

Colleagues, as director of the CRL, ensuring the viability and future success of the center has been my primary goal. To support that goal and to broaden the decision-making process, I have appointed two current KUCRL researchers as Associate Directors. The Associate Directors will have a significant role in the CRL's leadership and future direction.

I am thrilled to announce that Drs. Suzanne Myers and Jocelyn Washburn have agreed to help lead the CRL as Associate Directors. With their leadership, intellect, and focused approach to getting things done, the CRL and SIM Network could not be in better hands. I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to collaborate with Jocelyn and Suzanne as we strive to ensure the future success of the CRL, and I am confident that their contributions will be invaluable.



Dr. Myers is an Assistant Research Professor at KU and Co-director of Advanced Learning Technologies in Education Consortium (ALTEC). Dr. Myers is interested in developing writing programs enhanced with instructional technology (AI) and linked to writing research and products created at the CRL. She currently leads the professional development and virtual instructional coaching efforts on a large IES grant focused on the Transition of high school students with LD, and through another federally funded grant project, she is helping to iteratively design, test, and scale an Adaptive Professional Learning Model for educators. She brings 15 years of experience as a language arts specialist to the CRL, including five years as the ELA standards and assessment lead at the Kansas State Department of Education. She served as Principal Investigator and Project Director for the federally funded \$27 Million Kansas Striving Readers grant before joining KUCRL. She has designed, implemented, and studied virtual PD, first at the state department and now at KUCRL as a co-creator of the VECTOR virtual coaching model.

Dr. Washburn is familiar to all CRL staff and members of the SIM Network. She began teaching with SIM as a first-year teacher and has included SIM throughout her successful career in state and national leadership within the SIM Network and the field of education. She is an Assistant Research Professor and Director of the Professional Development Research Institute (PDRI) at the CRL. Through federally funded research, she is iteratively designing, testing, and scaling an Adaptive Professional Learning Model for coaches and teachers implementing evidence-based practices. Her research focuses on adolescent literacy, evidence-based practices, professional learning models, and educator

collaboration. As director of PD, her leadership role includes sharing advancements in SIM interventions, delivering high-quality PD and coaching, and organizing and hosting regional and national conferences. Before joining KUCRL, she was the Explicit Instruction Co-Program Manager for the Virginia Department of Education Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports federally funded initiative. She has led several adolescent literacy initiatives focused on improving reading and writing instruction for students with and without disabilities through evidence-based practices in MS and HS-inclusive classrooms.

Please welcome Drs. Jocelyn Washburn and Suzanne Myers as the CRL's Associate Directors!

Mike

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