

# Jeanette C. Banashak, MAT, EdD, PhD

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## WHAT VALUE I BRING TO THE UNIVERSITY & COMMUNITY

Drawing from a deep interdisciplinary well of expertise in Education (from Kindergarten through Higher Education), Humanities, Modern Languages & Literatures, and Religious Studies, as well as a wide range of interests, I bring an enthusiastic, culturally and linguistically responsive, curious, and teachable mindset. I listen deeply, critically, reflectively, and empathically, am a committed team member, and pursue myriad justice and service-oriented endeavors. Experiential to my core, I begin classes with questions that lead to engaging dialogues that nurture and celebrate differences and honor all students' voices. I adhere to the highest ethical standards.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Master's in Early Education Degree Online Director – 2022 to present; Social and Emotional Learning Program Director – 2022 to present; Senior Instructor – 2019 to present; Adjunct faculty – 2018 to 2019**

**Erikson Institute, Chicago, IL**

Teach in the SEL strand and core child development courses; Create and implement curriculum; Co-facilitate professional development for teachers; Supervise students; Have taught or am currently teaching the following courses:

Social and Emotional Development

Cognitive Development

Family and Culture

Social and Emotional Learning Foundations (SEL 1)

Family, Community, and Policy (SEL 2)

Embedded SEL: Play, Projects, and Peers

Integrative and Capstone Seminars

**Calm Classroom Facilitator for K-2<sup>nd</sup> grades and Trainer for Facilitators – 2016 to 2018**

**Erikson Institute/Chicago Public Schools/Luster Learning, Chicago, IL**

Facilitated Calm Classroom curriculum in both English and Spanish; Trained facilitators internationally in Spanish; Translated curriculum into Spanish for classroom teachers and facilitators.

### **Visiting Professor – 2013 to 2016**

#### **Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI**

Participated on University's first Design Thinking Committee; Facilitated weekly Spanish Circle; Facilitated weekly Spanish Club; Taught Design Thinking to faculty and in Advertising courses and club; Led various workshops on Cultural Competence and Pedagogy/Andragogy for regional teachers, including Cultural Competence for the Language Classroom, Designing Curriculum Using Creativity and Creative Problem Solving, and Incorporating the Communicative Approach Throughout the Curriculum. Taught the following courses in Education, Modern Languages and Literatures, and Liberal Studies:

Methods of Teaching

Student Teaching Secondary Content Practicum

Introduction to Liberal Education

Reading and Telling Stories

Spanish 101

Spanish 201

Advanced Spanish Conversation and Composition I

Advanced Spanish Conversation and Composition II

### **Assistant Professor - 2006 to 2012**

#### **Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids, MI**

Participated on several committees, including search committee for leadership administration hire, senior seminar capstone, and art on campus ad-hoc; Led five university study trips to Mexico, Ecuador, Germany, and Israel; Supervised teaching assistants in teaching and research.

Created and implemented curriculum in eighteen unique courses in Education, Humanities, and Religious Studies, including:

Lifespan Development

Adolescent Development & Culture

Methods of Teaching

Student Teaching Practicum

Inter/intrapersonal Relationships

Leadership

Creativity, Innovation, & Problem Solving

Imagination in Culture

Poverty and Justice

Poverty in the City

Senior Seminar (Capstone)

Hermeneutics

Old Testament

Christian Foundations  
Cultural Anthropology  
Elementary Spanish  
Advanced Spanish Conversation  
Advanced Spanish Grammar

**Teacher – 2005 to 2007**

**The Potter's House High School, Wyoming, MI**

Taught Spanish and Personal Development to all levels and ages (over fifty countries represented); Created curriculum for accreditation.

**English Instructor - 2006**

**World Relief, Kigali, Rwanda**

Taught English; Created curriculum for current and future instructors.

**Camp Director – 2002 to 2005**

**Springhill Camps, Ewart, MI**

Supervised campers ages 8-18, year-round staff and 200 summer staff; Founded international chapter; Recruited over 400 summer staff; Researched and wrote developmentally age-appropriate curriculum; Participated on Diversity and Trends team.

**Teacher – 1998 to 2002**

**Portage Northern High School, Portage, MI**

Taught Spanish to all levels and ages of students in IB school; Served on Curriculum Writing Team and new curriculum adoption; Supervised teacher's assistants.

## **EDUCATION**

From living in Mexico and Spain during my early years to visiting 28 countries as an adult to learning multiple languages as well as global instruments, education has always been more than a degree. Inspired by Paolo Freire, Jane Addams, Howard Gardner, Parker Palmer, Dolores Huerta, John Dewey, Arthur Zajonc, bell hooks, Maria Montessori, and Loris Malaguzzi, among others, education is responsible for bringing up a child for the betterment of society and the world by transgressing beyond boundaries. Education has the potential to teach self-awareness, social awareness, self-compassion, relationship skills, responsible decision-making, and management skills by liberating the self toward wholistic ways of being and accessing the teacher inside of us. Education unleashes the creative potential to express, explore, and ultimately transform and be transformed.

My doctoral path was chosen for the innovative and thoughtful paradigm of the Graduate Theological Foundation (GTF). With an interdisciplinary emphasis, the GTF graduates scholars such as Logotherapy Diplomate, Ann Graber and Author and Researcher, John Morgan.

- **Doctor of Philosophy, Education with emphasis in Creativity and Mindfulness**  
Graduate Theological Foundation, Mishawaka, IN, 2016
- **Doctor of Education**  
Graduate Theological Foundation, Mishawaka, IN, 2012
- **Masters in the Art of Teaching – K-5<sup>th</sup> grade**  
Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, MI, 2009
- **Bachelor of Science in Spanish Education – 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade**  
Taylor University, Upland, IN, 1998  
Semester in Spain, Seville, fall 1996

## **PUBLICATIONS**

*The Interrelationship Between Creativity and Mindfulness: A Phenomenological Study.* (2024 expected release). Lewiston, New York: Edwin Mellen Press.

*The Mindful Pilgrimage: A 40-Day Devotional for Pilgrims of Any Faith or None.* (2018). Berkley, California: Apocryphile Press.

## **BOOKS AND ARTICLES REVIEWED**

Eltayeb, S. and Abass, W. (2021). Recognizing the university role in mental health promotion. *Cogent Education*.

Rahiem, M. D. H. (2019). Dramatic storytelling and reading aloud: The use of narratives for moral education in kindergarten. *Cogent Education*.

Jackman, W. M. (2018). Exploring gender differences in achievement through student voice: Critical insights and analyses. *Cogent Education*.

Gigasari, N. (2017). The effect of social comparison tendencies on EFL teachers' experience of burnout and instructional self-efficacy. *Cogent Psychology*.

Rowan, L. & Townend, G. (2016). Early career teachers' beliefs about their preparedness to teach: Implications for the professional development of teachers working with gifted

and twice-exceptional students. *Cogent Education*.

Livermore, D. (2011). *What can I do? Making a global difference right where you are*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan.

## **PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS**

“Forest Bathing Immersion”, Kanuga Conference Center, 2023, 2024

“Powerful Practices for Higher Education Programs in Early Childhood: A Focus on Social and Emotional Learning” with Amanda Moreno, PhD, 2023, NAEYC Professional Learning Institute

“Social and Emotional Learning in the Classroom”, Hawai’i 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

“Mindfulness and Art (Recording for Virtual Tour)”, Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art, 2021

“Strategies for Promoting Social and Emotional Learning for You and Your Family at Home”, Erikson Webinar, 2020

“Whole Brain Parenting” (presented in Spanish), Chicago Public Schools, 2019

“Identity and Difference: Welcoming One and Valuing the Other”, Spiritual Directors International Conference, 2019

“Theatre of the Oppressed using Augusto Boal’s Methodologies: Be the Change, Discovering Our Common Ground”, The Dominican Center, 2019

“Contemplative Practices for Family Constellations”, Fetzer Institute, 2019

“SEL Practices and Skills”, DOOR, 2018

“The Enneagram as a Tool for Transformation”, Parliament of World’s Religions, 2018

“Design Thinking at Work”, DOOR, 2018

“Interspirituality and the Present”, Spiritual Directors International Conference, 2018

“Design Thinking for Early Childhood Classrooms”, Rush University, 2017

“The Enneagram in Therapy”, Chicago Mindful Psychotherapy, 2017

“Design Thinking for Early Childhood Curriculum Creation”, Erikson Institute, 2017

“Teaching and Practicing Empathy with Junior Highers”, Zephyr Experience, 2017

“Immigration Issues Using Paolo Freire’s Methods”, The Dominican Center, 2017

“Creatively Reaching Social Justice Using Paolo Freire’s Methods”,  
The Dominican Center, 2016

“The Creative and Contemplative Life”, Transformations Spirituality Center, 2016

“Mindfulness in Education”, Grand Rapids Public Schools, 2016

“Cultivating an Ethic of Care with Junior Highers”, Zephyr Experience, 2016

“Problem Solving Preferences and Design Thinking”, Grand Valley State University, 2015, 2016  
“Cultural Intelligence in the Language Classroom”, Grand Valley State University, 2015  
“Creativity and Design Thinking in the University Classroom”, Grand Valley State University, 2015  
“Explore Your Creative Spirit”, Transformations Spirituality Center, 2014, 2015  
“Technology in Education”, South Christian High School, 2013  
“Teaching Practices and Values”, Calvin College, 2012  
“Cultural Intelligence in Everyday Settings”, Cornerstone University, 2012  
“*Basadur* Problem Solving Process for Curriculum Creation”, National Heritage Academies, 2010  
“Creativity and Problem Solving in Business”, Central Michigan University, 2009  
“Creativity and Innovation in the College Classroom”, Cornerstone University, 2008

## **INTERNATIONAL STUDY ABROAD AND JUSTICE/SERVICE-LEARNING TRIPS LED**

Mexico, 2012  
Germany, 2011  
Ecuador, 2011  
Mexico, 2010  
Israel, 2008  
Mexico, 2007  
Israel, 2007  
Canada, 2006  
Spain, 2005  
Spain, 2004  
Ecuador, 2001  
Nepal and Thailand, 2000  
Western Europe, 1999

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

Professional Teaching – Spanish, grades 5 -12, current  
Mindful Outdoor Leadership, 2023  
*Shinrin Yoku* (Forest Bathing), 2021  
*Basadur* Applied Creativity, 2010  
The Enneagram, 2007

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS**

Professor of the Year, Cornerstone University, 2012

Outstanding Teacher Award, Calvin College/The Potter's House, 2007

Rotary grant to Mexico, 2001