Melanie Shea Austin Cantu

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EDUCATION

University of Memphis

EdD Higher Learning and Adult Education, concentration in Adult Education 2017

Dissertation: “The Influence of Community Ties on Rural Single Mothers’

Participation in Community College: A Qualitative Cross Case Study”

University of Memphis

Graduate Certificate, Community College Teaching and Leadership 2017

Middle Tennessee State University

MS Human Sciences, Child Development and Family Studies 2001

Thesis: “An Evaluation of Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Intervention Strategies Used by Child Advocates in Domestic Violence Shelters in the State of Tennessee”

Freed-Hardeman University

BS Human Sciences, Child Development and Family Studies 1996

AWARDS

Children, Youth and Families At-Risk (CYFAR) Grant, Baby and Me Program 2007 –2012

Tennessee Extension Emma Ree Crook Oates Grant 2007 – 2008

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Family and Consumer Sciences, Human Development, March 2020

Guest Lectured, Undergraduate Course,

Introduction to Family and Consumer Sciences as a Profession,

Ms. Rita Fleming, Tennessee State University.

Guest lecture on community education practice

with emphasis on employment opportunities

for Child and Family Studies majors.

Family and Consumer Sciences, Human Development

Adjunct Professor, ECFS 3530 Infant Clinic Spring 2019

Family and Consumer Sciences, Human Development, 2012-2018

Guest Lectured, Undergraduate and Graduate Courses,

Diversity in Children and Families, Dr. Delores Smith

University of Tennessee. Guest lecture on working with limited resource

audiences with an emphasis on community education practice.

Professional Development, Cooperative Extension Staff, Human Development

Director, Community Nutrition Education Program 2020-Present

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Education)

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)

Serve as the nationally recognized contact and principal investigator for the TSU Community Nutrition Education Program. Responsible for the accurate and appropriate execution of the approved FFY state plan in accordance to all enacted MOUs and within university policy. Promotes the program to state and national stakeholders through dissemination of needs assessment, evaluation data, and policy, system and environmental change occurring in the state due to the impact of the program’s efforts. Ensures that program staffing plan and funding allocations are overseen. Provides direct support to state, regional and county staff. Interfaces with the 1862 land-grant university to promote relevant and seamless community nutrition education programming coverage across the state.

Professional Development, Cooperative Extension Staff, Human Development 2015-2020

Program Manager, State Training Specialist, Program Manager

Developed trainings for Extension Agents and Program Assistants based on

emergent needs and to promote compliance with policy and procedures.

Conducted evaluations and needs assessments. Trained other Extension programs

across the nation in human development aspects of community nutrition education.

Community Education Practitioner, Family and Consumer Sciences

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent II 2004-2015

Developed community programming, conducted needs assessment and

program evaluation, piloted curricula, worked with research projects in human development, nutrition, food safety, health and wellness, and consumer finances

Court-Ordered Education, Human Development and Family Studies

Program Coordinator 2001-2003

Provided court mandated classes that focused on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

For the 16th Judicial District, prepared reports for court on progress and completion.

Family and Consumer Sciences, Human & Child Development, Family Studies

Graduate Teaching Assistant-Dr. Beth Emory, Dr. Catherine Stogner 1997-1998

Lectured in Family and Consumer Science Classes, graded undergraduate work, worked with research

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Tennessee State University Cooperative Extension Program, Family and

Consumer Science

Program Manager, Tennessee State University Cooperative Extension’s

Community Nutrition Education Program,

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) and

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) January 2015-

Supervises state and county staff, oversees fiscal compliance of both federal grants, provides professional development for all staff, develop SharePoint site for TSU CNEP, author and implementation of policy and procedures, work with state team to procure grants and conduct research related to the program, participate on national work teams in EFNEP.

Tennessee State University Cooperative Extension Program, Family and

Consumer Science

Area Specialist, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)

Provide educational programming and training for program assistants with Tennessee State University’s Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP)and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed), help write the funding proposal for both EFNEP and SNAP-Ed each year, speak at national and various state FCS EFNEP/SNAP-Ed Conferences around the nation, conduct focus groups, write curricula, and help with special projects such as state-wide trainings and helping to organize a food and nutrition symposium addressing food rights and food insecurity. Supervised program assistants for EFNEP and SNAP-Ed program.

University of Tennessee Extension, Family and Consumer Science

Family and Consumer Sciences Agent II October 2004-January 2015

Provided educational programming in human development, nutrition, health and safety and financial management in Lincoln County, TN. Facilitated and supervised CYFAR grant funded Baby & Me Program, provided community needs assessments, developed annual Family Symposium to provide local professionals state and national quality training locally. Supervised 4-H and Lincoln County’s Regional Fair volunteers, Family and Community Education Club members, Family and Consumer Sciences Interns through Alabama A&M University and Program Assistant for CYFAR Grant Program. Creative Living Building Superintendent for regional fair and was charged with staffing and supervision of volunteers, judges, and building exhibitors. Built and supervised annual community events including the “Healthy to Learn Back to School Health Fair” providing oversight to exhibitors and providing free school supplies to community children and their families. Provided program supervision and development of the South Central Middle Tennessee Family Symposium. Developed and supervised 4-H youth Sewing Camp and Cooking Club.

Volunteer Behavioral Health System, Cumberland Mental Health

Mobile Crisis Response Team Member II May 2003-Oct. 2004

Administered lethality assessments in ERs, mental health settings and within homes in eight counties in the Middle Tennessee area. Aided in gaining voluntary and involuntary hospitalization of those who were actively suicidal, homicidal and/or actively psychotic and unable to care for themselves.

BI, Inc.

**Program Coordinator Oct. 2001-May 2003**

Facilitated and coordinated large state-certified batterer’s intervention program in Rutherford County for the 16th Judicial District. Administered and scored assessments ordered by the court. Prepared and submitted certification notebook by which the Murfreesboro office received certification by the Domestic Violence State Coordinating Council. Trained state offices in certification rules in order to receive certification. Supervised program assistant and other facilitators to ensure that program quality was maintained.

Professional PresentatIons

Austin Cantu, S. *Food Justice Panel*. Middle Tennessee Local Food

Summit. November 12, 2020.

Austin Cantu, S. *Building Relationship*. Cornell University Extension

EFNEP Fall Update. Zoom Webinar. October 27, 2020.

Austin Cantu, S. & Speller-Henderson, L. *Promoting Your Nutrition Education*

*Programming.* Virginia Tech Family Nutrition Program Webinar Series.

August 28, 2020.

Austin Cantu, S. *Community Nutrition Education Impacts FY19*. Tennessee

State University College of Agriculture’s Faculty and Staff Institute.

Pickwick Landing State Park, Counce, TN. August 8, 2019.

Austin Cantu, S. *Promoting Your EFNEP Programming*. Ohio State

University State EFNEP Conference. Columbus, OH. May 9, 2019.

Austin Cantu, S. *Building Relationship*. Ohio State University Regional Zoom

Webinar Trainings. January 22, February 13, 21, 2019.

Austin Cantu, S. & Speller Henderson, L. *Building Relationship*.

North Carolina State University EFNEP Program Educator’s State

Conference. May 22-24, 2018.

Austin Cantu, S. & Speller Henderson, L. *Building Relationship*. University of

Tennessee Nutrition Education Program December Training: Central

Region. Murfreesboro, TN. December 13, 2017.

Austin, Cantu, S. & Speller Henderson, L. *Building Relationship*. University of

Tennessee Nutrition Education Program December Training: Eastern

Region. December 6, 2017.

Austin Cantu, S. *Building Relationship*. Illinois Nutrition Education Programs

Fall Training. Champaign-Urbana, IL. September 26-27, 2018.

Austin, S. & Speller Henderson, L. *Building relationship.*  Multi-

State Community Nutrition Assistant Conference. Charleston, West

Virginia. May 8-11, 2017.

Austin, S. & Speller Henderson, L. *Building Relationship.* Workshop.

University of Minnesota Extension SNAP-Ed/EFNEP. Minneapolis, MN.

November 16-19, 2016.

Austin, S. & Speller Henderson, L. *Building Relationship.* Ohio State

University’s Community Nutrition Educator’s Annual State Conference.

Columbus, Ohio, October 27-30, 2016.

Austin, S. & Speller Henderson, L. *Extension and Rural Single Mothers.*

American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences National

Conference. Bellevue, WA. June 26-29, 2016.

Austin, S. & Speller Henderson, L. *Building Relationship.* National

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) Conference.

Washington, D.C.March 14-17, 2016.

Austin, S. *Getting Ahead in a Just Getting-By World.* [Exhibit] UT

Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Conference. Nashville,

Tennessee. August 2-5, 2010.

Austin, S. *Bridges Out of Poverty*. UT Extension Family and Consumer

Sciences Conference. Nashville, Tennessee. August 2-5, 2010.

Devereaux, M. & Austin, S. *Period of Purple Crying: Preventing*

*Shaken Baby Syndrome*. UT Extension Family and Consumer Sciences

Conference. Nashville, TN. August 3-6, 2009.

Austin, S. (2009). *Programs that Work: A Review of the Baby Smarts*

*Curriculum*. UT Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Conference.

Nashville, TN. August 3-6, 2009.

Devereaux, M. & Austin, S. *Child Abuse Prevention Initiatives: An*

*Agent’s Perspective*. UT Extension Family and Consumer Sciences

Conference. Franklin, TN August 4-8, 2008.

Austin, S. *Programs that Work: Baby & Me*. UT Extension Family and

Consumer Sciences Conference. Franklin, TN. August 4-8, 2008.

Devereaux, M. & Austin, S. *Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten*.

National Children Youth & Families At-Risk (CYFAR) Conference. San

Antonio, Texas. May 5-9, 2008.

Austin, S. *Program Highlights: CYFAR Update-Baby & Me Program*.

UT Extension Central Region Mini Conference. Murfreesboro, TN.

November 7, 2007.

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES DEVELOPED/SOUTH CENTRAL REGION FAMILY SYMPOSIUMS

Working with Teen Parents and Their Families 2008

Issues Affecting Young Children in Tennessee 2007

Childhood Obesity 2006

Strategies for Effectively Working with Families 2005

SPECIAL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ASSIGNMENTS

Co-PI The National Food Trust’s Study

*“Building Capacity for SNAP-Ed Implementation in Three State*s” 2020

Co-Chair Tennessee State University Cooperative Extension’s Action Steps Committee: Connecting Campus to Counties 2020

Peer Reviewed National Curriculum *Families Eating Smart, Moving More* North Carolina State University 2020

Tennessee State University Annual Research Symposium Abstract Review 2020

National Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) Older Youth Evaluation-Food Resource Management Subgroup Committee 2020

National Children, Youth and Families At-Risk Grant Proposal Review Panel 2018

Tennessee State University Cooperative Extension Showcase/Expo

Planning Committee 2018

Poverty Simulation Facilitator 2018

North Carolina State Families Eating Smart, Moving More Planning Committee 2018

Develop and Implement FCS New Employee Orientation 2018

National 50th Anniversary of EFNEP Workgroup 2018

TN CNEP State Workgroup 2018

Tennessee SNAC Workgroup 2018

Invited Participant for “Discussion of Future of EFNEP” with National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) 2017

TSU Employee Wellness Team Coordinator 2017

TN CNEP State Workgroup 2016

Peer Reviewed National *Families Eating Smart, Being Active* Curriculum Colorado State University 2016

TN CNEP State Workgroup 2015

Intern at Motlow State Community College 2014

Panelist Tennessee Women’s Economic Council, Rural Women & Poverty 2014

SUPER Training and Registration Design Team 2013

Conducted 2 Waves of Data Collection for the National Rural Families Speak

Longitudinal Study 2012

Chaired Central Region Human Development Team 2010

Piloted *Healthy Steps* Curriculum 2008

Piloted *Healthy Steps* Curriculum 2007

Served on State Human Development Leadership Team 2007-2010

Publication Peer Review Committee 2007

Certified Car Seat Safety Certification 2007

CFLE Certification 2005

References

*Leslie Speller-Henderson,*  Professor and Extension Specialist, Director of SNAP-Education and EFNEP, University of Missouri, 573-882-9760, [lspellerhenderson@missouri.edu](mailto:lspellerhenderson@missouri.edu)

*Rita Fleming,* Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist, Family and Consumer Sciences, Department of Human Sciences,Tennessee State University, (615) 963-2135.

*Dr. Veronica Oates*, Interim Department Head and Associate Professor, Department of Human Sciences, Tennessee State University, (615) 963-5625, [voates@tnstate.edu](mailto:voates@tnstate.edu)

*Dr. Virginie Zoumenou*, Professor and State Extension Specialist, 1890 Nutrition and Program Leader, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, (410) 651-6212, [vmzoumenou@umes.edu](mailto:vmzoumenou@umes.edu)