

**Cecelia Boswell, Ed.D.**

Founder, Austin Creek Education Systems

**Education**

Ed.D.\* Curriculum and Instruction 2001, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX

M.Ed. Education Administration 1984, Tarleton State University, Stephenville, TX

B.A. Spanish/English, Secondary 1971, Tarleton State University, Stephenville, TX

B.A. Elementary Education 1987, McMurry University, Abilene, TX

\*Received Edward Chance Rural Dissertation of the Year Award, National Rural Education Association, Albuquerque, NM.

**Current and Recent Projects:**

Program Evaluation, La Vega ISD, current

*Twice Exceptional Learners* (2020)

G/T and IB: The Perfect Pair. Current work with Texas IB Schools. Austin, TX.

Rural Research Study, 2019-2020

Program Evaluation, Hays CISD, Fall and Spring 2018-2019

Program Evaluation, Harmony Public Schools, May, 2018

Program Evaluation, Humble ISD International Baccalaureate and Gifted Services, 2013-2016

Texas Education Agency, Advanced Academic Services – Development of 6-hour Professional Development Module, Fall 2017

Texas Association for Gifted and Talented, Content Consultant, on-going Conference Development

Region 17 ESC, Hays CISD, HARMONY Schools – Presentation on Rigor for Gifted Learners

Program Evaluation, Stockdale ISD May 2017

Program Evaluation, Hondo ISD November 2016-January 2017

Evaluation of and work with Humble ISD Gifted/Talented Department, 2016, on-going

Evaluation of Humble ISD International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement Programme at Humble High School, Spring 2015, on-going

Texas Association for Gifted and Talented, Content Consultant and Management of on-line professional development courses, 2015, on-going

Texas Education Agency, Advanced Academic Services – Development of 30-hour Professional Development Modules, Fall/Spring 2014-2015

Birdville ISD – Audit of Gifted Services, Fall/Spring 2014-2015

Hays CISD, Development of on-line course for Gifted/Talented, Summer 2014

Texas Association for Gifted and Talented, Think Tank, Development of product to meet needs of House Bill 5, Austin Texas, January – March, 2014

Research for Texas International Baccalaureate Schools: Analysis of impact of IB,

Diploma Programme on TAKS achievement (2008-2011)

Immediate Past President/Chair of Elections Committee. Texas Association for Gifted/Talented

Audit of Advanced Academic Services. Texas Independent School Districts

Texas Education Agency. Development of on-line curriculum courses

Education Service Centers, Texas: Professional Development.

Local Education Agencies.: A variety of projects related to revamping of identification processes and curriculum development; On-site professional development 2005-2008

## **Books**

Behrens, W., Fugate, M., & **Boswell, C.**, (at press). *Twice exceptional learners*. Waco, TX: Prufrock Press.

Boswell, C., Christopher, M., & Colburn, JJ. (2017). *Intentional Leadership: Building Leadership Capacity in Gifted Learners*. Waco, TX: Prufrock Press.

Weber, C., **Boswell, C.** & Behrens, W. (2016). *Exploring Differentiation in Gifted Education: A Case Studies Approach*. Waco, TX: Prufrock Press.

Weber, C., **Boswell, C.** & Behrens, W. (2014). *Exploring Critical Issues in Gifted Education: A Case Studies Approach*. Waco, TX: Prufrock Press.

Adams, C. & **Boswell, C.** (2012) *Effective Program Practices for Underserved Gifted Students: A CEC-TAG Educational Resource*. Waco, TX: Prufrock Press.

**Boswell, C.** & Carlile, V. (2011). *Response to Intervention for Gifted Students*. Hawthorne, NJ: Educational Impressions.

## **Professional Experience**

August 2014- Current Independent consultant and content consultant for Texas Association for Gifted and Talented

July 2010- July 2014 **Executive Director of Advanced Academics Services, Waco ISD**

Coordinate and supervise all advanced academics services including Gifted and Talented, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate

April 2005-July 2010; July 2014 - present **Contract/Independent Consultant, Austin Creek Education Systems**

When I left the public education system, I developed my own business as a dba under the Austin Creek, Inc. umbrella. Austin Creek Education Systems (ACES) is an educational services business that provides professional development, curriculum development, and program/curriculum evaluation. I currently have three books published and one book at publishers.

As an independent consultant I have provided services for Texas International Baccalaureate Schools, Florida Department of Education (WOGI- Working with Gifted Issues), Colorado Department of Education: North Central Region, Texas Education Agency (TEA), national conferences, Independent School Districts, and the twenty regional Education Service Centers across Texas.

## **Council for Exceptional Children**

2015-2017 President of TAG Division

2009-present - Board member for TAG Division

Representative to Representative Assembly

## **Immediate Past President, Chair of Elections Committee, Texas Association for Gifted and Talented**

President, TAGT, 2009-2010

Elected Board member for West Texas region 2004-2008

President-Elect, 2008

## **International Baccalaureate**

International Baccalaureate of Texas funded my research, 2010 and 2011. Research presentations have been made in Texas, California, and Quebec, Canada.

### **Colorado**

I presented RtI book at conference with Colorado Department of Education: North Central Region.

### **Florida**

My work as a program analyst offered expertise developed from similar projects in Texas\* in Florida's efforts to revamp their *Curriculum Development for the Gifted*. In addition, I was an invited keynote speaker for their summer *Working with Gifted Issues* conference. In this keynote I addressed my work with projects completed as Director of AP/IB Projects for TEA, Advanced Academic Services, with relevance and insight for Florida educators. Currently, I am co-authoring a book with colleagues in Florida's Department of Education and the University of North Florida.

### **Texas**

My work with TEA, Advanced Academic Services, offered the opportunity to develop content and oversee six (6) on-line courses and one six-hour course for teachers of the gifted across the state. In this work, I authored each course, worked with technicians to produce the courses on-line, recruited and trained Education Service Center (ESC) consultants at pilot sites to field-test sample courses, and trained all ESC consultants for full implementation of the courses.

Another project developed for TEA, Advanced Academic Services, is the *Teacher Toolkit II* which will provide a curriculum evaluation tool for Advanced Placement® educators. The toolkit is based on a curriculum evaluation process I developed while working with the AP® Task Force project.\* I have written the content for the toolkit, worked with technical development, created the training module, and provided professional development to the twenty Education Service Center consultants who will furnish the toolkit to their regional educators.

As *ex officio* member of the TEA/ESC Leadership Team, I have provided professional development as requested and co-developed a goal setting project with and for the ESC Advanced Academics consultants.

### **Independent School Districts**

Program evaluation for gifted education and on-site Professional Development are the services I have provided to a variety of school districts across Texas. Program Evaluations include document reviews, interviews, observations, and final formal reports on the state of gifted services in their districts.

Professional Development opportunities have ranged from one day, six-hour update sessions on numerous topics to week-long thirty-hour basic training in gifted education for local educational district faculties.

### **National Conferences**

I present at the Council for Exceptional Children, National Association for Gifted Children and Texas Association for Gifted/Talented on an annual basis. I was an invited speaker at the California, Georgia, Texas, and National Associations for the gifted conferences during the past

ten years. These presentations centered on my work with curriculum development for the gifted and AP curriculum analysis.

Education Service Centers (ESC) Conference keynote addresses and an array of Professional Development sessions are the bulk of the work with the twenty ESCs. I provide previously- and newly developed six-hour sessions\*\*\* to meet the needs of regional educators.

#### **Program Specialist - September 2004-April 2005**

As a program specialist for special projects at Tarleton State University, I created, developed, wrote, and facilitated advanced curriculum as a part of a Texas A & M system special project.

#### **Director, Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate (AP/IB) Projects - 2001-2005**

Texas Education Agency, Advanced Academics Services, provided me the opportunity to develop and direct AP/IB projects with the regional Education Service Centers (ESC) across Texas.

As director of AP/IB projects, I wrote the RFA for the twenty ESCs, directed all projects, developed and monitored all budgets, provided on-site technical assistance for each, and worked with Texas Education Agency personnel to complete the project. My responsibilities also included development of a final report and compendium of each project that defined their work, evaluation of their strengths and areas for improvement, and produced an analysis of each project.

All projects with the Education Service Centers focused on Advanced Placement.

In order to offer insight with International Baccalaureate, I worked with Luther Burbank High School, San Antonio ISD, to develop an IB project. Luther Burbank is a Title I school with a majority of their IB Diploma Programme students from homes of low socioeconomic status. I was able to visit on-site with all students in grades 9-12 who were preparing for or completing their IB Diploma Programme. Their insights, issues, concerns, accomplishments, and joys added to my knowledge of the IB Diploma Programme. During this time, I also had the opportunity to attend an overview session provided by Ann Wink concerning the PYP and MYP programs. These foundational pieces added to my knowledge of the value of IB for students from all walks of life.

#### **AP Task Force - 2004**

Another project that stemmed from the original AP/IB work was the *AP Task Force* project. This work included creation of and budgetary responsibility for a task force to evaluate Advanced Placement® materials for their inclusion or exclusion of differentiation for the gifted learner. The final work developed by the team has been disseminated across the state, been presented at administrator's conferences throughout Texas, has formed the basis for the *Teacher Toolkit II*, and has been shared with Florida as they work to develop new curriculum standards for their state.

#### **Scope & Sequence Project - 2006**

*Teacher Toolkit I*, developed for educators in Texas to facilitate research required through the *Texas Performance Standards Project (TPSP)* for gifted students, was created from a scope and sequence project I initiated as a part of the initial AP/IB Project. The product we, two ESC consultants and I, developed became the basis for the *Teacher Toolkit I*.

### **Small Schools Guide for Gifted Education - 2002**

This guide was developed according to a need determined from the original AP/IB Projects. All ESCs discovered that the majority of their districts were either small or rural or both. Most were Title I schools. For this state-wide project I developed the format for the collection of information, held focus-group sessions across the state, and produced the final product. Working with two contracted consultants, the final product was developed and disseminated across the state through the twenty ESCs and at a variety of administrator and teacher conferences.

### **1989-2001 Consultant**

In this position I was the consultant for Language Arts (1989-1990) and Gifted/Talented (later Advanced Academics) from 1990-2001 at Region 14 Education Service Center in Abilene, Texas.

In this position, I was the regional contact for forty-three (43) independent school districts (ISD) within a ninety mile range of Abilene. I developed and maintained my budget for a cooperative that included ISDs in the region. As consultant for the cooperative, my responsibilities included providing technical assistance, professional development, and other services requested by the ISD or individual educators. I also participated in Texas Education Agency/Education Service Center Leadership Team meetings as determined by the TEA Advanced Academics office. It was also my job to determine best practices for each district based on their nature and need. As a part of the best practice, I suggested program delivery systems, means of identification for gifted students, wrote and disseminated appropriate curriculum, and provided on-site student seminars for gifted students, K-12, throughout the region.

**Since the majority of the districts in this region were small and rural, I focused my doctoral work and dissertation topic on their needs. I also cofounded the Small and Rural Schools Conference. The conference included, and still includes, six regional ESCs who serve a large number of rural districts. I was the keynote speaker for the 2007 conference.**

### **1971-2000 Teacher/Instructor/Coordinator**

As an educator in public schools, I have taught students K- 12, coached academic teams, taught GED, Junior College and graduate classes, and coordinated gifted, bilingual/ESL, and Title I Migrant Programs.

### **Teacher**

My teaching career began as a Title I migrant teacher in a small school district.

I was responsible for children of migratory farm workers in Kindergarten through grade 12. With the freedom to design the services I provided, I held pull-out classes and team taught in the regular classroom as dictated by the needs of the students. I was also responsible for the direction of teacher aides who helped with the students. In this position, I not only taught the students, but also made home visits, provided parent meetings and seminars, and worked with a local migrant clinic to provide medical and social services to the children and their parents. It was also my responsibility to maintain a budget for all program services.

As a part of a small school district, I was offered the opportunity to work with all students as they prepared for academic competitions. I was the coach for University

Interscholastic League (Texas) Number Sense and Ready Writing competitions, leading the children to win district competitions for five years running.

I was also offered the opportunity to teach the gifted children in our elementary school. This position expanded to include grades K-8. I taught the classes for the gifted, while also working with the academic competition teams, and maintained my work with the migrant students and their families.

### **Coordinator**

A part of my work with Title I migrant children also focused on coordinating all their services. This included testing and placement, paperwork associated with the national migrant reporting system, reports to the Education Service Center, budgeting, and solving social and medical issues as they arose.

During this time, I also coordinated, but did not teach, in the bilingual and ESL program services. Many of the duties in this position overlapped with those of the Title I Migrant Program coordination.

When I began teaching gifted children, I also became the coordinator for the program services. I tested and identified students, determined and wrote curriculum, worked with the parents of the gifted students, developed and maintained a small budget, and coordinated the services for the gifted with their regular classroom teachers.

### **Instructor**

I have had an assortment of opportunities as an instructor. The first was as a GED instructor for the local school district. As a part of these evening classes, a request was made to offer two high school courses that were all the students lacked for a high school diploma. It was my assignment to teach the two courses so that the students could earn a diploma instead of GED.

The second came as an instructor of night classes for an area junior college.

Over the course of two years, I taught courses in beginning Spanish and English 101.

The next instructor's job was for two courses in gifted education in an Oklahoma University. For two consecutive summers, I taught a wide range of topics in gifted education for the university,

The last instructor's position was as an adjunct graduate instructor in gifted education for an Abilene, Texas University. This course was directed toward curriculum construction and evaluation as a part of a Master's Degree in Gifted Education.

### **1982-present Business Owner**

Since 1982 my husband and I have owned Austin Creek, Inc. The business, an environmental and agricultural company, has grown to include our son as a partner.

Austin Creek, Inc.

I have been president and vice-president in the corporation. While not a part of the day to day operations, I have participated in corporate meetings, planning, and goal setting for the organization.

### **Publications**

*TEMPO* Magazine

4 issues, January 2009- December 2009

*Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin*

Article, "Adult Learners"

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

*TEMPO*

Article, "AP Task Force"

Texas Association for Gifted and Talented

*Small School Guide for Gifted and Talented Services*

Region 14 ESC and Texas Education Agency

Abilene, Texas

*AP Task Force, AP Differentiation*

Region 14 ESC and Texas Education Agency

Abilene, Texas

*The Monitor*

Local newspaper

Book Reviews for Young Adult Literature

De Leon, TX

*The Messenger*

Regional Magazine

Variety of Personal Interest articles

Central Texas

Hendrick-Long Publishing

Teacher's Guide and Student Activities

Companions for Young Adult Literature by Judy Alter and

Martha Tannery Jones

Dallas, Texas

Gulf Publishing

Teacher's Guide and Student Activities

Companions for John Erickson's *Hank the Cowdog* Series

Houston, Texas

Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin

Article, "Are We Underutilizing Testing?"

Austin, TX

*TEMPO*

Article, "A How-To for Small Schools"

Texas Association for Gifted and Talented

I have also written thirty-five (35) children's books for each of our grandchildren on the occasion of each one's birthday. I am working with a publisher to offer selected books for a wider market.

### **Selected Presentations**

2019- G/T and IB: The Perfect Pair. Corpus Christi ISD.

2017- present Leadership for Kids, National Association for Gifted Children, Council for Exceptional Children, Texas Association for Gifted and Talented

2013- present "Case Studies of the Gifted" and "Case Studies of Differentiation for the Gifted" National Association for Gifted Children, Council for Exceptional Children, Texas Association for Gifted/Talented

2012-14 “Identifying Teacher Strengths” with Dr. Susan Johnsen Council for Exceptional Children

2011 – 2014 Presentation “Case Studies” National Association for Gifted Talented, Texas Association for Gifted Talented, Council for Exceptional Children

2010 “Meet Them Where They Are”

Texas Regional Education Service Centers: San Antonio, Lubbock, Abilene

“Response to Intervention for the Gifted”

Colorado Department of Education: North Central Region.

2009 “Relevance, Rigor, and Eureka!”

Texas Regional Education Service Centers: Lubbock, Kilgore, Wichita Falls, Abilene, Corpus Christi, Midland, Edinburg, Laredo

National Association for Gifted Children, St. Louis, MO

2007-2006 National Association for Gifted Children

“Is It Gifted Enough? Differentiation for Secondary Students”

Charlotte, NC

Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented

Pre Conference Presentation, “AP and the Gifted”

Session Presentation, “On-Line Courses”

Session Presentation, “Raising Expectations and Academic Rigor” Austin, TX

Small Schools Conference for Gifted/Talented

Keynote, “Rigor & Relevance for Gifted Learners,” Abilene, TX

S.M.A.R.T. Conference, Region 1 ESC

“Performance Standards Overview”

“Gifted Education and Advanced Placement®

Laredo, TX

Florida Working with Gifted Issues Conference

“Advanced Placement and Differentiation with the Gifted”

St. Augustine, FL

California Gifted Education Conference

“Is It Gifted Enough?”

Palm Springs, California

Georgia Gifted Education Association Conference

“Is It Gifted Enough?”

Athens, Georgia

**2006-2005** Regions 1, 2, 3, 8 Education Service Centers

Six-Hour Update training

“Is It Gifted Enough?”

“Rigor & Relevance”

“Models of Learning”

Laredo, Corpus Christi, Mt. Pleasant, Texas



Region 9 Education Service Center  
“Tiered Assignments” and “Rigor & Relevance”  
Wichita Falls, Texas  
Tarleton State University  
“Models of Learning,”  
Stephenville, Texas  
Florida Department of Education  
“Rewriting a State Plan for Gifted Education, Curriculum”  
University of North Florida, Jacksonville, Florida  
World conference for Gifted Education  
“AP Task Force”  
New Orleans, LA  
Regions 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 ESC  
Six-Hour Update training  
“Is It Gifted Enough? And “Rigor & Relevance”  
Huntsville, Kilgore, Mt. Pleasant, Richardson, Austin,  
Abilene, San Angelo, Amarillo, Lubbock, Midland, Texas  
Regions 8 and 17, Stephenville ISD and Belton ISD  
30 hour Basic Training in Gifted Education  
Mt. Pleasant, Lubbock, Stephenville, and Belton, TX  
Region 9 Education Service Center  
Keynote Speaker, Conference for Technology and Gifted  
Educators  
Wichita Falls, Texas  
Mid Winter Conference  
“Small School Document for Gifted Education”  
Austin, Texas  
2003-2004 Belin-Blank Center for Gifted Education Conference  
Research Conference  
Presentation, “AP Task Force for the Gifted Learner”  
University of Iowa  
Iowa City, Iowa  
Mid Winter Conference  
“AP Task Force Document”  
Austin, Texas  
Texas Association of Secondary School Principals  
2004 Winter Conference  
“AP Task Force Document”  
Austin, Texas  
Texas Association for Gifted & Talented  
“AP/IB Task Force”  
Dallas, Texas  
Texas Association for Secondary School Principals  
2004 Winter Conference  
“AP/IB Task Force”  
Austin, Texas

Wisconsin Association for Gifted and Talented  
“Texas AP/IB Initiative”  
Appleton, Wisconsin  
2001 National Rural Education Association  
“Rural Students’ Perceptions of Leadership”  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
1999 Iowa Rural Research Conference for Gifted  
“Leadership for Rural High School Gifted Students”  
University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa  
1997 National Association for Gifted Children  
“Leadership for Rural High School Gifted Students”  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
1996 American Educational Research Association  
“Leadership”  
Chicago, Illinois  
1987-1989 Regions 11 and 15 Education Service Centers  
“Guiding the Gifted”  
Fort Worth, Texas and San Angelo, Texas

### **Community Service**

Council for Exceptional Children, The Association for the Gifted  
Texas Association for Gifted and Talented  
2006-2007 Chair, Research Division  
Texas Association for Gifted and Talented  
2006-2008 Scholarship Chairman  
Gamma Zeta Chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma Society  
International  
2004-2008 Elected Executive Board member  
Regional Director, Region 14  
Texas Association for Gifted and Talented  
1986-1989 Treasurer  
Iota Upsilon Chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma Society International  
1980-1985 Den Mother  
Cub Scouts of America  
De Leon, Texas  
1980-1986 Troop Leader  
Camp Fire Girls Organization  
De Leon, Texas

### **Professional Growth and Special Training**

1991- Present Council for Exceptional Children  
2008-Present- National Association for Gifted Children  
2005-2010-Belin-Blank Center for Gifted Education Conference  
Research Conference Participant  
University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa  
*2015 Conference*

Looking Forward to Gifted Education, Texas Education Agency

Invited Member

Dallas, TX

Task Force

*Poverty and Giftedness: The Equity Project*, Texas Education Agency

Invited Member

Austin, TX

Module Development

Standardization of 30 hour training for Gifted

Team Member

Midland, TX

*Quality of Gifted Services: Development of Standards for Excellence in Gifted Education*, Texas Education Agency

Team Member for development of evaluation document and on-site evaluation

Austin, TX

*Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*

Trainer of Trainers

Abilene, TX

Institute of Reality Therapy

Basic Intensive Week

Tarleton State University

Stephenville, TX

TACTICS for Thinking

Trainer of Trainers

McREL Associates

Corpus Christi, Texas

*Structure of Intellect*®

Advanced Training

Vida, Oregon

### **Professional Organizations**

1991-Current Council for Exceptional Children

Council for Exceptional Children-TAG

National Association for Gifted Children

National Rural Education Association

Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented

California Association for the Gifted and Talented

Georgia Association for the Gifted and Talented

Florida Association for the Gifted and Talented

Kansas Association for the Gifted and Talented

World Council for Gifted and Talented Children

Delta Kappa Gamma

Phi Delta Kappa

Texas State Teachers' Association

Texas Folklore Society