

Melinda S. Miller  
Acting Chair and Associate Professor of Education  
Department of Language, Literacy and Special Populations  
College of Education

### **Degrees Earned**

Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction with a Minor in Reading, Texas A&M University, 2001

M.Ed. in Elementary Education with a Minor in Reading, Sam Houston State University, 1990

B.S. in Elementary Education with a Minor in English, The University of Texas at Austin, 1986

### **Professional Licensure and Certifications**

Texas Reading Specialist Certification, EC-12

Texas Teaching Certification, Pre-K-8

### **Peer-Review Publications and Artistic Performances/Exhibitions**

#### **Articles**

Cox, D. & **Miller, M.** (2010). Paper, not plastic: Towards a more organic literacy environment. *The Florida Reading Journal*, 46 (3).

**Miller, M.** & Cox, D. (2010). Reading from back to front: Using Manga with young children. *Indiana Reading Journal*, 42 (1).

Berg, H., **Miller, M.**, & Higgins, B. (2010). The cognate strategy: Helping English language learners develop the Spanish /English connection. *The Florida Reading Journal*, 46 (2).

Berg, H., **Miller, M.**, & Long, C. (2010). Instructional strategies that work for teachers of culturally and linguistically diverse learners. *The State of Reading*, 13 (2).

Higgins, B. & **Miller, M.** Learning Centers in the College Classroom. *Eastern Education Journal*, 38 (1), 2009.

**Miller, M.** & Higgins, B. Beyond test preparation: Nurturing successful learners through reading and writing workshops. *Kappa Delta Pi Record*, 44 (3), 2008.

Higgins, B. & **Miller, M.** No content left behind. *The Florida Reading Quarterly*, 44 (3), 2008.

**Miller, M.**, Links in the Chain: The Experiences of Four African American Children in a Reading Recovery Program Through the Eyes of Their Teachers. *Academic Exchange Quarterly*, Summer, 2007.

**Miller, M.** & Higgins, B., A Survival Kit for Behavior Management in the Early Childhood Setting. *Children, Our Concern*, XXX (1), Winter 2007.

Higgins, B., **Miller, M.**, & Wegmann, S., Teaching to the test...not! Meeting writing accountability. *The Reading Teacher*. December, 2006.

**Miller, M.** & Higgins, B., When to say ain't. *Florida Reading Quarterly*, 42 (4). Summer, 2006.

Higgins, B. & **Miller, M.**, Guiding instruction with assessment: The key to the classroom. *The State of Reading*. Spring 2006.

Wegmann, S., Adams, P., Higgins, B., **Miller M.**, Price D., & Swicegood, P. , Perceptions of efficacy as factors in attracting and retaining new teachers. *The Academic Exchange Quarterly*. Fall 2005.

**Miller, M.**, We can sing a rainbow: Using music in the language arts classroom. *The Florida Reading Quarterly*, 41 (4), Summer 2005.

**Miller, M.**, Simpson, C., & Price, D., Beyond "sound it out:" Using strategies and prompts to help young readers decode print. *Early Years*, 27 (1), Spring 2005.

#### **Non-Peer Reviewed Publications**

**Miller, M.** & Higgins, B., Stay, stay a little longer: Don't become a teacher dropout, advice for the student teacher. Kappa Delta Pi's *Student Teacher Advocate* January 2007.

**Miller, M.** & Higgins, B., The keys to the classroom: On-going assessment and instruction guided by assessment. *NTIP Spells Success, The Journal of Texas State Novice Teacher Induction Program*, 2004.

#### **Books**

##### **Chapters**

Cannella, G. & Soto, L. (2010). *Childhoods: A handbook*. New York: Peter Lang. Chapter 6 title: "Critical literacy and young children: A case study of literacy experiences of six African American children."

#### **Proceedings**

##### **Artistic Performances**

##### **Artistic Exhibitions**

##### **Research Monographs and Technical Reports**

IRA SPA Report for Reading Masters and Reading Specialist Certification for NCATE, August 15, 2010.

NCATE Standard II Report (Assessment) - Submitted August 1, 2009

#### **Funded External Grants**

#### **Peer-Review Presentations/Posters**

##### **National/International**

"Inviting English Learners into the Classroom: Strategies for Building Vocabulary." IRA 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention. Chicago, Illinois, April 27, 2010.

- “Helping Preservice Teachers Develop a Community of Learners That is Tolerant and Accepting of Differences.” 2010 Association of Teacher Education Annual Meeting. Chicago, Illinois, February 17, 2010.
- “Using the Cognate Strategy to Assist Young English Language Learners.” 2010 Association of Teacher Education Annual Meeting. Chicago, Illinois, February 16, 2010.
- “Cell Phone Use in the College Classroom: What are the Challenges and Possibilities?” 2010 Association of Teacher Education Annual Meeting. Chicago, Illinois, February 16, 2010.
- “Dilemmas in Literacy Education: What can you do to help children acquire formal English when their home language is different from Formal English?” Reading/Language Arts Teacher Education Special Interest Group. 2010 Association of Teacher Education Annual Meeting. Chicago, Illinois, February 15, 2010.
- “Embedding the Teacher Work Sample – Year Four of the TWS Journey.” 2010 Association of Teacher Education Annual Meeting. Chicago, Illinois, February 15, 2010.
- “The Power of TWS: Exploring the Impact of the Teacher Work Sample on Teacher Candidates’ Ability to Assess Teaching and Learning.” American Association for Teaching and Curriculum Sixteenth Annual Conference. Arlington, Virginia, October 1, 2009.
- “Strategies to Help Emergent Readers.” 16<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Reading, Braga, Portugal, July 22, 2009.
- “Moving Beyond Definitions: Vocabulary Development for Elementary and Middle School Students.” 16<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Reading, Braga, Portugal, July 21, 2009.
- “Graphic Organizers: Mapping the Mind.” 16<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Reading, Braga, Portugal, July 20, 2009.
- “Tweaking the Teacher Work Sample: Two Years and Counting on the Teacher Work Sample Journey.” Association of Teacher Educators 2009 Annual Meeting, Dallas, Texas, February 17, 2009.
- “Pulling it All Together: Sharing Our Digital Stories.” International Reading Association 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention: Engaging Literacy Learners. Georgia World Congress Center, Atlanta, Georgia, May 5, 2008.
- “Using Learning Centers in the College Classroom.” Hawaii International Conference on Education, Honolulu, Hawaii, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008.
- “Teaching Literacy Strategies to Early Readers: Tried and True Tricks.” Hawaii International Conference on Education, Honolulu, Hawaii, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008.
- “Voices From Our Graduates: Are We Doing a Good Job of Preparing Literacy Leaders?” 15<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Reading, Berlin, Germany, August 8, 2007.
- “Assessment of Language and Literacy Development.” 15<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Reading, Berlin, Germany, August 7, 2007.

“Graphic Organizers: Mapping the Mind for Retention.” 15<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Reading, Berlin, Germany, August 6, 2007.

“Strategies that Support the Development of Literacy Coaches and Literacy Leaders.” Round Table Presentation. National Reading Conference 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, California, December 1, 2006.

“Creating and Sustaining an Online Master in Reading Program.” College Reading Association. Savannah, Georgia. November, 2005.

“Creating and Sustaining an Online Master in Reading Program.” The European Conference on Reading. Zagreb, Croatia. August, 2005.

“Creating and Maintaining an Online Reading Master’s Program.” Hawaii Conference on Education. January 2005.

“Characteristics and Factors that Influence Teachers to Remain in the Teaching Profession.” The College Reading Association Conference. Corpus Christi, Texas. October 31, 2003.

### **Regional**

“The Cognate Strategy: Helping English Language Learners Develop the Spanish/English Connection.” 35<sup>th</sup> Plains IRA Regional Conference, Branson, Missouri, November 5, 2009.

“Finding the Story in Words: Using Digital Storytelling to Teach Vocabulary.” 12<sup>th</sup> IRA Rocky Mountain Regional Conference: Literacy for All in the Rockies. Billings, Montana, October 18, 2007.

“Guiding Instruction with Assessment: the Key to the Classroom”. Southeast IRA Regional Conference: Read and Cruise to New Horizons, Mobile, Alabama, October 16, 2006.

“When to Say Ain’t: Exploring the Issues of ‘Home Language’ versus ‘Standard English’.” 33<sup>rd</sup> Plains IRA Regional Conference: Wild About Reading, Omaha, Nebraska, October 6, 2006.

“Teaching to the Test...Not! Meeting Writing Accountability.” 33<sup>rd</sup> Plains IRA Regional Conference: Wild About Reading, Omaha, Nebraska, October 5, 2006.

“When to Say Ain’t.” 31<sup>st</sup> Southwest Regional IRA Conference. Albuquerque, New Mexico. February, 2006.

“Using Prompts to Help Children Develop Reading Strategies: Beyond ‘Sound it Out.’” 30<sup>th</sup> Southwest IRA Regional Conference. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. February 2003.

### **State/Local**

“The Millennial Generation.” LLSP Teaching Workshop, SHSU, Huntsville, Texas, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

“Tips for Classroom Management in the Early Childhood Setting.” First United Methodist Church Weekday Ministries Professional Development Seminar. Huntsville, Texas, October 22, 2009.

- “The Top 10 Most Important Things About Reading.” Celebration of Teaching. Huntsville, Texas, October 16, 2009.
- “Listening with an Ear Towards Fluency.” Sam Houston Area Reading Council. The Woodlands, Texas, October 3, 2009.
- “Reading Back to Front: Using Manga With Young Children.” Sam Houston Area Reading Council. The Woodlands, Texas, October 3, 2009.
- “Teaching Cognate Strategy: Making Connections for English Learners.” Texas Association for the Education of Young Children 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Galveston, Texas, September 26, 2009.
- “Strategies for Adult Learners in Reading Tutorials.” Seminar for Huntsville Public Library Adult Tutorials. Huntsville, Texas, February 9, 2009.
- “Easy Reading Strategies for Young Readers.” The Joan Prouty Young Child Winter Conference, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas. February 7, 2009.
- “Top Ten Important Things About Reading.” Keynote Address for the Second Annual Education Symposium at San Jacinto College, North Campus, Houston, Texas, November 6, 2008.
- “My Favorite Memories of Teaching.” Keynote Address for Kappa Delta Pi, Delta Theta Chapter Initiation, Lowman Student Center, SHSU, Huntsville, Texas, October 21, 2008.
- “Making Story Time Come Alive with Music.” Sam Houston Area Reading Council 2008 Fall Conference, The Woodlands, Texas, October 18, 2008.
- “Tried and True Tricks of the Trade: Teaching Early Reading Strategies.” Sam Houston Area Reading Council 2008 Fall Conference, The Woodlands, Texas, October 18, 2008.
- “Happy Children-Happy Teacher: Making it Happen in the Early Childhood Setting.” Preschool Teachers Adventure Conference, Houston, Texas, July 15& 17, 2008. (Session Repeated).
- “Integrating Music into Story Time.” Preschool Teachers Adventure Conference, Houston, Texas, July 15& 17, 2008. (Session Repeated).
- “Early Reading Strategies.” Preschool Teachers Adventure Conference, Houston, Texas, July 15, 2008.
- “Reading Strategies that Really Work with Young Children.” Sam Houston Area Reading Council and Texas Association for the Improvement of Reading Fall Conference. The Woodlands, Texas, October 27, 2007.
- “‘Ain’t’ is in the Dictionary: A Discussion of Home Language versus School English.” Sam Houston Area Reading Council and Texas Association for the Improvement of Reading Fall Conference. The Woodlands, Texas, October 27, 2007.
- “But My Daddy Says ‘Ain’t’.” Texas Association for the Education of Young Children, 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference: Growing Our Profession. Fort Worth, Texas, October 12-13, 2007.

- “Enjoy Those Kids.” Celebration of Teaching. Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, September 28, 2007.
- “The Joys of Teaching.” Kappa Delta Pi September Meeting. Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, September 11, 2007.
- “Quick and Easy Classroom Management Tips for the Early Childhood Setting.” Sam Houston Association for the Education of Young Children Spring Workshop, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas. April 21, 2007.
- “To Correct or Not to Correct? That is the Question: Addressing the Issue of Home Language Versus Formal English.” The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Reading Conference: Once Upon a Time, Literacy for All Ages, Texas A&M University Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, Texas, March 30, 2007.
- “A Bag of Tricks for Early Childhood Teachers: Classroom Management Tips.” The Joan Prouty Young Child Winter Conference, Sam Houston State University, February 10, 2007.
- “Whose English Is It Anyway? Exploring the Issue of Home Language Versus ‘Standard’ English.” Texas State Reading Association 35<sup>th</sup> Annual State Literacy Conference, Austin, Texas, November 10, 2006.
- “Using Literacy Centers in the Elementary Classroom.” Sam Houston Association for the Education of Young Children Fall Workshop, Sam Houston State University, November 4, 2006.
- “Happy Children – Happy Teacher: Making it Happen in the Early Childhood Setting.” 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, Texas Association for the Education of Young Children: Together We Are Better, Galveston, Texas, October 7, 2006.
- “How Do I Know What to Teach? Guiding Instruction With Assessment.” Sam Houston Area Reading Council Fall Conference – Crossroads: Literacy at the Junction, The Woodlands, TX, September 16, 2006.
- “Music for Preschoolers.” Sam Houston Association for the Education of Young Children/Brazos Valley Young Children’s Conference, Blinn College, College Station, Texas, July 29, 2006.
- “Music Magic in a Toddler’s World.” Sam Houston Association for the Education of Young Children/Brazos Valley Young Children’s Conference, Blinn College, College Station, Texas, July 29, 2006.
- “Music in the Elementary Language Arts Classroom.” 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Reading Conference: Great Books and Grand Conversations. Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi. Corpus Christi, Texas, March 31, 2006.
- “Literacy Centers: Ideas for Creating and Managing Centers.” The Joan Prouty Young Child Winter Conference, Sam Houston State University, March 4, 2006.
- “Using Music with Young Children.” Sam Houston Association for the Education of Young Children. Huntsville, Texas. November, 2005.

“Using Music to Enhance Learning in the Early Childhood Classroom: We Can Sing a Rainbow.” Texas Association for the Education of Young Children. Austin, Texas. October, 2005.

“A Survival Kit for Classroom Management.” The Methodist Early Childhood Conference. The Woodlands, Texas. January, 2005.

“Music in the Language Arts Classroom.” Celebration of Teaching Conference. Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, September 26, 2003.

“Using Reading Recovery Strategies in the Classroom.” Sam Houston Area Educators of Young Children Spring Conference. Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, April 12, 2003.

“Music in the Language Arts Classroom.” Celebration of Teaching Conference. Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, September 27, 2002.

“Using Reading Recovery Strategies in the Classroom.” The Young Child Winter Conference. Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, February 23, 2002.

“Music in the Language Arts Classroom.” Celebration of Teaching, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, October 26, 2001.

### **Work or Professional Experiences**

Acting Department Chair, Language, Literacy and Special Populations, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas.

Assistant Department Chair, Language, Literacy and Special Populations, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, August 2008-August 2010.

Associate Professor of Education, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, August 2007-present.

Assistant Professor of Education, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, August 2001-May 2007.

Academic Specialist in Literacy (Grades 1-4), Huntsville Independent School District, Huntsville, Texas, August 1998-May 2001.

Reading Recovery Teacher, Huntsville Independent School District, Huntsville, Texas, August 1997-May 1998.

First Grade Teacher, Huntsville Independent School District, Huntsville, Texas, August 1996-May 1997.

Second Grade Teacher, Huntsville Independent School District, Huntsville, Texas, August 1992-May 1993.

Second Grade Teacher, Huntsville Independent School District, Huntsville, Texas, August, 1987-May 1991.

Kindergarten Teacher, Dallas Independent School District, Dallas, Texas, August, 1986-May 1987.

### **Honors and Awards**

Finalist for College of Education Teacher of the Year Award 2009, 2010.

Nominated for Who’s Who Among College and University Professors by student in 2005.

Nominated for Alpha Chi Outstanding Teacher by a student in 2003 and another student in 2005.

Sam Houston State University, Dean of Students' citation for contributions to students' academic careers.

**Other Competencies**