

Barbara K. Decker

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EDUCATION

University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work, Denver, CO

M.S.W. 1991

Emphasis: Children, Youth, and Families

University of Denver, Denver, CO

B.A. Major: Sociology Minor: English, 1987

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Learning Disabilities Association of Colorado

National Association of Social Workers

TEACHING INTERESTS

History of Social Work, Social Welfare Policy, Research Methods and Design, Integrated Social Work Practice

RESEARCH/TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work

Adjunct Faculty, 2010 – present

Taught foundation year courses (History of Social Welfare and Social Work, Social Welfare Policy, Integrated Social Work Practice for Social Justice, Research Methods and Design) to 20 - 25 students per term.

Denver Urban Scholars, Denver, CO

Evaluation Coordinator for Mentor Enhancement Demonstration Project, 2013 – present

Coordinate agency evaluation for three-year collaborative grant through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The project investigates the effect of training mentors in the roles of teacher and advocate on student outcomes. Monitored consent, baseline, and follow up surveys for youth, guardians, and mentors.

Provided, with other agencies in collaborative grant, enhanced training to mentors and developed system to provide follow up support to mentors.

Kaplan University, College of Arts and Health Sciences, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Adjunct Faculty, 2008 – 2011

Taught Academic Strategies class on-line to 20 first term students per term. Guided students through working in an on-line environment and developing goals and strategies to meet those goals.

The Women's College, University of Denver, Denver, CO

Adjunct Faculty, 1998 – 2001

Taught Foundations for Professional Development to 15 students per term. Worked with team to refine class to better meet the needs of students. Planned and presented learning strategies workshops.

Abuse Prevention Training Program, Rape Assistant and Awareness Program, Denver, CO

Actor/Educator, 1992 – 1993

Presented abuse prevention module to elementary school classes throughout Colorado.

COUNSELING/ADVISING EXPERIENCE

Denver Urban Scholars (formerly Byrne Urban Scholars), Denver, CO

Capstone Program Lead, 2013 – present

Developed program to support students for two years after high school graduation. Case manager for 30 – 35 high school graduates. Facilitate groups for high school seniors to assist their transition to post-secondary education or

training programs. Develop trainings, workshops, and community building activities for college students. Identify relevant campus resources and support students in accessing them. Coordinate peer mentoring program for upperclassmen to support first-year students on their campus. Supervise second year Graduate School of Social Work Intern.

Byrne Urban Scholars, Denver, CO

Education Program Coordinator, 2008 – 2013

Case manager for 20-25 underserved high school students attending four Denver high schools, supporting students in their relationship with their mentors. Worked closely with schools' faculty and staffs to coordinate support of students. Provided resources to families as needed as well as crisis intervention for students. Participated in on-going planning with colleagues to determine best practices from field evidence for supporting this population.

Bishop Machebeuf High School, Learning Strategies Program, Denver, CO

Director, 1999 – 2008

Developed academic plans for and monitored a caseload of 20 to 25 students with learning disabilities and/or ADHD per term. Tutored students in English, social science, math, and learning strategies. Maintained connections with individuals and organizations in the field to ensure that program interventions were supported by research. Provided comprehensive academic advising to students. Advised Black Student Alliance (later expanded to Faces of Machebeuf, a multicultural club).

University of Denver, Learning Effectiveness Program, Denver, CO

Academic Counselor, 1992 – 1999

Developed and taught week-long course at DU's Educator Institute on transition for students with learning disabilities and ADHD. Developed and co-taught LEP "Grammar Blitz" to assist students in preparing for English grammar exit exam. Advised Student Disability Coalition. Participated in team development and implementation of summer transition program for high school students with learning disabilities (LAUNCH). Directed LEP during times of transition: managed six counselors and support staff, conducted weekly staff meetings, held weekly supervision meetings with counselors, monitored budget, co-edited *Synergy* (LEP newsletter).

Jefferson County Public Schools, CO

Elementary Level School Social Worker, 1991 – 1992

Conducted divorce, socialization, and behavior groups for children aged 5-12 in public school setting. Provided crisis intervention for students. Led classroom groups focusing on effective communication and problem solving. Participated in multi-disciplinary team in the diagnosis and placement of children in special education.

ADMINISTRATION/MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

Bishop Machebeuf High School, Learning Strategies Program, Denver, CO

Director, 1999 – 2008

Developed comprehensive support program for students with learning disabilities and/or ADHD in a college preparatory Catholic high school. Hired, led, and mentored staff of three academic counselors in maintaining the goals and philosophy of the program. Presented and/or organized in-service training sessions for faculty. Served on the admissions committee. Monitored provision of basic accommodations (extended time on test, textbooks on CD) for approximately 60 students with disabilities. Maintained referral network of diagnosticians (including public school Child Find team) who complete diagnostic testing. Coordinated accommodations on standardized tests through College Board and ACT.

University of Denver, Office of Special Services, Denver, CO

Direct Services Coordinator, 1987 – 1990

Coordinated academic support services for students with physical and learning disabilities.

PUBLICATIONS

"Learning Effectiveness Program Evaluation," second year applied research project for the Graduate School of Social Work, University of Denver, Denver, CO, 1991

PRESENTATIONS

“Students with Learning Disabilities and the College Experience,” Rocky Mountain Association of College Admission Counselors Conference, Denver, CO, 2007

“LAUNCHing High School Students with LD and ADHD toward Success,” Association for Higher Education and Disability Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, 1996

“Learning Disabilities and Their Place in the Admission Decision,” Rocky Mountain Association of College Admission Counselors Annual Conference, Colorado Springs, CO, 1995

“Writing Workshop,” 6th Annual Conference on Adolescents and Adults with Learning Disabilities, Denver, CO, 1991

SKILLS

Microsoft Office applications; eCollege on-line platform; Blackboard; Canvas; training in aesthetic education.