

CURRICULUM VITAE

Jessica Slentz Reynolds, Ph.D.

Executive Director, First-Year Experience

Texas A&M University – San Antonio

Email: jessica.reynolds@tamusa.edu

Phone: (210) 784 - 2406

EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** August 2025
Texas State University
Major: Postsecondary Student Success
Specialization: Developmental Literacy
GPA: 4.0
Dissertation
Reading, Writing, and Belonging: A Qualitative Study Exploring Academic Self-Efficacy Among First-Year, First-Generation Students at a Hispanic-Serving Institution
Dissertation Committee
Eric J. Paulson, Ph.D. (Chair); Taylor W. Acee, Ph.D.; Emily J. Summers, Ph.D.; Rita H. Sperry, Ph.D.
- M.A.** August 2013
Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
Major: English
Emphasis: Rhetoric and Composition/ Borderland Studies
GPA: 4.0
- B.A.** May 2011
Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
Major: English
Minor: Psychology
Cum Laude

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2023-Present **Executive Director, First-Year Experience**
Office of First-Year Experience, Texas A&M University - San Antonio
- Provided strategic leadership for the university's First-Year Experience department, overseeing multiple interconnected programs designed to strengthen student belonging, academic success, and retention.
 - Led the administration, assessment, and continuous improvement of First-Year Seminar, Jaguar JumpStart, Jag2Jag Peer Mentoring, and other first-year student-success initiatives.
 - Partnered with the Associate Vice Provost for Student Success and Retention and stakeholders across academic and student affairs to coordinate institution-wide retention strategies.
 - Supervised professional staff, student employees, peer leaders, and program personnel while establishing clear systems for communication, accountability, training, and

performance support.

- Directed the recruitment, selection, onboarding, development, and ongoing support of First-Year Seminar and Jaguar JumpStart faculty.
- Used institutional data, student feedback, focus groups, and program outcomes to guide curricular revisions, resource allocation, and programmatic decision-making.
- Helped secure a \$300,000 grant to expand and strengthen student-success programming, collaborating with university partners on program design and implementation.
- Led Jaguar JumpStart, a summer bridge initiative demonstrating significant gains in first-year student retention among participating cohorts.
- Oversee Jag2Jag Peer Mentoring, including mentor and mentee recruitment, training, programming, engagement tracking, and assessment of retention outcomes.
- Design and facilitate professional development for faculty, peer mentors, peer leaders, and student employees focused on first-year pedagogy, student belonging, inclusive support, and career readiness.
- Build cross-campus partnerships with academic colleges, advising, enrollment management, student affairs, and support services to create coordinated pathways for first-year students.
- Collaborated with the Department of University Access to secure funding for curriculum liaisons and a full-time faculty position supporting Dual Credit and First-Year Seminar alignment.
- Represent First-Year Experience in university planning and decision-making processes, advocating for evidence-based practices and the institutional value of first-year teaching.
- Advanced the university's participation in AASCU's Student Voices Initiative by training 15 student leaders to collect, analyze, and communicate peer feedback.

- 2021-2023 **Director, First-Year Seminar**
Office of First-Year Experience, Texas A&M University - San Antonio
- Facilitated professional development for 22 new and experienced First-Year Seminar faculty
 - Updated and produced curriculum for all First-Year Seminar faculty based on course assessments and student feedback
 - Aligned curriculum with new student orientation, JagX, and other first-year initiatives to create more cohesiveness for students entering the university
 - Collaborated with partners and initiatives across campus, including the writing center, Mays Center, library, and CliftonStrengths
 - Assessed course through departmental end-of-course surveys in which 500 students completed for the fall 2022 semester
 - Observed and assessed all faculty for professional growth and provided individualized feedback on instructional practices
 - Provided training and support for 30 First-Year Seminar Peer Leaders
 - Intentionally incorporated elements of First-Year Experience into the course, such as Common Experience, Faculty Advising, and Learning Communities
 - Led the First-Year Seminar Committee
- 2019-2020 **Assistant Director**
University Writing Center, Texas State University
- Facilitated College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA) levels I and II training for new and returning writing consultants
 - Provided up-to-date writing center best practices for entire staff
 - Performed supervisory tasks to maintain the daily functions of the center
 - Direct supervisor for the Workshop Team and Webcam Coordinator
 - Helped with strategic planning and outcomes reports
 - Presented at conferences to share the center's mission and goals
 - Facilitated a graduate-level writing group, "Write Your Heart Out"
 - Produced workshops and trained consultants on delivering workshops
 - Produced and presented multiple webinars on graduate-level writing for the Graduate College
- 2018-2019 **Graduate Coordinator/Consultant**
University Writing Center, Texas State University
- Facilitated graduate-level consultant training for new and returning consultants
 - Facilitated thesis and dissertation bootcamps
 - Produced and presented multiple webinars on graduate-level writing for the Graduate College
 - Regularly presented at Graduate Info Sessions and trained consultants to do these presentations
 - Expanded outreach to graduate students and greatly increased graduate student participation at the center
- 2017-2018 **Mentoring Instructor, Developmental Reading**
Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Texas State University
- Taught sections of Reading Improvement and Non-Credit Reading
 - Created assignments and sequence for Reading Improvement courses
 - Selected course readings for Reading Improvement Courses

- Led weekly meetings and mentored other Reading Instructors on best practices and class management
- Responsible for lab attendance and record keeping for 100+ students enrolled in Reading Improvement
- Completed semester evaluations on instructors' performances

2015-2016 **Contributor, Texas Success Initiative Professional Development Program Grant**

The Education Institute, Texas State University

- Worked with the TEI team to create and implement Professional Development (PD) for practitioners teaching Developmental Education (DE) courses
- Created lesson plans and activities for instructors to incorporate into their classes
- Presented at conferences to illustrate how PD modules can be effectively utilized in a variety of classrooms
- Presented at conferences to showcase the Texas Developmental Education Professional Community Online (TX DEPCO), including social media, a promising practices blog, and upcoming events on the TEI webpage
- Created engaging materials to showcase initiatives, which are passed out at local conferences to keep practitioners informed
- Attended events, including the Acceleration Institute, to assist TEI in program facilitation

2015-2016 **Contributor, Texas Adult Education Standards and Benchmarks Grant**
The Education Institute, Texas State University

- Assisted in revising the Texas Adult Education Standards, following directives from the Texas Workforce Commission
- Assisted with gathering feedback from the Standard Work Group and combining several suggestions into a cohesive document
- Co-created the deliverables for the grant
- Attended face-to-face meetings throughout the process
- Created a small group facilitation guide for face-to-face meeting
- Attended several Texas Workforce Commission meetings, where updates were provided to stakeholders
- Navigated alignment with the new National Reporting System for Adult Education (NRS) levels for proficiency indicators
- Made edits and revisions based on the reviewers' comments, simplified language, and added language or examples that referenced work readiness skills
- Cross checked example performance indicators and employability skills to their National Reporting System for Adult Education (NRS) level

2011-2019 **Writing Consultant**
Center for Academic Student Achievement (CASA), Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

- Helped students from all postsecondary levels with academic and professional writing assignments
- Created, revised, and presented various writing workshops
- Consulted online from 2015-2019
- Led training on working with writers from developmental literacy courses

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2020-2021	Lecturer/ Full-Time Faculty Office of First-Year Experience, Texas A&M University - San Antonio UNIV 1301: First-Year Seminar
2016-2018	Instructor Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Texas State University RDG1300: Reading Improvement NCBR1001: Reading and Writing
2012-2015	Instructor First-Year Writing Program, Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi ENGL1301: Composition I ENGL 1302: Composition II ENGL 0399: Fundamentals of Writing UCCP1101: First-Year Seminar

WORKSHOP/WEBINAR FACILITATIONS

2023-Current	Executive Director, First-Year Experience Office of First-Year Experience, Texas A&M University – San Antonio Design and facilitate ongoing professional development for First-Year Seminar and Jaguar JumpStart faculty, Peer Leaders, tutors, and peer mentors. Sessions address first-year student success, inclusive teaching, student belonging, curriculum implementation, mentoring practices, CliftonStrengths, and retention-focused support strategies. • First-Year Seminar Faculty Training • Jaguar JumpStart Faculty and Tutor Development • Supporting First-Year Students' Sense of Belonging • CliftonStrengths for Faculty and Peer Leaders • Peer Mentor and Peer Leader Training • First-Year Seminar Curriculum Implementation and Assessment • Supporting Students through Transitional Challenges
2021-2023	Director, First-Year Seminar Office of First-Year Experience, Texas A&M University - San Antonio Facilitate continuous professional development and training sessions for First- Year Seminar faculty and Peer Leaders.
2022	CliftonStrengths Coach Texas A&M University - San Antonio Facilitated 2-day training for CliftonStrengths Champions; providing practices and strategies for faculty and staff to implement in their staff development and/or classrooms.
2019-2020	Assistant Director University Writing Center, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX Facilitated levels 1 and 2 College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA) training for 20 writing consultants. These trainings provided new and returning consultants with writing center theory and best practices to use toward their development as university writing consultants.
2019-2020	Workshop Facilitator University Writing Center, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX

Facilitator for “Write Your Heart Out,” a thesis and dissertation writing group

- 2018-2020 Training Facilitator
University Writing Center, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
Conducted training to help writing center consultants become more familiar with graduate-level research and writing.
- 2018-2020 Webinar Speaker/Facilitator
University Writing Center, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
Regularly presented in the Texas State University Graduate Shop Talk Webinar Series. These webinars were centered on graduate-level writing with an emphasis on parts of documents, literature reviews, methods, and general writing strategies.

- Summer 2019 Writing Instructor and Workshop Facilitator
Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
Facilitated a 3-day workshop covering professional and academic writing for the SURE Program, an HSI STEM organization
- Spring 2019 Workshop Coordinator
University Writing Center, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
Revised the following workshops: APA 1; APA 2; MLA 1; MLA 2; Chicago 1; Chicago 2; Academic Essay Writing 1; Academic Writing 2
- 2011-2015 Writing Consultant
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Center for Academic Student Achievement (CASA)
Regularly presented and helped revised various workshops for the CASA Writing Center: Integrating Sources/Evidence; Cover letter; Curriculum Vitae and Resume Writing; Plagiarism and Misuse of Sources; Introduction to Multimodal Presentations; Literature Review; Ethnography: Research Methods; Annotated Bibliography (APA and MLA); Poster Presentations for Sciences; Introduction to Scientific Writing; Strategies for Effective Revision and Peer Review; Introduction to APA; Introduction to MLA; Orientation to Writing Center Services
- Fall 2014 Training Facilitator
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Center for Academic Student Achievement (CASA)
Conducted training to help writing center tutors become more familiar with helping students enrolled in developmental reading and writing courses.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Reynolds, J.S.**, Caraveo, Y.S., & Gallegos, E.J. (2026). *From Surface Fixes to Systemic First-Year Success*. Texas Conference on Student Success, San Marcos, TX.
- Williams, D., **Reynolds, J. S.**, & Kingsbury, C. (2025). *Access Not Aptitude: Shifting Retention Issues from Students to Structures*. Texas Conference on Student Success, Austin, TX.
- Reynolds, J. S.** (2019). *Researcher as Artist: Using a Formative Experiment to Create a New Image for Writing Center Training Practices*. International Writing Centers Association Conference, Columbus, OH.
- Hoff, M., & **Reynolds, J. S.** (2019). *What is College Literacy? Views from Across the Pathways to College*. Literacy Research Association Annual Conference, Tampa, FL.
- Paulson, E. J., Sarker, A., **Reynolds, J. S.**, & Cotman, A. (2019). *Making It Work: Experiences with a Statewide Accelerated IRW Mandate*. College Reading and Learning Association National Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Reynolds, J. S.**, Johnston-Ashton, K., Shinn, H., Caverly, D., & Armstrong, S.L. (2018, October). *One University's Route to Investigating Integrated Reading and Writing Efficacy*. College Reading and Learning Association annual conference. Albuquerque, NM.
- Paulson, E. J., Van Overschelde, J., Sarker, A., & **Reynolds, J. S.** (2017). *Results of a State-wide Quasi-experiment on Accelerated Reading & Writing*. College Reading and Learning Association National Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Reynolds, J. S.**, & Jarrett, S. (2017). *Using Protest Music to Increase Students' Awareness of Fake News*. College Reading and Learning Association Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Reynolds, J. S.**, & Sarker, A. (2017). *Campus Climate and its Impact on Student Engagement*. College Reading and Learning Association Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Reynolds, J. S.**, & Sarker, A. (2017). *Implementing contextualization into the IRW classroom: One*

instructor's struggle to make IRW "Worth it." Texas Association for Literacy and Adult Education Conference, San Antonio, TX.

Sarker, A., Hodges, R., & **Reynolds, J. S.** (2017). *Providing Contextualized Instruction with Free Online Modules*. Texas Association for Literacy and Adult Education Conference, San Antonio, TX.

- Reynolds, J. S., & Sarker, A.** (2016). *Utilizing Professional Development Modules in The IRW Classroom*. College Academic Support Programs Conference, Corpus Christi, TX.
- McConnell, M.C., **Reynolds, J. S., & Sarker, A.** (2016). *Building an Online Professional Developmental Community*. Commission on Adult Basic Education National Conference, Dallas, TX.
- McConnell, M.C., **Reynolds, J. S., & Sarker, A.** (2016). *Implications of Social Media and Online Training for Professional Development in the College Readiness Field*. Engaging Pedagogy Conference, Seguin, TX.
- Reynolds, J. S.** (2013). *Critiquing an Evil Empire: Capitalism, Consumerism, and The American Dream*. Southwest Popular/American Culture Conference, Albuquerque, NM.
- Reynolds, J. S., Quintana, E., & Sawyer, C.** (2012). *The Sound of Progression in the Writing Center*. International Writing Centers Association Conference, San Diego, CA.

REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Hoff, M., & **Reynolds, J. S.** (2022). "It's a Different World": Language Ideologies, Literacies, and College Readiness. *Adult Literacy Education*, 4(3).
- Reynolds, J. S., & Jarret, S.** (2021). The resurgence of the Pacific Northwest Tree Octopus: How instructors can use new media to increase students' awareness of fake news. In E. Carillo and A. Horning (Eds.), *Teaching Critical Reading and Writing in the Era of Fake News*. New York, NY: Peter Lang Publishing.
- Paulson, E. J., Sarker, A., **Reynolds, J. S., & Cotman, A. M.** (2021). Instructors' voices: Experience with state-mandated accelerated integrated developmental reading and writing coursework in Texas community colleges. *Journal of College Reading and Learning*, 51(1).
- Reynolds, J. S.** (2018). Message sent, message received: Understanding students' perceptions of instruction in integrated reading and writing courses. *Comprehensive Exam*, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Texas State University, San Marcos.
- Reynolds, J. S., & Sarker, A.** (2017). Implementing contextualization Into the Integrated Reading and Writing (IRW) classroom: Making IRW 'Worth it'. *Promising Practice in Developmental Education*. San Marcos, TX: Texas State University.
- Sarker, A., **Reynolds, J. S., Payne, E., & Hodges, R.** (2017). Texas AEL standards and benchmarks: Reflections on the process. *Texas Quarterly*, 21(2).

HONORS & AWARDS

- Doctoral Program in Developmental Education Graduate Assistantship, Texas State University (2015-2020)
- The Graduate College Scholarship – Education Recipient, Texas State University (2017)
- The Graduate College Scholarship – Education Recipient, Texas State University (2015)
- Outstanding Learning Community Collaborator Award Nominee, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, First-Year Learning Communities Program (2015)
- Haas Writing Award Nominee, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
- "Album Art as Subtle Images of Protest," (2014)
- Graduate Summa Cum Laude, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi (2013)
- HAAS Writing Award Winner – 1st Place Graduate Rhetoric, Linguistics, Technical Writing Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, "Recounting One Chicano's Mission: An Analysis of Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales's 'Message to Aztlán,' Using Aristotle's Rhetoric as a Framework" (2013)
- HAAS Writing Award Nominee, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
- "Race and Relations in Small Town Texas: Understanding mid-20th Century Pedagogies and its Influence on Texas A&M University - Kingsville through 1925 to 1962" (2012)
- HAAS Writing Award Nominee, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
- "Critiquing an Evil Empire: Capitalism, Consumerism, and the American Dream" (2012)
- English Graduate Assistantship, Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi (2011-2013)

Graduate Cum Laude, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi (2011)
Dean’s List Recipient, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi (2009 – 2011)

COMMUNITY & UNIVERSITY INVOLVEMENT

Retention Steering Committee. Texas A&M University – San Antonio, 2023 – present
Gallup-Certified Strengths Coach. Texas A&M University – San Antonio, 2021 – present
Staff Council – All Staff Chair. Texas A&M University – San Antonio, 2025 - 2026
Staff Council – Member. Texas A&M University – San Antonio, 2024-2025
Dual Credit/Early College High School Faculty Advisory Committee. Texas A&M University – San Antonio, 2023 – 2024
Core Curriculum Committee. Texas A&M University – San Antonio, 2023
First-Year Seminar Committee, Chair. Texas A&M University – San Antonio, 2021 – 2023
Common Experience Committee. Texas A&M University – San Antonio, 2020 – 2023
Faculty Advisor. Faculty Advising Program, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, 2020-2022
First-Year Seminar Committee. Texas A&M University – San Antonio, 2020 – 2023
Invited Speaker. Post-Graduate Overview, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, 2020
Assistant Editor. The Texas Success Initiative Professional Development Program. (2017). *Promising Practice in Developmental Education*. San Marcos, TX: Texas State University.
Moderator. First-Year Research Conference, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, 2014
Volunteer. First-Year Celebration/Symposium, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, 2012-2015
Moderator. South Central Writing Centers Association Conference – Corpus Christi, 2013
Literacy Circle Leader. Author’s Day, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, 2012-2014
UIL Grader/Judge. Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, 2012-2014

MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

Member. International Writing Centers Association.
Member. Literacy Research Association.
Member. College Reading and Learning Association.
Member. Phi Kappa Phi, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX.
Member. Alpha Chi National Honor Society, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX.
President. Student Association of Graduate English Scholars, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, TX, 2012-2013
Secretary. Student Association of Graduate English Scholars, Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, TX, 2011-2012
Secretary. Sigma Tau Delta (English Honor Society), Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, TX, 2011-2012
Member. Sigma Tau Delta (English Honor Society), Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, TX, 2011-2012

