

Laura Richter Thomas
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Education

Antioch University New England	MEd in Administration and Supervision with Principal's Certification, 2001
University of Missouri	Cum Laude, BSEd Secondary Speech & Theatre Education, Secondary Speech, Theatre and English Certification, 1993

Current Licensure

New Hampshire EEC	School Principal Library Media Specialist Theater Teacher
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Professional and Teacher Leadership Experience

2002- Present Antioch New England Graduate School, Keene, NH

2018-present	Director, Experienced Educators Program
2015-2018	Teaching Faculty, Experienced Educators Program
2005-2020	Director, the Antioch Center for School Renewal
2004-2005	Director, Education By Design
2002-2005	Director, Coalition Center for Essential School Reform
2002-2004	Assistant Director, Education By Design; Core Faculty

November 2015-2020 Library Media Specialist, Wells Memorial School, Harrisville, NH

September 2013-Present	Community Facilitator, Edutopia.org
July 2017-Present	Contributing Editor, Edutopia.org

2000-2001 Administrative Intern, Francis W. Parker Charter Essential School, Devens, MA

1999-2002 Head of Theatre, Lawrence Academy, Groton, MA

1998-1999 Professional Development Coordinator, Central States Coalition of Essential Schools, Kansas City, MO

1997-1998 Educational Consultant, Central States Coalition of Essential Schools, Kansas City, MO

1994-1998 Speech, Theater, and Debate Teacher and Service Learning Coordinator, Belton High School, Belton, MO

1993-94 Teacher, Wyandotte High School, Kansas City, KS

Recent and Current School and Teacher Coaching

SAU 29, Keene, NH 2018-2020 Group coaching and support in development of teacher mentors
Cheshire Career Center, Keene, NH 2014-2018 Individual teacher coaching and support around alternative 4 certification and individual goals.

Freeport, IL School District, 2014- 2015 School-wide coaching and support around the Coalition of Essential Schools philosophy

Westminster Community School, Westminster, VT, 2013-2014 School-wide coaching and support around the Common Core State Standards

Bellows Falls Union High School, Bellows Falls, VT, 2013-2014 School-wide coaching and support around differentiated instruction

Riverside School, Lyndonville, VT 2012-2014 School wide coaching and support around student-centered instruction and assessment strategies

Brattleboro Union High School, Brattleboro, VT, 2012 English Department coaching and support around differentiated instruction

White Mountain Regional School District, Whitefield, NH, 2011-2012: District- wide professional development and coaching related to the Critical Skills Instructional Model

Pentucket School District, West Newbury, MA, 2010- 2013: District- wide professional development and coaching related to the Critical Skills Instructional Model.

Boscawen Elementary School, Boscawen, NH 2009- 2015; Coaching and support around inquiry driven instruction, classroom facilitation, the Critical Skills Classroom Model, and the Common Core State Standards (Mathematics)

Otter Valley Union High School, Brandon, VT 2008- 2010: Coaching and support in the planning and creation of a Freshman Sustainability Institute within the existing High School program.

River Valley Technical Center, Springfield, VT 2008- 2012: Coaching and support in the creation and implementation of cross-cutting skills and dispositions to be used Center-wide.

Educational Program Creation, Coordination and Facilitation

Deal School, Deal, NJ, 2017-2018 Facilitation of learning experiences around PBL and facilitation

Gill-Montague Regional School District, 2016- 2018 Facilitation of learning experiences on teaching and assessing higher order critical thinking skills

Coalition of Essential Schools Fall Forum, Portland, ME 2015 Program Director and Conference Organizer

Creative City Charter School, Baltimore, MD, 2013, 2014 Created and facilitated a week-long institute on Place Based Instruction and the Critical Skills Classroom

Merrimack Valley School District, Penacook, NH, 2013 Created and facilitated a week-long institute on the Common Core State Standards (mathematics)

Coalition of Essential Schools Fall Forum, Providence, RI, 2012 Program Director and Conference Organizer

Springfield, Vermont School District, 2009-2011 District/ University partnership for district-wide professional development academy.

Westminster Center School, VT 2006-2007: Critical Friends Group Coaching

Lincoln-Woodstock NH 2006-2007 Socratic Seminars

New Hampshire Department of Education Statewide Training Series 2005-2006 Creation of Professional Development Master Plans

Clear Creek High School, Houston, TX- 2005 Workshop on Resistance and Change

Springfield, VT Schools 2004-2005 Workshop series on writing for publication

Monadnock Regional Public Schools of Choice Project 2004-2006 Workshop series on designing smaller learning communities

Milford, NH High School 2003-2004 Workshop series on creating and using authentic assessments

Education By Design Level I Institute 2002 A week-long institute designed to introduce teachers to experiential classroom methodologies.

Fall Mt. Regional High School 2002-2003 Competency Based Assessment System Arts Integration Coach

Central States Coalition of Essential Schools New Faculty Institutes 1998-99 A three-session, yearlong workshop designed to introduce twenty-five new teachers in Essential Schools to CES philosophies.

Central States Coalition of Essential Schools TREK 1998-99 A summer institute followed by three winter workshops designed to build leadership capacity among the fifty participants from twelve schools.

Missouri Youth Service Learning Training Team 1996-98 A team of eight high school students trained in service-learning methodologies who traveled the state facilitating workshops for teachers on the implementation of these methods in their own classrooms.

Coalition of Essential Schools Student Leadership Institutes 1997, 1998, and 1999 A four session, yearlong cycle of workshops which facilitated the empowerment of over 200 students as full partners in the process of educational change using a three pronged approach of education, research and action.

Winnetonka High School Faculty Groups 1997 A two-session conversation with 100 faculty members around the basic philosophies of the Coalition of Essential Schools and the ways in which these philosophies reflected the school's culture, mission and vision.

Courses Taught

Assessment as a Focus for Learning, 2003, 2004, 2006-2010	Leading With Data: A School Profile 2009, 2016
Case Study: Building a School Profile, 2007, 2008	Philosophy of Education and Change- 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020
The Critical Skills Classroom- 2012	Practica: Child Study, Curriculum, Equity and Change 2012-present
Critical Skills for Critical Times, 2004	Practicum: Facilitative Leadership- 2020
Critical Friends Group Coaching I 2009	Research Topics- 2021
Curriculum Design- 2015	Rural Poverty 2007
Education in Social Context, 2003	School Finance and Facilities- 2013, 2014
Experiential Learning, 2003	School Change 2006- 2009
Facilitation in the Problem Based Classroom- 2012, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020	Social and Political Issues in Education, 2004
Instructional Design- 2014, 2018	Supervision and Evaluation for Teacher Growth, 2003

Recent Training and Development in Equity, School Improvement and Restructuring

- Strengthening Emotional Stamina to Counter White Fragility 2021
- Roots Deeper than White 2020
- International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) 2016, 2018, 2019
- EduCon 2012,2013, 2015, 2017
- EdcampCES 2015
- ParentCamp 2015
- Edutopia Summit 2014
- Edcamp Keene/ NH, 2011- present
- Talk About Teaching with Charlotte Danielson, 2010
- Engaging Classroom Assessments, 2010
- School Reform Initiative Winter Meeting, 2010

Presentations

Slate School Education Ideal Lab, North Haven, CT (online)

2020-Lessons Learned in Education, and Embracing Every Challenge as an Opportunity to Grow

International Society for Technology in Education, Denver, CO

2019- Getting Started with the New PBL: Process Based Learning

2018- ISTE Interactive Lecture “Becoming Badass: Leadership Without Fear”

2016- ISTE Ignite “Becoming Badass in 6 Steps”

“The Best Formula Ever: What to do when the wheels come off.”

Christa McAullife Technology Conference, Manchester, NH

2017- “Confessions of a One Day A Week Librarian”

2015- Facilitation 101

2014- “PBL + EdTech = NextGen Learning
Twitter PD”

2013- “The Next Generation Classroom: Welcome to your future.”

2012- “The Next Generation Classroom: Welcome to your future.”

SXSWedu, Austin, TX

2015- Future15: “Becoming Badass in 6 Steps”

EduCon, Philadelphia, PA

2017- “First, Do No Harm: Rules for Professional Development Facilitators.”

2015- “What’s Next for PBL?”

2012-. “Bringing Critical Skills into the 21st Century.” Philadelphia, PA

NEA- NH, Bow, NH

2013 & 2014: Rolling out the Common Core (Without Letting it Roll All Over You)

2013: Social Media 101 (Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Facebook)

2012 & 2014: Facilitation 101

2011: Assessment for Learning

2011: Cooperation Isn’t Enough: Building and Maintaining Collaborative Learning Communities

Phi Delta Kappa, Atlanta, GA

2012: “One Big Backpack: The Critical Skills Program” (Featured Speaker) Baltimore, MD

CCSSO National Conference on Student Assessment, Orlando, FL

2011: Assessment for Learning, Orlando, FL

Vermont NEA Conference, Burlington, VT

2009: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Internet

Vermont Career and Tech Ed Conference, Burlington, VT

2009: The Critical Skills Program: Teaching 21st Century Skills

New Hampshire Staff Development Council, Manchester, NH

2008- Success Analysis Protocol

Leadership Panel

Coalition of Essential Schools National Fall Forum

2014 Facilitating Authentic Learning

PBL+EdTech+SEL=NextGen Learning

- 2013 Social Media 101 (or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Facebook)
Rolling out the Common Core (Without Letting it Roll All Over You)
- 2011 Next Generation Instruction: Classroom Facilitation
- 2010 Pre Conference Session: Teaching and Assessing 21st Century Skills
Are You Ready? Utilizing the Hierarchy of School Needs to Improve School Change
- 2009- Pre Conference Session: Place Based Education
“Teaching & Assessing 21st Century Skills”
- 2008- Pre Conference Session- An Introduction to Implementing The Critical Skills Classroom
- 2007- “The Gift of Resistance”
- 2006- Using Experiential Techniques in the Regular Classroom
- 2004, 2003: “The Gift of Resistance”
- 2002: “Facilitation 101”
- 1998: “Student Empowerment: The Essential Piece”
“When Leaders Leave”
“The Student Perspective Project: Voices from the Change Process”
- 1997: “The American Dream: An Interdisciplinary Course”
“Student Empowerment: The Essential Piece”
- 1996: “One Enkindled Spirit: Service Learning in the Regular Classroom:

Coalition of Essential Schools Spring Forum

- 2004: “Henry Hikes to Fitchburg: The Socratic Seminar”
- 2002-2004 “CES 101”
- 1998 Service Learning in the Speech and Theatre Classroom

Massachusetts Title I Dissemination Project 2004

- “Balancing Real World Problems With Real-World Solutions”

Publications

- Identifying and Supporting Students With Dyspraxia, Edutopia, December 2, 2019
- 7 Smart, Fast Ways to Do Formative Assessment, Edutopia, April 26, 2019
- 5 Tips for Meetings Worth Going To, Edutopia, October 18, 2019
- Finding Clarity in Assessment and Grading, Edutopia, September 6, 2018
- The Lessons of the Dandelion, Edutopia, July 13, 2018
- Morning Meetings in Middle and High School, Edutopia, May 23, 2018
- Rejecting the ‘Mean Girl’ Framework, Edutopia, July 11, 2017
- The Big Social Justice Book List Project, Edutopia, June 12, 2017
- Why Representation Matters, Edutopia, August 22, 2016
- Assuming Positive Intent, Edutopia, July 23, 2016
- Mindful Facilitation: Don’t Do Something, Just Stand There, Edutopia, February 1, 2016
- Confessions of a One Day A Week Librarian, Learning at the EDge, Phi Delta Kappa, March 3, 2016
- Mindful Facilitation: Don’t Do Something, Just Stand There, Edutopia, February 1, 2016 Four Keys to Quality

Professional Learning, *New Hampshire Journal of Education*, 2015
 Book Chapter with Dreyer Leon, S. (2015) Collaboration, Rubrics, and Teacher Evaluation. In Tenam-Zemach, M., & In Flynn, J. E. (2015). *Rubric Nation: Critical Inquiries on the Impact of Rubrics in Education*.
 How About We Talk About 'Grit' for Policymakers and School Leaders?, *Education Week: Teaching Ahead: A Roundtable*, March 19, 2014
 Flavor of the Month, PDK International: Learning on the EDge, September 2013
 10 Good Ways to Ensure Bad Professional Learning, *Journal of Staff Development*, August 2013
 Facilitating Authentic Learning, Grades 6-12; Corwin. 2012
 From Experience to Meaning: The Critical Skills Classroom, *Phi Delta Kappan*, October 2009
 In Praise of Reinventing the Wheel, *Phi Delta Kappan*, April 2008
 More Than Just the Sum of Its Parts: The Critical Skills Model, *Phi Lamda Theta Newsletter*, June/July 2008
 Mission Control, *Teacher Magazine*, September 2005
 The Fork Debate, *Education Week*, August 29, 2005
 The Buffy Factor: What Educators Should Learn from the Vampire Slayer; *Education Week*; June 11, 2003

Grants

New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, Thomas, L “Critical Skills Scholars.” 2019-2023
 Bay and Paul Foundation, Thomas, L and Watts, H. “Awareness Through the Body.” 2014-2016
 School Reform Initiative. Thomas, L. and Dreyer Leon, S. “Three Paths to Change: A Triangulated Evaluation Project of CG Training Models.” 2010-2012
 Phi Delta Kappa Project Grant. Thomas, L. “Creating Next Generation School Coaches.” 2012
 Nellie Mae Educational Foundation. Thomas, L. “Investing In Innovation Project Preparation.” 2009

Professional Leadership & Memberships

Council for Teacher Education (New Hampshire Department of Education), 2011- 2020
 New Hampshire Summit on 21st Century Teacher Preparation Steering Committee, 2010
 New Hampshire Staff Development Council Board of Directors- Co-President, 2009- 2011
 New Hampshire Staff Development Council Board of Directors- 2007- 2011
 Rethink Learning Now Outreach and Communications Committees, 2010
 The School Reform Initiative- Professional Development Committee, 2010
 New Hampshire Integrated Learning Project (SAIL) Planning Team, 2004-2008
 Steering Committee- Coalition of Essential Schools Center Director’s Collaborative, 2004-2007
 Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development
 Annenberg Institute for School Reform National School Reform Faculty
 National Staff Development Council

University Service and Awards

Faculty Senate	2020
Academic Affairs Committee Co-Chair	2020
Phi Delta Kappa Emerging Leader Award	2010
Faculty Mini-Grant Award	2010
President’s Faculty Scholarship Award	2007, 2009