

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,

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.

March 2020

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 **2020-Present**
Director, Community Nutrition Education Program
 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 **2004-2015**
Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent II
 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 **2001-2003**
Program Coordinator
 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 **1997-1998**
Graduate Teaching Assistant-Dr. Beth Emory, Dr. Catherine Stogner
 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 <i>"Building Capacity for SNAP-Ed Implementation in Three States"</i>	2020
Co-Chair Tennessee State University Cooperative Extension's Action Steps Committee: Connecting Campus to Counties	2020
Peer Reviewed National Curriculum <i>Families Eating Smart, Moving More</i> 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 50 th 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 <i>Families Eating Smart, Being Active</i> 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 <i>Healthy Steps</i> Curriculum	2008

Piloted <i>Healthy Steps</i> 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

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

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