

KAREN LEVITT

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Pittsburgh, PA 15282

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EDUCATION

- Doctor of Education – Science Education with Administration and Policy Studies** December 1996
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Master of Education – Science Education** August 1992
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Bachelor of Science – Elementary Education** December 1987
Miami University, Oxford, Ohio

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 1995 - Present

- **Associate Professor, Department of Instruction and Leadership in Education (2002 – Present)**
- **Assistant Professor (1996-2002)**
- **Instructor (1995)**

Courses Taught

- Teaching Science in the Middle Grades (4-8) (UG and GR) with Field Experience
 - Teaching Science in Grades PreK-4 (GR) with field experience (previously, Teaching Science in Elementary grades, UG and GR)
 - Introduction to the Teaching Profession (PreK4, Middle Grades, Secondary) (UG)
 - Introduction to Teaching PreK4 (GR)
 - Introduction to Teaching Middle Level and Secondary (GR)
 - Teaching Elementary School Math Grades K-6 (UG)
- **Director, Leading Teacher Program (2003 – Present)**
 - **Director, Undergraduate Elementary Education Program (2002 – 2010)**
 - **Director, Undergraduate Secondary Education (2006-2010)**
- **Graduate Advisor, Elementary Education (2010-2012)**
 - **Coordinator, Professional Development Schools (2004 – 2007)**
 - **Other Teaching Activities**
 - LTP in Urban Education (UE), Work with the candidates in LTP in UE cohorts. Co-plan and implement cohort experiences; engage candidates in learning experiences around content specific to urban education
 - Heinz Fellows. Presentation on school finance to Heinz Fellows, 2011
 - Pennsylvania Department of Education, Reviewed applications for PDE for new certification programs, 2010
 - **Thesis / Dissertation Committee - Chair**
 - Dr. S. Wesolowski, Successfully defended, October 2012
 - Dr. J. Astle, Successfully defended. May 2012
 - Dr. S. Krivak-Fowler, Successfully defended, May 2001
 - **Thesis / Dissertation Committee - Member**
 - Dr. L. Huffnagel Buglak, Successfully defended, August, 2011.

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- **Teaching Science with TOYS, University Affiliate** 1995- Present
Received Duquesne University Creative Teaching Award (1996) for the course. Designed and implemented course for teachers of elementary, middle, and high school students utilizing toys to teach basic principles of chemistry and physics. Affiliate of National Science Foundation Program, Center for Chemical Education, Miami University, Middletown (OH).

ASSET (Achieving Student Success through Excellence in Teaching), Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Science Education Specialist 1995 – 2006

Resource to the ASSET Resource Teachers (ARTs); University Advisor and Participant in Teacher Research Group; Facilitator, Teacher's Inquiry Focus Group; Faculty, Institute for Assessment and Institute for Inquiry; Liaison between Duquesne University and ASSET, a National Science Foundation funded Local Systemic Change initiative. Serve on task force that conceptualized, designed, and implements an Inquiry Science Endorsement for pre-service teachers. Designated evaluator for Horizon Research Incorporated. Assisted Research for Better Schools in the design of data collection and analysis protocols for preliminary project evaluation, collected and analyzed data, co-wrote final report.

EXPLORATORIUM, San Francisco, California 2001 – 2004 **Institute for Inquiry, Teaching Fellow**

Contribute to the development of a professional development curriculum module for Formative Assessment and Inquiry Learning. Curriculum module includes a multi-day workshop, a guide to leading the workshop, and web-based articles and resources. Responsibilities include translating core activities from the workshop into local professional development programs and reviewing materials for the program and program evaluators.

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 1990 – 1995 **Instructor, Department of Instruction and Learning**

Responsibilities included teaching the courses Science in the Elementary School, Introduction to Science Education, Elementary Teaching Lab, and Secondary Science Teaching Lab in the Masters of Arts in Teaching and Professional Year programs; transforming courses to reflect prevailing recommendations for the teaching and learning of science; facilitating the development of teaching skills of preservice teachers in the Elementary Teaching Lab and Secondary Science Teaching Lab, providing workshops requested by the Department of Instruction and Learning and the School of Education.

Supervisor

Supervised Interns and Professional Year students during the preservice teaching experience, advising students on academic and professional issues, and collaborating with mentor teachers in order to set goals and guide preservice teachers.

Related Experience

Nominated and served on search committee for Full Professor in Science Education program. Participated as student representative to the School of Education Budget and Planning Committee. Examined change in teacher behavior and attitude as an element of SEPIA (Science Education through Portfolio Instruction and Assessment) research project.

EDUCATION CONSULTANT 1991 –2006

Program Evaluation, Horizon Research Inc., 2006

Conducted classroom observations and interviews for data collection. Summarized interviews according to HRI protocol.

Science Consultant - New Brighton School District, 1998, 1997; Midland School District, 1998, 1996; Aliquippa School District, 1991 – 1994

Customized inquiry-based science program for districts, utilizing in-class, collaborative model of professional development; facilitate teacher involvement in science resources and programs; coordinated professional development staff; write appropriate sections of federal grant applications.

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United Nations Children's Fund, Bosnia Active Learning Project

Designed active learning module for teachers in Bosnia demonstrating an inquiry approach to teaching elementary science and mathematics. Funded through a grant to the University of Pittsburgh from the United Nation's Children's Fund for the project titled "Program for Educational Development Assistance – Bosnia Herzegovina."

Consultant

Developed and administered programs and workshops that introduce teachers to current conceptual basis for science education for local school districts, regional organizations, and national corporations, including Pittsburgh Regional Center for Science Teachers, Central Susquehanna (PA) Intermediate Unit, and Delta Education Corporation. Coordinated local field-test site for *Great Explorations in Math and Science* series national trial version of *Terrarium Habitats* and *Investigating Artifacts* published by Lawrence Hall of Science, University of California at Berkeley.

TRI-STATE AREA SCHOOL STUDY COUNCIL, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

1994 - 1998

Coordinated the implementation of the Educational Program for Duquesne City School District according to the Strategic Plan for the district. Responsibilities included: facilitating leadership development for district lead teachers; developing a prototype process for writing planned courses of study (K-12) based on the state education standards; implementing portfolio assessment; developing performance assessments; assisting teachers with acquiring related instructional strategies; and coordinating the design of graduation requirements with the high school project. Supervised candidates for principal's certification as they implemented projects related to aspects of strategic planning. Designed and delivered workshops for area school districts for the development of planned courses and the design and utilization of authentic assessments.

CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

1991 – 1997

Staff Educator

Designed and implemented professional development, children's classes, family workshops, and outreach programs. Liaison for Carnegie Science Center to numerous community organizations and school districts.

CINCINNATI PUBLIC SCHOOLS, Cincinnati, Ohio

1988 – 1990

Science/Health Teacher

Designed and implemented student centered approach to teaching science and health for third through sixth grade. Developed curriculum and lesson plans to enhance problem-solving skills of students. Chaired fifth and sixth grade instructional team. Served as academic coach for grades four through eight. Implemented Paideia philosophy of teaching and learning.

INTELLECTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Publications

Ash, D. & Levitt, K. (2003). Working within the Zone of Proximal Development: Formative assessment as professional development. *Journal of Science Teacher Education* 14 (1): 1-26.

Levitt, K. (2002). An analysis of elementary teachers' beliefs regarding the teaching and learning of science. *Science Education* 86 (1): 1-22.

Levitt, K. and Manner, B. (2001). An Earth science summer institute for elementary teachers. *Journal of Geoscience Education*, 49(3), 291-299.

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Conference Proceedings

Levitt, K. & Ash, D. (2002). Professional development as inquiry: The role of formative assessment in professional development. In P. Rubba, J. Rye, W. DiBiase, & B. Crawford (Eds.), 2001 AETS Proceedings. Reviewed process.

Manner, B., Balach, C., Beddard-Hess, S., & Levitt, K. (1999). Earth science institute: Professional development for elementary teachers. In Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs, 31(7). Denver, CO.

Clinical Publications

Levitt, K. (2001). The nose knows – or does it? Using the learning cycle to support inquiry. *Electronic Journal of Science Education*.

Levitt, K. (1997). Science and mathematics module - Bosnia active learning project. New York: United Nation's Children's Fund.

Levitt, K. (1996). Teachers' beliefs regarding the teaching and learning of science, the nature of science, and science education reform. Cited in Research for Better Schools, ASSET Pilot District Evaluation. Harrisburg, PA: Pennsylvania Department of Education.

GRANTS

Leading Teacher Program in Urban Education (2009). Teacher Quality Partnership grant submitted to U.S. Department of Education, Office of Innovation and Improvement. Not funded.

Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant. Funded through ACTS in PA as part of No Child Left Behind. Amounts funded: \$30,000 (2005-2006); \$35,000 (2004-2005).

Duquesne University Assessment Mini Grant. Funded through the office of the Provost of Duquesne University. Funding was used for aspects of assessment of student teaching, including revision of forms for assessment, training for university supervisors and move toward use of laptop computers for collection of assessments. Amounts funded: \$2000 (2008-2009); \$2775 (2007 - 2008).

National Science Foundation (2000). Center for Excellence in Science Education and Technology. Requested \$2.5 million. Proposal not funded.

PRESENTATIONS of REFEREED PAPERS

Levitt, K. (January, 2014). *Teacher Research as Professional Development for Lead Teachers*. Association for Science Teacher Education, San Antonio, Texas.

Levitt, K. (2011, Accepted). *Using teacher candidate portfolios to demonstrate impact on student learning*. American Educational Research Association, Vancouver, British Columbia.

Levitt, K. (March, 2010). *An innovative approach to elementary teacher education*. American Association for Colleges of Teacher Education, Atlanta, GA.

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Levitt, K. (February, 2010). *Using teacher candidate portfolios to demonstrate impact on student learning*. American Association for Colleges of Teacher Education, Atlanta, GA.

Levitt, K., & Schreiber, J. (March, 2008). *Using teacher candidate portfolios to demonstrate impact on student learning*. American Educational Research Association, New York, NY.

Levitt, K., & Schreiber, J., (February, 2008). *Evidence of PK-12 student learning as demonstrated through candidate portfolios*. American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, New Orleans, LA.

Levitt, K. (February, 2008). *An innovative approach to elementary teacher education*. American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, New Orleans, LA.

McCown, R., Schreiber, J., Levitt, K., & Welch, O. (February, 2008). *Forming stewards of practice: A ripple effect from doctoral reform to undergraduate teacher education*. American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, New Orleans, LA.

Levitt, K., Manner, B. & Scott, A. (April, 2007). *Teacher-in-Residence: Ongoing professional development for elementary teachers of science*. National Association for Research in Science Teaching, New Orleans, LA.

Levitt, K., Munson, S., & Lane, M. (February, 2007). *An infused model of special education in a teacher preparation program*. American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, New York, NY.

Levitt, K., Manner, B. & Scott, A. (January, 2007). *Teacher-in-Residence: Benefits and challenges*. Association for Science Teacher Education, Clearwater, FL.

Levitt, K. (2006, Accepted). *Why shouldn't we use the results of teacher research?* Annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Francisco, CA.

Levitt, K. (2006, Accepted). *How should we use the results of teacher research?* Annual meeting of the National Association for the Research in Science Teaching, San Francisco, CA.

Ash, D. & Levitt, K. (March 2005). *Working in the Zone of Proximal Development with teacher researchers*. American Educational Research Association, Montreal, CN.

Levitt, K. (February, 2005). *The Inquiry Science Endorsement: A collaborative approach to preparing and sustaining elementary teachers of science*. American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, Washington, DC.

Agostino, R. & Levitt, K. (February, 2005). *Becoming an educated citizen: The measurement of candidate dispositions*. American Association for Colleges of Teacher Education, Washington DC.

Manner, B. & Levitt, K. (January, 2005). *Educated Citizenry: Integrating Science, Social Studies and the Creative Arts in a Methods Course for Early Childhood and Elementary Teacher Candidates*. Association of Science Teacher Educators, Colorado Springs, CO.

Levitt, K. (2004). *Formative assessment as professional development: One science teacher educator's story*. National Association for Research in Science Teaching, Vancouver, BC

Levitt, K. (2004, Accepted). *The Inquiry Science Endorsement: Professional development for teacher candidates, cooperating teachers, and university faculty*. Association for Educators of Teachers of Science, Nashville, TN.

Ash, D. & Levitt, K. (2003). *Formative assessment as professional development: Theory expanded*. National Association for Research in Science Teaching, Philadelphia, PA.

Levitt, K. (2002). *Where are they now? A study of teacher change after a six year involvement in a program of elementary science education reform*. National Association for Research in Science Teaching, New Orleans, LA.

Levitt, K., Ash, D., & Beddard-Hess, S. (2002). *The role of teacher learning groups as professional development*. Association for the Education of Teachers in Science, Charlotte, NC.

Levitt, K., Ash, D., Beddard-Hess, S., Sciulli, J., Cheong, W., & Kraft, B. (2001). *Teachers' inquiry into practice: The role of teacher research study groups in professional development*. National Association for Research in Science Teaching, St. Louis, MO.

Levitt, K. (2001). *Not all A's are created equal: An Inquiry Science Endorsement for preservice teachers*. Association for the Education of Teachers in Science, Costa Mesa, CA.

Ash, D. & Levitt, K. (2001). *Professional development as inquiry: The role of formative assessment in professional development*. Association for the Education of Teachers in Science, Costa Mesa, CA.

Levitt, K. (2000). *From hands-on to inquiry: Changing teachers' beliefs and practices through systemic reform*. National Association for Research in Science Teaching, New Orleans, LA.

Levitt, K. (1997). *Elementary teachers' beliefs about the teaching and learning of science, the nature of science, and science education reform*. National Science Teachers' Association, New Orleans, LA.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Levitt, K. (March, 2010; February, 2008; September, 2008; August 2007). Making the Case for Professional Development. **Invited Keynote**, Science: It's Elementary! Strategic Planning Institute, Pittsburgh PA; Harrisburg, PA.

Levitt, K. (June, 2007). Science It's Elementary! **Invited keynote** at the ASSET Leadership Conference, Hershey, PA.

Levitt, K. (2005). Why do teacher research? **Invited Keynote**, Teacher's Inquiry Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.

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REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

Levitt, K. (January, 2008). Preparing early childhood and elementary teacher candidates to teach all learners in general education science, social studies and the arts. Presented at the annual meeting of the Hawaii International Conference on Education, Honolulu, HI.

Levitt, K., Certo, J., Cheyne, M., Lyon, S., Macklin, J., Tidwell, M., & Johnson, C. (March, 2006). Multiple models of Professional Development Schools within one collaborative. Association of Professional Development Schools, Orlando, FL.

Levitt, K., Lane, M., Evans, B., Lengyel, L., & Mautino, R. (March, 2006). *Inquiry as a means for developing Professional Development School relationships*. Association of Professional Development Schools, Orlando, FL.

Levitt, K., Hess, S., & Valicenti, V. (March, 2006). *The Inquiry Science Endorsement – A collaborative approach to professional development for pre-service and cooperating teachers*. National Science Teachers Association, Anaheim CA.

Levitt, K., Manner, B., & Hess, S. (2003). *Continuous improvement: Building a community of learners*, Bi-annual meeting of the Association for Materials Support Centers (ASMC), Next Steps Conference, Green Bay, WI.

Levitt, K. (2003, Accepted). *The Inquiry Science Endorsement: A shared approach to preparing elementary teachers of science*, National Science Teachers Association, Atlanta, GA.

REVIEWED WORKSHOPS

National

Levitt, K. (2000). *Inquiring into the teaching of elementary science*. Workshop presented at the annual meeting of the National Science Teachers' Association, Orlando, FL.

Levitt, K. & Manner, B. (2000). *Digging into earth science*. Workshop presented at the annual meeting of the National Science Teachers' Association, Orlando, FL.

Levitt, K. & Manner, B., (2000). *The ABCs of science: Animals, books, and chemistry*. Short course presented at the annual meeting of the National Science Teachers' Association, Orlando, FL.

Manner, B., Balach, C., Beddard-Hess, S., & Levitt, K. (1999). *Earth science institute: Professional development for elementary teachers*. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America, Denver, CO. Approved by competitive review.

Levitt, K. (1997). *Moving methods courses beyond the university classroom*. Workshop presented at the annual meeting of the National Science Teachers' Association, New Orleans, LA.

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

Regional and State

Levitt, K. (October, 2008). Teaching Science with Toys. *Invited workshop* for the Society of Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh.

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Levitt, K. (1999, 1998). *Spooky science. Invited workshops* presented for the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit, Lewisburg, PA; Science on Saturday Conference at the University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown, Johnstown, PA.

Levitt, K. (1999, 1998). *Teaching science with toys: A sampler. Invited workshops* presented for the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit, Lewisburg, PA; Science on Saturday Conference at the University of Pittsburgh - Johnstown, Johnstown, PA.

Levitt, K. (1997). *D.U. does science – Do you?* Make and take workshop for preservice teachers. Workshop presented at the Eastern Area Convention of the National Science Teachers Association.

Levitt, K. (1997). *Spooky science.* Workshop presented at the Eastern Area Convention of the National Science Teachers Association, Pittsburgh, PA.

Levitt, K. (1997). *Teaching science with toys: A sampler.* Workshop presented at the Eastern Area Convention of the National Science Teachers Association, Pittsburgh, PA.

Levitt, K. (1999, 1998, 1996, 1994). *Teaching science with toys for elementary teachers.* Workshops presented at the annual conventions of the Pennsylvania Science Teachers Association, Hershey, PA and Seven Springs, PA.

Levitt, K. (1999, 1998, 1997, 1996, 1994). *Teaching science with toys for middle school teachers.* Workshops presented at the annual state conventions of the Pennsylvania Science Teachers Association, Hershey, PA and Seven Springs, PA; Pennsylvania Middle Schools Association, Pittsburgh, PA.

Levitt, K. (1994). *The ABCs of Kinderscience: Animals, bodies, and chemistry.* Workshop presented at the annual convention of the Pennsylvania Science Teachers Association, Pittsburgh, PA.

Local

Levitt, K. (2003). *Teaching science through inquiry using toys.* Robert Morris University.

Levitt, K. (2001, 2000). *Doing science with your child.* Workshops presented for parents as part of the Expanding Your Horizons Conference for Young Women. Carlow College.

Levitt, K. (2000, 1999, 1998). *Teaching physical science through toys.* Workshops presented for ASSET/Carnegie Science Center Regional Resource Road Trip, Pittsburgh, PA. **Invited presentations.**

Levitt, K. (1999, 1998, 1997, 1996). *An introduction to constructivist learning theory. Invited workshops* presented at the ASSET Leadership Conference, Oglebay, WV; Local school districts.

Levitt, K. (1998). *Constructivist learning theory and inquiry. Invited workshop* presented at the ASSET Leadership Conference, Oglebay, WV.

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Levitt, K. (1998, 1997). *Exploring the standards in science education. Invited workshops* presented at the ASSET Leadership Conference, Oglebay, WV; Western Pennsylvania Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Pittsburgh, PA.

Levitt, K. (1999, 1996, 1995). *Teaching science with toys: A sampler*. University of Pittsburgh guest presentations in classes; workshop presented as part of the Professional Development Series; course presented through Institute for Practice and Research in Education, Pittsburgh, PA. **Invited presentations.**

Levitt, K. (1994). *Implementing the strategic plan – Planned course issues*. Seminar presented for Tri-State Area School Study Council, Pittsburgh, PA.

Other Teaching Related Activities

Active Physics Textbook (2008). Interviewed for a profile for inclusion in the Active Physics textbook regarding people who use physics in their everyday lives or careers for a chapter titled, Toys for Understanding. It's About Time Publishing Company, Herff Jones Education Division.

SERVICE

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer - Article / Manuscript

- Science Education, 2011- Present
- Journal of Science Teacher Education, 2011- Present

Reviewer - Grant Proposal Related to Expertise

- External reviewer, Grant proposal reviewer for applications for I3 (Investing in Innovation) program (federally funded program for professional development), 2010

Presentations

- Pittcon Science Week, **Invited workshops**, Workshops for Middle Level Students, 2015, 2014
- Pittcon Science Week, **Invited workshops**, Workshop for Teachers. Teaching Science with Toys. 2015, 2014, 2012, 2011
- PNC Developing Early Literacy Saturday series for parents and children. Provided science workshops for parents of preschool age children related to the literature presented to the children. 2012.
- PA Department of Education, Facilitator, Higher Education Institute. Higher Education Institute, Standards Aligned System, June 2011
- PNC Developing Early Literacy Conference. **Invited workshop** for the PNC Developing Early Literacy Conference. Pittsburgh, PA. 2011
- Expanding Your Horizons, Science and Math for Young Women, Annual Conference. Adult Workshop Presenter, 2001, 2000; Student Workshop Presenter, 1999, 1998, 1997, 1996

Member: Committee/Task Force

- American Educational Research Association, Nominated, Division K Secretary, 2010.
- American Educational Research Association, Division K. Division K, Legacy Award Committee, 2010, 2011

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Other Professional Service Activities

- ASSET Resource Teachers Writing Group, ASSET, Inc., 2013, 2014; Institute for Teacher Research University Advisor; Teachers' Inquiry Conference Focus Group; Book Study Group, 2000 – 2008
- American Association for Colleges of Teacher Education. Participated in AACTE's Day on the Hill, lobbying in support of teacher education, 2010 and 2011
- Pennsylvania Department of Education, Program Reviewer, PreK4 Program Applications, 2009-2012
- American Educational Research Association, Proposal Reviewer, Division K, Section 7, 2008. 2009 Division C Section 3 Science, 2001
- National Association for Research in Science Teacher, Proposal Reviewer, Strands 3, 7, 8, 9, & 10, 2009, 2007
- Pittsburgh Public Schools, Curriculum Review (Kindergarten Math), Pittsburgh Public Schools, Department of Early Childhood Education, Review of Kindergarten math curriculum for alignment with PA Early Learning Standards, 2008-2009
- American Association for Colleges of Teacher Education, Proposal Reviewer, 2007, 2005
- Association for the Education of Teachers in Science, Program Committee Member and Proposal Reviewer, 2001
- Materials Research Society, Education Advisory Board for Materials Micro-world Traveling Exhibit, 2000-2010
- Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children, Panelist, Accreditation Processes and Review, 2008
- Pennsylvania Science Teachers' Association – Annual Convention, Volunteer coordinator, 1999 – 2007; New Horizons Committee, 2001; Program Co-Chair, State Convention, 1998; Nominated to serve on board as Western Pennsylvania representative, 1995
- American Jewish Committee, Pittsburgh Chapter. Advise organizational policy concerning charter schools, 1998. Presentation, Comparing apples and oranges: Charter schools in the public education system, 1997
- New Brighton School District, Science fair judge, 1998, 1997
- Pennsylvania Game and Wild Life Commission, Certified Project Wild Facilitator, 1988-2000
- Pittsburgh Voyager, Teams of Excellence, Curriculum Development, 1994-1996
- Thanks to Teachers, Blue Ribbon Committee Member, 1994, 1993

Coordinate Community Based Science Experiences

- Homeless Children's Initiative, Allegheny Intermediate Unit, After-School/Saturday Science Program, 1995 – 2003
- Family Math and Science Nights, Montour School District, 1999, 1998, 1997, 1996; Quaker Valley School District, 1998, 1997
- Science Bowl, ASSET, Wild, Wild West Coalition of Schools, 2000, 1999, 1998
- Minds In Motion Program, Burkett Elementary School, Montour School District, 1999, 1998, 1997, 1996, 1995
- Science Extravaganza, Woodland Hills School District, 1999

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UNIVERSITY

- Honors College Advisor Committee, 2012-Present
- Jewish Student Organization, Advisor, 2008 – 2013
- Honor's College Upper Division Committee, 2004 – 2007
- CIQR Social Justice Committee Member, 2004 – 2010
- Center for Teaching Excellence, Creative Teaching Awards Selection Committee, 2004, 2001
- Center for Interpretive and Qualitative Research, Symposium Co-chair, Spring, 2000

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

- Decanal Evaluation Committee, Member, Appointed by Provost, 2015
- PDE Major Review, Writer, Foreign Language, 2011- Present
- Promotion and Tenure Committee, Chair, 2010; Member, Elected by School of Education Faculty as DILE Representative, 2003 – 2014
- Academic and Curriculum Committee, Department Representative, 2000 – Present
- Sizemore Urban Education Initiative Committee, 2009 – Present
- Director of Student Teaching Search Committee, Member, 2012
- NCATE Specialty Professional Association (SPA) Writer, Science Education, 2010 and 2013
- NCATE Special Professional Association (SPA) Writer, Elementary Education, 2010
- Kappa Delta Epsilon, Advised on the development of a four part workshop series, Teaching in the Middle, 2009. Presented, Teaching in the Middle Strategies, October 2009; March 2009
- Mentoring Committee, Department of Foundations and Leadership in Education, 2006-2008
- School Identity Committee, 2006
- Dean's Search Committee (Elected by School of Education Faculty; appointed by Provost), 2003 - 2005
- Leading Teacher Quality Circle, Department Representative, 2001-2003; Leadership Theme Focus Group, 2001 – 2004
- Leading Teacher Program, PDS Committee; Faculty Liaison to Minadeo Elementary School (PPS) and Edgeworth Elementary School (QVSD)
- Faculty Awards Committee, Chair, 2000 – 2006
- Speaker Series Coordinator, Diamond Anniversary Committee, 2000 – 2004
- Search Committee Member. Qualitative Research, Clinical Teacher Educator, Educational Psychology, and Educational Foundations for the Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership. Counselor Education for the Department of Counseling, Psychology, and Special Education

DEPARTMENT

- Member, Chair's Search Committee, 2010
- Mentoring Committee, Dr. Alexandra Santau
- Chair, Math Education Search Committee, 2006
- Member, Science Education Search Committee, 2006, 2005
- Coordinator, Educated Citizenry Integrated Learning Semester, 2001 - 2003
- Department Chair Selection Committee, 2006-2008, 2003, 2000
- Chair, Early Childhood Education Search Committee, 1997-1998
- Early Childhood Education Program Committee, Chair. Program approved by Pennsylvania Department of Education, June 1997

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COMMUNITY

- Steel City 412, Cooperstown All-Star Team, Coordinator, 2014-2015
- 14th Ward Baseball League, Board of Directors, 2014, 2015
- Agency for Jewish Learning, JSITE/Teen Engagement Committee, 2014; Jewish Early Childhood Education Initiative, 2010.
- Strong Women, Strong Girls, Member, Advisory Board, 2011-2013.
- United Jewish Communities (National). Solicitor Trainer, 2000-2008; University Programs, National Chair, Slated, 1999; University Programs Executive Board, 1990-1996
- United Jewish Federation (Pittsburgh). Member, Jewish Education Think Tank, 2010. Committee, Community Leadership Development, 2007-2009; Member, Board of Trustees, 2000-2002; Delegate, Board of Delegates, appointed to three-year term, 1999-2002; Young Adult Division, Co-chair, appointed to two-year term, 2000-2002; Leadership Development Chair, 2001; Programming Chair, 1999; Mission to Israel Co-chair, 1998, Campaign Opening Event Co-chair, 1998, 1997, 1996; Solicitation Training, 1995-Present; Lishma Leadership Development Course, 1998-2000; Public Education Task Force of the Community Public Action Committee; Participant, Wechsler Leadership Development Course.
- Hillel Jewish University Center of Pittsburgh. Executive Board Member, Vice-President for Student Life, 2007 – 2011
- Jewish Learning Commission. Board Member, appointed to three year term 2004-2007; reappointed 2007-2010
- Agency for Jewish Learning (formerly Jewish Education Institute), Board Member, appointed to two three-year terms, 2004-2007; 2000-2003; Committees, Teacher Training and Retention; National Board Licensure; Nominating Committee; Synagogue Grant Funding; Day School Funding
- Community Relations Council, Constituent organization of National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council. Sonia and Aaron Levinson Award Committee, 2003 – present; recipient 2002. Public Education Task Force, 1996-2011; Community board member, three year term, 1996-1999
- Pittsburgh Mediation Center, Solicitation Training, 2005, 1999, 1998, 1997
- Israel Bonds – Event Co-chair, Young Leadership Award, 2003

AWARDS

- William and Olga Stark Young Leadership Award, 2007, Award recognizes “the achievements of an outstanding young leader who serves as a role model and exemplifies the ideals essential for the next generation of Jewish Community leadership.”
- Partners with Israel Young Leadership Award, Regional Office of Israel Bonds, 2004
- Sonia and Aaron Levinson Award (for Pursuit of Social Justice), Community and Public Affairs Council, 2002
- Teaching Fellow, The Exploratorium, San Francisco, 2001
- Nominee for the Omicron Delta Kappa Teacher of the Year Award, Duquesne University, 2000
- Creative Teaching Award, Duquesne University, 1996

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PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Educational Research Association
Association for the Education of Teachers in Science
National Association for Research in Science Teaching
National Middle Schools Association
National Science Teachers' Association
Pennsylvania Science Teachers' Association
Terrific Science Programs – Institute for Chemical Education, Partners for Terrific Science