Dr. Carey Seeley Dzierzak

Experienced educator dedicated to peace education, literacy, social justice and social-emotional learning. Over twenty years working in education and continues to be inspired to create culturally affirming learning spaces for students to thrive.

careyseeley28@gmail.com 612-741-5058 Richfield, MN

Experience in Education

Lecturer, University of Minnesota, CEHD, College of Education and Human Development, Curriculum & Instruction, Aug. 2024-present

- Lecturer and Instructor of Pre-service teachers focused on Reading foundations and culturally relevant pedagogy.
- Supervises pre-service teachers in their field experience focused on literacy.

Educational Background

Ed.D, Hamline University Dissertation: Culturally Relevant Literacy Instruction, Spring 2021

Masters in Education, University of St. Thomas, Elementary Education Spring 2000

B.A., Pepperdine University Major: Political Science, Spring 1996

Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Blue Sky Literacy Consulting, LLC, Aug. 2024-present

- Educational consulting
- Professional development
- Curriculum mapping/advising
- Culturally Relevant teaching pedagogy/practices

Licensures (MN)

K-12 Principal License

K-12 Reading License

K-6 Teaching License

Principal, Webster Elementary School Minneapolis Public Schools, MN July 2023-June 2024

 Leads students, staff and community as a cohesive social emotional, equity-focused school.

Principal, Ridgeview Elementary School Bloomington Public Schools, MN August 2020 - June 2023

- Led students, staff and community in establishing Ridgeview as an International Peace site in 2021
- Focused on Social emotional learning, peace education and restorative practices.
- Supported staff, students and families with gifted and talented programming as well as differentiated instruction for all students.

Community Involvement

Co-author of the book, Empowering Peace & Justice: An Actionable Framework for Educators and Learners (Sept.. 2024 expected publication)

Former President and current Executive Board Member, MN Reading Association 2014-present

Co-Chair Racial Justice Team, First Congregational Church, Minneapolis 2020-present

Birds of Peace Circle Member 2021-present

Site Leader of International Peace Site through World Citizen Peace organization 2021-2023

Parent volunteer, Richfield Public Schools, swimming and football

Experiences, continued Dr. Carey Seeley Dzierzak

Assistant Principal, Armatage Montessori School

Minneapolis Public Schools, MN August 2018 - July 2020

- Led and organized professional development for staff focused on Social Emotional Learning themes and critical literacy
- Facilitated data cycles and observations with teachers individually and in PLCs and teams. Coordinated assessment work for both instructional assessments and social-emotional learning surveys.

Skills and Assets

- Experienced leader
- Innovator
- Coach
- Literacy leader
- Team builder
- Collaborator
- Strategic planner
- Creative
- Empathetic listener

Director of Elementary Education Minneapolis Public Schools, MN July 2016 - June 2018

- Managed curriculum for 45 elementary schools in the diverse Minneapolis Public Schools district. • Supervised Instructional District Program facilitators for all content areas for elementary programming (literacy, math, arts, media, science, etc)
- Led a 10 million dollar core literacy adoption, starting with research, review, and implementation.

Professional Development (content areas)

- Culturally relevant literacy
- Foundational Literacy
- Critical literacy
- Peace Education
- Social-emotional learning
- Reading Intervention
- Best practices in literacy
- Instructional coaching strategies
- Adult learning strategies
- Data-informed instruction

Instructional Specialist Lead Minneapolis Public Schools, MN Fall 2011 - Fall 2013

- Led a team of 10 Instructional specialists
- Supported coaches through modeling, observation and feedback loops.
- Instructional coaching at Seward Montessori for K-8 teachers in all content areas using the SOEI rubric and instructional observations.

Literacy Coach, Seward Montessori Minneapolis Public Schools, MN Winter 2009 - Summer 2011

- Coached teachers on literacy strategies
- Provided professional development focused on literacy for K-5 teachers
- Supported the leadership team with PLCs, data cycles and other building initiatives

Teacher: First Grade and Reading Recovery Richfield Public Schools, MN Fall 2000 - Winter 2009

References

Dr. Jenna Mitchler, Assistant Superintendent

Bloomington Public Schools jmitchler@isd271.org 920-205-1115

Debra Peterson, (retired) Professor University of Minnesota

peter328@umn.edu

Joan Franks, (retired) Principal, Armatage Montessori, Minneapolis Public Schools jfrankss@yahoo.com

952-737-7675

Dr. Naomi Taylor, Director of Intercultural Life

St. Paul Academy, <u>Ntaylor@spa.edu</u> 651-334-8655

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