

## **KRISTY C. VERDI**

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### **Education**

Ph.D., University of South Florida. Tampa, FL. Curriculum & Instruction, Major: Social Science Education. May 2017.

Verdi, K. C. (2017). *What does it mean to be a service-learning teacher? - An autoethnography* (Doctoral dissertation, University of South Florida). Michael Berson, Ph.D. (Major Professor), Keith Berry, Ph.D., Cheryl Ellerbrock, Ph.D., Jennifer Wolgemuth, Ph.D.

Ed.S., University of Georgia. Athens, GA. Education Leadership. August 1997.

M.P.A. – Georgia State University. Atlanta, GA. Public Administration. August 1992.

B.S. – West Georgia College. Carrollton, GA. Major: Parks and Recreation Management. Minor: History. August 1986.

### **Teaching Experience**

#### **Postsecondary**

Guest Presenter, Teaching the Young Adolescent Learner (EDM 3620). “Service-Learning in the Middle School”, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL. 2014-present.

Clinical Instructor, Social Studies Teaching Practicum (SSE 4335 and SSE 5946), University of South Florida, Tampa, FL. 2010-present.

Cooperating Teacher, Social Studies Final Internship (SSE 4940 and SSE 6947), University of South Florida, Tampa, FL. 2009-present.

Instructor. Reading in the Content Area: Social Studies (SSE 4600). University of South Florida. Tampa, FL. Fall 2012.

Clinical Instructor, Secondary Education Teaching Practicum (EDU 413), University of Tampa, Tampa, FL. Fall 2012.

#### **Professional Staff Development**

Curriculum Developer and Instructor. *Introduction to Service-Learning*. School District of Hillsborough County Professional Development Course. Randall Middle School, Lithia, FL. 2011.

Curriculum Developer and Instructor. *Teaching Technical Students in the Academic Classroom*. Gwinnett County Public Schools Staff Development Course. Gwinnett Technical Institute, Lawrenceville, GA. 2004.

## **K-12 Education**

Social Studies Teacher, HVK-12 (Hillsborough Virtual School), Remote. Hillsborough County Public School District. 2020 to present. Serve as instructor for High School World History fulltime, co-enrolled, and home education students in grades 9 through 12. Maintain communication with students and parents (150-200+ enrollment), provide academic feedback, and guidance to students virtually via phone, SMS messaging, email, and Zoom. Create live lessons, assignment templates and support videos, using multiple learning platforms, including Nearpod, Quizzizz, Kahoot, and Quizlet.

Social Studies SAL (Subject Area Leader), Franklin Boys Preparatory Academy (Middle Magnet), Tampa, FL. Hillsborough County Public School District. 2018-2020. Serve as instructional leader for department with three grade levels (6,7,8) who teach United States History, Civics, and Ancient World History courses. As SAL, initiated and sponsor the Social Studies Enrichment Program to allow interested students opportunities to extend classroom learning through competitions. Established a Patriots Day Service-Learning project with curriculum for all grade levels. Engaging students in Medal of Honor curriculum and a service-learning project to honor Gold Star families in the community.

Social Studies SAL (Subject Area Leader), Randall Middle School, Lithia, FL. Hillsborough County Public School District. 2013-present. Serve as instructional leader for department of twelve teachers in three grade levels (6,7,8) who teach United States History, Civics, and Ancient World History courses. As SAL, initiated and sponsor the Social Studies Club to allow interested students opportunities to extend classroom learning through special historical workshops, competitions, and field trips. Expanded social studies programs of study to embed civic engagement opportunities for all students through Patriots Day, Veterans Day, Great American Teach-In, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, Global Youth Service Day, and Memorial Day.

*Related Recognitions* Middle School Teacher of the Year by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Florida District 12, 2017.  
Randall PTSA Teacher of the Year, 2015.  
School District of Hillsborough County Parent Involvement Award, 2010.

Service-Learning Instructor, Randall Middle School, Lithia, FL. Hillsborough County Public School District. 2008-present. Initiated a course to allow students to investigate community needs and develop service projects to meet those needs while meeting academic benchmarks. The course is framed by research-based instructional practices for young adolescents. The course has evolved into a youth servant leadership development program known as Randall Area Youth Service (R.A.Y.S.).

*Related Recognitions* Global Service-Learning Leader School by Youth Service America, 2017  
National Recognition Project by 911.org (Patriot Day Memorial), 2015  
True Hero Community Project of the Year (Patriots Day Memorial), 2014

Florida Service Learning Leader School, 2011  
Kids Voting USA “Make an Impact” Award recipient, 2011

Social Studies Teacher. Randall Middle School, Lithia, FL. Hillsborough County Public School District. 2006-present. Direct instruction of United States History, Civics, and World Geography. Recognized as leader in authentic and alternative assessment methods.

*Related Recognitions* Randall Middle School Teacher of the Year, 2008.  
HCPS District Finalist for Teacher of the Year, 2008.  
Shimberg Family Middle School Teacher of the Year Award, 2008.

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Elementary School Teacher. Walnut Grove Elementary School, Suwanee, GA. Gwinnett County Public School District. 2005-2006. In addition to regular teaching duties in a fourth-grade classroom, served as social studies content area expert and assisted school administration as leadership representative when needed.

Social Studies Teacher. Collins Hill High School, Suwanee, GA. Gwinnett County Public School District. 1998-2005. Direct instruction of World Geography, World History, Political Systems, United States History. Taught 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade students, sponsored Service-Learning “Dream Team”, and served as Technical Preparatory Site Coordinator and Technical Student/Maxwell Administrative Support.

*Related Recognitions* Collins Hill Teacher of the Year Finalist, 2003  
Collins Hill Service-Learning Teacher of the Year, 2000

Social Studies Teacher. Dacula High School, Dacula, GA. Gwinnett County Public School District. 1993-1998. Direct instruction of World Geography, World History, and Political Systems. Taught 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students and sponsored Freshman Cheerleading, Debate Team and coached Girls Track Team.

*Related Recognition* Dacula High School Teacher of the Year Finalist, 1995

### **Teaching Licensure**

Florida Teaching Certificate: Social Science Education 7-12, Elementary Education K-6, Educational Leadership K-12. 2006-present

National Board-Certified Teacher – History Certificate, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards – Adolescence and Young Adulthood/Social Studies. 2005

Georgia Teaching Certificate: Elementary Education K-6. 2005

Gwinnett Leadership Certificate - Gwinnett Leadership Academy Graduate. 2005

Georgia Teaching Certificate: Educational leadership K-12. 1997

Georgia Teaching Certificate: Social Science Education 7-12. 1993

## **Research and Creative Work**

### **Service-Learning/Civic Engagement**

*Learn and Serve Tampa, Inc.*, President and Founder, 2020, EIN # 85-1995012.

<https://www.learnandservetampa.org> Not-for-profit focused on supporting classroom teachers and school in the Tampa Bay are in their efforts to implement quality service-learning projects and programs.

Secondary teacher preparation and course curriculum development. 2008-present. Focus of creative work has been on selecting and preparing secondary level teachers with the dispositions/character traits needed to instruct a service-learning classroom. Additionally, focus has been on developing scope and sequence as well as lesson plans for the service-learning leadership curriculum.

K-Postsecondary Continuum. 2014-present. Participated in New Visions for Service-Learning Research Summit in Washington, D.C. and contributed by developing a K-12 asset map of service-learning resources.

### **Social Studies Curriculum Development**

Education Curriculum Initiative Coordinator, Herschel “Woody” Williams Foundation. 2021. Create K-12 lesson plans to teach and connect youth to Woody Williams Foundation’s mission.

Digital Content Writer. 2015. Twig-World.com. Curriculum mapping of social studies topics across multiple state standards, condensing main learning objectives and skills; creating lesson plans and classroom activities based from our digital content.

Content Reviewer. 2015. Twig-World.com. Reviewed scripts and video for historical accuracy and appropriateness for middle school and/or high school Social Studies instruction

### **Publications**

Verdi, K.C. (2020). *The Glue: Service-Learning Makes Civic Education Stick*. Essay. Published 20 August 2020. Smerconish.com

Verdi, K.C. (2020). *Building memorials: Service-learning projects teach history, promote empathy, and build civic responsibility*. Manuscript in preparation.

Verdi, K.C. (2020). *The long drive home: Audio-journaling and autoethnography*. Manuscript in preparation.

Verdi, K. C. (2017). *What does it mean to be a service-learning teacher? - An autoethnography*. Doctoral dissertation. University of South Florida.

Verdi, K.C. (2012). *Engaged Citizenship Through e-Service-Learning*. American Association of School Administrators. New Administrators e-Journal. January.

Verdi, K.C. (2004). *C.A.R.E.S. (Caring Adults Reaching Every Student) Advisement Program Handbook*. Published School Handbook. Collins Hill High School, Suwanee, GA.

## **Presentations**

Verdi, K.C. (presented 2018). *Where are the boys? Making a space for boys to do service for others*. Spark and Tell Presentation. Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE). Orlando, FL (National)

Verdi, K.C. (presented 2016). *What is a service-learning teacher? An autoethnography*. Roundtable Presentation. International Center for Service Learning in Teacher Education (ICSLTE). New Orleans, LA (National)

Verdi, K.C. (presented 2015). *Using Memorials to Connect Service-Learning to History*. Presentation at Annual Conference. National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC) Service-Learning Conference. St. Paul, MN (National)

Verdi, K.C. (presented 2014). Preferred Modes of Reflections of Pre-Service Teachers in Emergent Literacy. Poster presentation at University of South Florida Graduate Research Forum. Tampa, FL.

Verdi, K.C. (presented 2014). *A Class In Itself: Designing a Middle School Service-learning Curriculum*. Presentation at National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC) Service-Learning Conference. Washington, D.C. (National)

Verdi, K.C. (presented 2012). *Building a Framework for Virtual Service-Learning*. Roundtable Discussion. International Center for Service Learning in Teacher Education (ICSLTE). Raleigh-Durham, NC (National)

Verdi, K.C. (presented 2012). *Service-Learning and Civic Engagement*. Presentation at the Annual Conference. International Society for the Social Studies (ISSS), Orlando, FL (International)

Verdi, K.C. (presented 2012). *Service-Learning and Civic Engagement*. Presentation at the Annual Conference. National Dropout Prevention Network. Orlando, FL (National)

Verdi, K.C. (presented 2011). *Youth Service-Learning Councils*. Presentation at Annual Conference. Florida Learn & Serve. Tallahassee, FL (State)

Verdi, K.C. (presented 2011). *Engaging Students in Civics Through Service-Learning*. Presentation at the Annual Conference. Florida Council for the Social Studies (FCSS), St. Petersburg, FL (State)

- Verdi, K.C. (presented 1999). *Lesson Plans and Assessments: Outside the Box*, Presentation at the Annual Conference, Georgia Council for the Social Studies (GCSS) Conference, Athens, GA (State)
- Verdi, K.C. (presented 2003). *Service Learning and the Volunteer Center*. Presentation at the Annual Conference. National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC) Service-Learning Conferences, Minneapolis, MN (National)
- Verdi, K.C. (presented 2002). *Apprenticeship Program Overview*. Presented at Annual Meeting. Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) Educators Academy. Gwinnet Technical College. Lawrenceville, GA (District)
- Verdi, K.C. (presented 2000). *Service Learning and the Volunteer Center*. Presentation at the Annual Conference. National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC) Service-Learning Conferences, Providence, RI (National)
- Verdi, K.C. (presented 1999). *Lesson Plans and Assessments: Outside the Box*. Presentation at the Annual Conference. Georgia Council for the Social Studies (GCSS). Atlanta, GA (State)
- Verdi, K.C. (presented 1997). *Technology and Research for Collaboration in the Social Studies Classroom*. Presentation at GCPS New Teacher Induction, Gwinnett Technical College, Lawrenceville, GA (District)
- Verdi, K.C. (1992). *Designing Handicapped Accessible Playgrounds*. Presentation at the Annual Conference. Georgia Recreation and Parks Association (GRPA), Jekyll Island, GA (State)

## **Professional Involvement in Education**

### **Memberships in Professional Education Associations**

National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS)  
 Florida Council for the Social Studies (FCSS)  
 International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement (IARSLCE)  
 Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE)

### **Service in Education**

Randall Area Youth Service (R.A.Y.S.) program, Founder and Sponsor, Randall Middle School, Lithia, FL. 2007-present. Development and operation of service-learning program represents many hours of commitment to student engagement beyond classroom and school hours.

Social Studies Club, Founder and Sponsor, Randall Middle School, Lithia, FL. 2014-present. Development and operation of extracurricular club for students with exceptional interest in the social studies reap professional and academic rewards.

Relay For Life Team Captain, Randall Middle School, Lithia, FL. 2008-2012. Personal commitment to advocating for cancer research also serves as example of leadership in service for students.

United Way School Coordinator, Walnut Grove Elementary School, Suwanee, GA. 2005-2006. Experience provided opportunity to engage elementary students in academic service-learning project.

Apprenticeship Committee, Collins Hill High School, Suwanee, GA. 2000-2005. Opportunity to assist technical students in development of professional behaviors.

Service-Learning Leadership Council, Collins Hill High School, Suwanee, GA. 1999-2005. Provided opportunity to bring teachers in various fields of study together for school-side projects.

Dream Team Sponsor. Collins Hill High School, Suwanee, GA. 1999-2005. Coordinated high school youth in leadership of schoolwide service-learning opportunities. Assisted in development of first district on-site Volunteer Center.

Relay For Life School Coordinator, Collins Hill High School, Suwanee, GA. 1999-2005. Personal commitment allowed opportunity for teens to become involved in advocacy and awareness efforts for cancer research.

New Teacher Induction, Co-coordinator, Gwinnett County Public Schools, Lawrenceville, GA. 1999-2002. Assisted with development of training for teachers new to the district.

Local School Governance Committee; Personnel Committee Chairperson, Collins Hill High School, Suwanee, GA. 1999. Lead evaluation of personnel needs and original applicants for open positions.

Southern Accreditation of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Committee Leadership Team, Collins Hill High School, Suwanee, GA. 1999. Assisted in assessment of school accreditation standards achievement.

Academic Knowledge and Skills (AKS) Review Committee, Gwinnett County Public Schools, Lawrenceville, GA. 1997-2002. Participated as a reviewer of benchmarks for future curriculum.

Social Studies Curriculum and Materials Review Committee, Gwinnett County Public Schools, Lawrenceville, GA. 1996. Invitation to become involved in curricular decision-making.

Gwinnett Educational Management System (GEMS) Oversight Committee Representative, Dacula High School, Dacula, GA. 1996. First occasion to move beyond the classroom and become involved in district level leadership.

### **Grants Awarded**

Youth Service America (YSA) Patriot Day Grant. Amount Awarded: \$1,500. 2017. Funds awarded for school-wide Social Studies-based service-learning project culminating in a Patriot Day memorial display.

State Farm Community Service-Learning Grant. Amount Awarded: \$5,000. 2016. Funds awarded for year-long service-learning program, including whole-school days of service in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Global Youth Service Day.

State Farm Community Service-Learning Grant. Amount Awarded: \$5,000. 2015. Funds awarded for year-long service-learning program, including whole-school days of service in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Global Youth Service Day.

911day.org Patriot Day Field Trip Award. Amount Awarded: \$250. 2015. Funds awarded to provide post-Patriot Day service opportunities to student leaders.

School Advisory Committee (SAC) Grant. Amount Awarded: \$337.25. 2014. Funds awarded for class set of service-learning textbooks.

PTSA Grant. Amount Awarded: \$550. 2013. Funds awarded for classroom materials and supplies.

GenerationOn *Make Your Mark* Award. Amount Awarded: \$250. 2011. Funds awarded for Patriot Day program.

Florida Learn & Serve Grant. Amount Awarded: \$7,385. 2010. Funds awarded for service-learning program projects, class materials and supplies.

Keep Hillsborough County Beautiful Grant. Amount Awarded: \$500. 2009. Funds awarded for rolling recycling bins for student-created recycling program.

Florida Learn & Serve Grant. Amount Awarded: \$7,385. 2009. Funds awarded for service-learning program projects, class materials and supplies.

Florida Learn & Serve Grant. Amount Awarded: \$5,200. 2008. Funds awarded for service-learning program projects, class materials and supplies.

Florida Learn and Serve Grant. Amount Awarded: \$1500. 2007. Funds awarded for service-learning program projects, class materials and supplies.

Service-Learning Project Grant. Amount Awarded: \$1000. 1999. Matching funds awarded for World History Service-Learning project entitled "Trash to Treasure".

### **Competitive Scholarship Awards**

Conference Presentation Grant. Student Government Association. University of South Florida, Tampa, FL. 2016. Amount awarded: \$500. Funding for IRASLCE Presentation, New Orleans, LA.

Conference Presentation Grant. Student Government Association. University of South Florida, Tampa, FL. 2015. Amount awarded: \$500. Funding for NYLC Presentation, St. Paul, MN.

Conference Presentation Grant. Student Government Association. University of South Florida, Tampa, FL. 2015. Amount awarded: \$500. Funding for NYLC Presentation, Washington, D.C.



## **Civic and Community Involvement**

Humane Society of Tampa Bay. Volunteer. 2018 to present. 350+ hours of service

Woody Williams Foundation. Honorary Board Member (2019). Education Initiative Coordinator. 2020-present. Coordinate with various Gold Star Monument Committees on educational activities related to their community's monument.

C.R.I.S.P. Foundation. Board Member (2020-present). Assist with projects linked to MacDill Park Gold Star Families Memorial Monument in Tampa, FL.

## **Professional Experience in Public Administration**

Volunteer Program Administrator. DeKalb County Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Affairs. Decatur, Georgia. 1991-1993. Served as liaison and administrative advisor to community organizations, including 24 nonprofit youth athletic associations which provided organized sports programs to more than 15,000 youth.

Special Projects Coordinator. DeKalb County Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Affairs. Decatur, Georgia. 1989-1991. Assisted the director and other staff with special projects, including land acquisition, policy development, community relations, handicapped accessibility and legislative advocacy.

Area Supervisor. Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation Department, Lawrenceville, Georgia. 1987-1989. Supervised area parks and staff, and programmed for recreation facilities, community organizations, and athletic associations.

## **Professional Involvement in Public Administration**

### **Professional Associations**

Georgia Recreation and Parks Association (GRPA). Board of Trustees, 1992.

National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). State Representative, 1991.

### **Grants Awarded**

Federal Land Grant, DeKalb County Parks and Recreation, 1991. Amount Awarded: \$100,000 match.

### **Published Professional Handbooks**

Verdi, K.C. (1991). *The Report on Handicapped Accessibility in DeKalb County Parks*. DeKalb County Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs, Decatur, GA.

Verdi, K.C. (1990). *GRPA Day Camp Standards Handbook*. Georgia Recreation and Parks Association, Conyers, GA

## **Professional Honors**

Presidential Citation Recipient, 1991  
Leadership Georgia Recreation and Parks Association Graduate, 1991.  
National Congress Intern, 1990.  
Executive Development Graduate, 1990

## **Professional References**

Michael J. Berson, Ph.D.  
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