duties: Teach courses in Rhetoric and Composition I, Rhetoric and Composition II, Religion and Literature, Principles of Literature, Classical Influences, Analysis of Popular Literature, and Literature and Social Consciousness. Contribute to the development of curriculum for basic level non-credit bearing courses.

Adjunct Instructor of English (August 2014-June 2015)

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Belton TX

Duties: Teach courses in Skillful Reading, Skillful Writing, Rhetoric and Composition I, Rhetoric and Composition II, Religion and Literature, Classical Influences, Popular Literature, and Principles of Literature. Contribute to the development of curriculum for basic level non-credit bearing courses. Integrate technology within the classroom.

Instructor of English – Online (August 2013-June 2015)

Upper Iowa University Center for Distance Education, Fayette, IA

Duties: Teach online courses in English Composition I and English Composition II. Plan and develop an online curriculum for further study in the practice of expository writing, with an emphasis on research technique, persuasion, and explanation.

Instructor of English (August 2011-July 2013)

Central Texas College, Fort Polk JRTC Army Installation, Fort Polk, LA

Duties: Administered and taught basic writing and reading, freshman composition, sophomore composition, technical writing, British Literature I, American Literature I, and research techniques. Instructed a variety of academic levels. Guided and modeled critical thinking and writing skills in the analysis of a wide variety of readings. Facilitated a hybrid classroom instructional and online learning course for soldiers deploying mid-term. Established curriculum for all English programs within the Ft. Polk site. Integrated technology within instruction. Academically coached soldiers in need of intensive remedial skills. Provided individual tutoring and writing workshops based upon skill level.

English Teacher (September 2003-June 2011)

Amityville Memorial Union Free School District, Amityville, NY

Duties: Instructed college-level English through Long Island University High School program at Long Island University for College Writing I & II and The Art and Craft of Writing & Writing about Literature. Also, initiated and taught college-level English through Syracuse University Project Advanced. Developed curriculum for 9th through 12th grade English. Collaborated with History Department to integrate a multidisciplinary curriculum. Worked extensively with Special Education department to create and implement modifications for program development and academic achievement. Instituted peer tutoring and mentoring program for life-skills students. Acted as a mentor for new staff members.

English Teacher (September 2002-September 2003)

Northport-East Northport Union Free School District, Northport, NY

Duties: Taught Middle and High School classes in English.

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

Administrative District Level Intern (May 2010-December 2010)

Valley Stream Elementary District #24

William L. Buck Elementary School, Valley Stream, NY

Duties: Responsible for New York State Exam data directed spreadsheets and reporting for academic improvement and intervention. Collaborated with community members and educators to respond to diverse student and community needs by creating resources for all stakeholders. Created various presentations for Administrators for academic improvement. Planned, developed, and implemented professional development initiatives. Created and presented attendance policy to Board of Education and community members.

Administrative Building Level Intern (May 2010-December 2010)

Amityville Union Free School District

Amityville Memorial High School, Amityville, NY

Duties: Assisted with supervision and administration of K – 6th and 9th – 12th-grade staff and students. Developed staff duty roster and scheduling. Created socialization/student mentoring program for Life Skills/Educationally Challenged students. Assisted in supervision of various school activities. Supported educational staff in maintaining a safe and secure school environment. Created faculty, staff, and student handbooks by collaborating with all stakeholders. Assisted faculty members with instructional techniques, classroom management, and curricular issues. Member of the Building Safety Team and Curriculum Writing Council.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

UMHB, Belton, TX – Serving on Faculty Council

UMHB, Belton, TX - Mentor new faculty to ensure knowledge of campus policies and procedures.

UMHB, Belton, TX - Co-sponsor to the UMHB English Department Study Abroad to The Baltics. Coordinating Study Abroad logistics including travel plans, budget, student personal needs, student safety, student recruitment, and serving as primary contact with LCCIU Study Abroad office for the May 2021 and May 2023 ENGL trips to Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia

UMHB, Belton, TX - Served as the co-adviser for the UMHB English Club and the Delta Beta Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta. These organizations endorse the Semi-Annual Book Club, Poe Party, Shakespeare by the Pond, service learning opportunities on campus, within the Belton community, and through the Texas Book Festival in Austin, the Literary Hand Turkey Contest, Study Break Student Breakfast, and game nights.

UMHB, Belton, TX - Chaperoned overseas trip in May-June 2019 to Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, and Estonia; Served on the English Department search committee from 2019-2020; Served on the UMHB Diversity Committee from 2016-2019; Served as a mentor for new faculty since Fall 2018; volunteer at the *Windhover Writer's Festival*; volunteer at many Sader Days activities including inviting prospective students to my classroom.

Army Community Service, Ft. Polk, LA– Volunteered as a writing and reading tutor in the Fort Polk, LA Education Center, explicitly working with English Language Learners; Assisted outgoing soldiers with their resume skills, specifically working with the 705th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company (EOD), Ft. Polk, LA.

Amityville UFSD, Amityville, NY, National Honor Society Adviser, 2003-2011; Student Council/Government Adviser, 2005-2011; Peer mentoring and tutoring program Adviser, 2004-2011.

New York State Union of Teachers (NYSUT)/American Federation of Teachers (AFT), Amityville UFSD, Amityville, NY, District representative 2005-2010.

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Active member of the First United Methodist Church, Georgetown, TX

UMHB, Belton, TX - Inspire students using the *One Good Deed 9/11* challenge to participate in and endorse the National Day of Service both on campus and throughout the Belton community.

UMHB, Belton, TX – Volunteer as participant in the *Windhover* Writer's Festival.

Texas Department of Public Safety, Austin, TX – Volunteer as a spouse mentor for incoming DPS Trooper families.

Georgetown High School Band, Georgetown, TX – Parent volunteer for the GHS Marching Band.

Georgetown High School Choir, Georgetown, TX – Parent volunteer for the GHS Choir.

Benold Middle School, Georgetown, TX – Parent volunteer for the Benold Marching Band.

Benold Middle School, Georgetown, TX – Parent volunteer for the Benold Choir.

UMHB, Belton, TX – Volunteer for on-campus and community activities such as Welcome Week and CruCamp.

Celebration Church, Georgetown, TX - Volunteer for Back to School backpack filling and distribution; Assisted in providing holiday dinners for families in need; Participated in small groups benefitting the church and community; Led a small group for support of families of Law Enforcement Officers in the Austin Metro Area.

Army Community Service – 705th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company (EOD), Ft. Polk, LA, Served as Senior Family Readiness Group (FRG) Adviser to provide mentorship, support, and fellowship to endure a long-term deployment; Led a variety of fundraisers for the families and soldiers of the unit; Led small groups in sending moral packages throughout the company deployment spanning seven deployment locations; Assisted in the Redeployment Ceremony for the 705th EOD Co., Ft. Polk, LA returning from Kandahar, Afghanistan.