

Kristen E. Smigielski

Doctoral Candidate, *Curriculum, Instruction and the Science of Learning*

Project Manager, *Center for Early Literacy and Responsible AI*

Graduate School of Education, University at Buffalo

320G Baldy Hall, Buffalo, NY 14260

kesmigie@buffalo.edu

EDUCATION

University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY Ph.D. in Curriculum, Instruction, and the Science of Learning Elementary Education	2025
University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY Qualitative Methodology, Advanced Certificate	2025
Buffalo State University, Buffalo, NY M.S.Ed. Childhood Education	2019
University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY M.M. Vocal Performance Concentration in Choral Conducting	2017
Buffalo State University, Buffalo, NY B.A. Music Performance	2014

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATES

Lumen Learning Lumen Circle Fellowship: Advanced Generative AI for Teaching and Learning	2025
University at Buffalo Micro Credential: 3MT Communicating Research to Broad Audiences	2025
University of Michigan Leading for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Higher Education	2024
Transforming Education in an Interconnected World: <i>Specialization with Honors</i>	2024
IBM People and Soft Skills for Professional and Personal Success: Specialization	2024
Introduction to Project Management	2024

Lund University

AI, Business & the Future of Work	2024
-----------------------------------	------

LinkedIn

Agile Instructional Design	2024
----------------------------	------

Instructional Design: Adult Learners	2024
--------------------------------------	------

Designing Learning Experiences in the Metaverse	2024
---	------

Generative AI in Learning and Development	2024
---	------

National Society of Leadership and Success

Advanced Leadership Certification	2023
-----------------------------------	------

Executive Leadership Certification	2023
------------------------------------	------

Gordon Institute of Music Learning

PDLC Level 1 Elementary General Certificate	2021
---	------

PROFESSIONAL TEACHING CERTIFICATIONS

New York State Teacher Professional Certification

Childhood Education (1-6)	2023
---------------------------	------

Early Childhood Education (B-2)	2023
---------------------------------	------

Music (K-12)	2023
--------------	------

FELLOWSHIPS & SCHOLARSHIPS

University at Buffalo Graduate School of Education Dean's Student	2025
--	------

Student Award for the American Educational Research Association Conference	
---	--

AERA Disability Studies in Education SIG Graduate Student Travel Grant	2025
---	------

University at Buffalo – Felix Infausto Scholarship	2021-2025
---	-----------

Western New York Federation of Women's Clubs Scholastic Award	2022-2025
--	-----------

Marcella L. Kysilka Doctoral Student Scholarship	2023-2024
---	-----------

University at Buffalo AERA GSE Dean's Student Research Award	2023-2024
---	-----------

University at Buffalo – Shang-Lin Chung Student Award	2023-2024
--	-----------

Women's Club of Orchard Park Academic Scholarship	2022-2023
--	-----------

Polish Arts Club of Buffalo Academic Scholarship	2022-2023
---	-----------

Dean's Scholarship for Academic and Inclusive Excellence	2021-2022
---	-----------

Kappa Delta Pi – First Year Teacher Grant	2020-2021
University at Buffalo – Opera Scholarship	2016-2017
University at Buffalo – Baird Scholarship	2015-2016
University at Buffalo – Harold Rosenbaum Scholarship	2015-2016

PUBLICATIONS – PEER REVIEWED

Smigielski, K. (2025). "They need someone who believes in them": Fostering equity for students with disabilities [Unpublished doctoral dissertation]. University at Buffalo.

Hall, C., & **Smigielski, K.** (Work accepted for publication). Social-emotional learning in modern education: Progress, pitfalls, and the path Forward. *American Journal of Education Forum*. <https://sites.psu.edu/ajeforum/>

Smigielski, K. (Work accepted for publication). Using AI in the classroom: 5 simple steps to enhance your teaching. *The Teacher Advocate*. <https://www.kdp.org/teacher-resources/teacher-advocate>

Didrichsen, S., & **Smigielski, K.** (Work accepted for publication). Empowering online college instructors through UDL: Engaging and inclusive strategies. *American Journal of Education Forum*. <https://sites.psu.edu/ajeforum/>

Smigielski, K. (Work accepted for publication). Learning from other industries: How AI innovations can revolutionize education. *American Journal of Education Forum*. <https://sites.psu.edu/ajeforum/>

Smigielski, K. (2025). Teacher preparation for increasing classroom diversity: Cultural competence and inclusive strategies. *American Journal of Education Forum*. <https://sites.psu.edu/ajeforum/2025/03/12/teacher-preparation-for-increasing-classroom-diversity-cultural-competence-and-inclusive-strategies-by-kristen-smigielski/>

Smigielski, K. (2024). Resources. In A. M. Hammel & R. L. Yee (Eds.), *Teaching music to students with differences and disabilities* (2nd ed., pp. 243-254). Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/9780197748244.003.0010>

Smigielski, K. (2021). Commentary on "The 90/90/90 schools: A case study." *LAI 615: Curriculum, Instruction and the Science of Learning*, 1(4). Retrieved from <https://cisjournal.net/issues/4/index.html>

Smigielski, K. (2021). Critique of Salvador's (2015) research: "Music instruction for elementary students with moderate to severe cognitive impairments: A case study." *LAI 615: Curriculum, Instruction and the Science of Learning*, 1(4). Retrieved from <https://cisjournal.net/issues/4/index.html>

Smigielski, K., Bartlo, L., & DeMaio, I. (2021). In search of silver linings: Could the response to COVID-19 lead to positive changes in how children are educated post-pandemic? *LAI 615: Curriculum, Instruction and the Science of Learning*, 1(2). Retrieved from <https://cisljournal.net/issues/2/index.html>

NATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCES – RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Smigielski, K. (2025, April 23-27). *Bridging the gap: Enhancing music educators' preparedness and self-efficacy for inclusive education* [Roundtable presentation in the session: Empowering future educators: Integrating emotional intelligence and collaborative practices in teacher preparation for inclusive classrooms]. AERA Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, United States.

Smigielski, K. (2025, April 23-27). *Emotional competence and self-efficacy in music educators: Navigating inclusive education for special needs students* [Roundtable presentation in the session: Teacher self-efficacy and teacher learning]. AERA Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, United States.

Smigielski, K. (2025, April 11). *Fostering inclusive classrooms: Investigating the role of educators' social-emotional learning, emotional intelligence, and soft skills in disability equity* [Paper presentation]; 8th Interdisciplinary Symposium on Qualitative Methodologies: Expanding Possibilities for Qualitative Research Across Disciplines at University of South Florida, Tampa FL United States. <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/isqm/>

Smigielski, K. (2025, April 9). *AI-enabled pedagogy panel discussion*, State University of New York AI Symposium, at University at Buffalo, Buffalo NY, United States.

Smigielski, K. (2025, April 8). *Learning from other industries: AI's potential for educational equity* [Paper presentation in the session: Cultivating relationships for student and educator efficacy]; University at Buffalo Student Research Symposium: Building Bridges Across Communities with Empathy and Understanding for Critical Impact at University at Buffalo, Buffalo NY, United States. <https://ed.buffalo.edu/research/symposium.html>

Didrichsen, S., & **Smigielski, K.** (2025, April 8). *Empowering online college instructors through UDL: Engaging and inclusive strategies*. [Poster presentation]; University at Buffalo Student Research Symposium: Building Bridges Across Communities with Empathy and Understanding for Critical Impact at University at Buffalo, Buffalo NY, United States. <https://ed.buffalo.edu/research/symposium.html>

Smigielski, K. (2024, December 5-7). *Investigating the relationship between K-12 music teacher preparedness and self-efficacy in special education: A mixed-methods approach* [Conference presentation]. NYSSMA 2024 Winter Conference, Rochester NY, United States.

Smigielski, K. (2024, March 26). *Examining K-12 music teacher preparation and self-efficacy for instructing special education students: A mixed-methods study* [Paper presentation in the session: Cultivating relationships for student and educator efficacy]; University at Buffalo Student Research Symposium: Edufuturism: Reimagining and Rebuilding Research, Education and Practice at University at Buffalo, Buffalo NY, United States. <https://ed.buffalo.edu/research/symposium.html>

Hine, J., Lewis, T., **Smigielski, K.**, & Thayaseelan, K. (2023, April 28-29). *Graduate student-parents' well-being: An analysis of predictors of mental health* [Paper presentation in the session: Narratives of well-being: Race, language, and nationality]; University at Buffalo Student Research Symposium: (Un)Censoring the Narrative, Transgressing Power and Activism in Education at University at Buffalo, Buffalo NY, United States. <https://ed.buffalo.edu/research/symposium.html>

Smigielski, K. (2019, May 10). *Elementary math: Building family connections that count* [Poster presentation]; Graduate Research Fair, Department of Elementary Education, Literacy, and Educational Leadership, Buffalo State University, Buffalo NY.

Smigielski, K. & Lane, T. (2019, May 10). *A sound question: Do misconceptions of sound change with age for elementary students?* [Poster presentation]; Graduate Research Fair, Department of Education, Literacy, and Educational Leadership, Buffalo State University, Buffalo NY.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE – HIGHER EDUCATION

Adjunct Instructor

University at Buffalo – Graduate School of Education

Department of Learning and Instruction

Semesters Taught: *Spring 2022 - Present*

Courses Taught:

Instructional Strategies for Special Needs and Gifted – LAI 694

Semesters Taught: *Fall 2022, Fall 2024, Spring 2025*

Brief Description: This course introduces graduate students to contemporary instructional practices, emphasizing classroom management, lesson planning aligned with New York State standards, and the integration of digital technology. Special modules address teaching English language learners, culturally diverse students, and students with special needs, while also covering peer evaluation, professional collaboration, and effective parent communication.

Program Planning & Leadership in Early Childhood and Childhood – LAI 504

Semesters Taught: *Fall 2024, Spring 2025*

Brief Description: This course explores the foundations of early childhood and elementary education, focusing on quality curricular design, instructional practices, classroom organization, and family engagement. Emphasizing backward design and

culturally responsive and sustaining practices, students develop research-based educational philosophies and practical pedagogical tools to support student success.

Intro to Education – LAI 350

Semesters Taught: *Spring 2022, Spring 2024*

Brief Description: This course provides an overview of American education, including its history, learning environments, diverse learners, classroom management, and New York State Learning Standards. Students explore key educational issues and complete 15 hours of experiential learning in an educational setting.

Elementary School Curriculum Integration and Assessment – LAI 600

Semesters Taught: *Summer 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023;*

TA for Summer 2021, Spring 2022

Brief Description: This course surveys current research and literature on curriculum planning, integration, and assessment at the elementary level. Students examine curriculum integration, backward design, and standards alignment, while developing formative and performance-based assessments. The course emphasizes both formal and informal assessment practices, including standardized tests and classroom-based alternatives.

Teaching Assistant/Coach

Buffalo State University

Music Department

Semesters Taught: *Fall 2014*

Courses Taught:

Freshman Vocal Seminar – MUS 171

Brief Description: Teaching Assistant and Coach in undergraduate level vocal seminar taught by Dr. Holly Bewlay. Independently led vocal lessons and coaching sessions.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE – K-12 EDUCATION

ELEMENTARY TEACHER | 05/18 - 6/24

Elmwood Franklin School

Amherst Central School District

Williamsville Central School District

Buffalo Public School District

Curriculum Development & Instructional Design:

- Led the implementation of diverse curricula such as Foundations, Heggerty, Everyday Math, Eureka Math, TCRWP, Read180, System44, and EngageNY.
- Developed standard-based scope and sequences, assessments, and learning goals for K-8 general music, impacting over 32,000 students in the Buffalo Public School District.

Data-Driven Teaching & Diversity Engagement:

- Integrated data-driven methodologies to address learning loss during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Taught diverse classrooms, including ENL and special needs students, employing culturally responsive practices and differentiated instruction.

Assessment Preparation & Student Performance Enhancement:

- Prepared students for NYS ELA and Math assessments, leveraging performance data to tailor and improve instructional outcomes.

Collaborative Teamwork & Community Involvement:

- Collaborated with educational teams and master teachers for lesson planning and implementation.
- Actively engaged with parents and community for school events and educational programs, including serving on the Senior Thesis Committee.

Music Education & Extracurricular Leadership:

- Directed musicals, choirs, facilitated music clubs, and taught various instruments, theory, and composition.
- Organized virtual musical events across multiple schools and managed remote/hybrid learning environments.

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

IES-Funded Center for Early Literacy and Responsible AI

2024-Present

Project Manager

- IES funded Center for Early Literacy and Responsible AI (CELaRAI)
- Coordinating CELaRAI's research and development activities, ensuring smooth execution across all phases.
- Facilitating administrative coordination within UB and managing collaborations with sub-award institutions.
- Supporting personnel administration, including hiring, onboarding, and performance management.
- Managing financial aspects of the center, including monitoring budgets, general ledger activities, and preparing financial reports.
- Planning and organizing CELaRAI's internal meetings, outreach events, and other activities.
- Managing website content, social media, and other public-facing communications to ensure clear and timely updates.
- Coordinating internal progress reports and preparing comprehensive annual reports for submission to the funder.

University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY

Clinical Experience Coach, Office of Educator Preparation

2024-Present

- Facilitated professional learning collaborated with school leaders, conducted observations, promoted professional dispositions, provided data-driven assessments, implemented responsive curriculum, supported culturally responsive practices, maintained professional relationships, and engaged in continuous professional development.

AI in Education Research Collective (AiERC)

Founding Member & Research Committee Chair

2025-Present

- Leads interdisciplinary research initiatives exploring ethical AI integration in education; develops resources to enhance teacher methodologies and personalize student learning; advocates for equitable AI access across educational communities to bridge the digital divide.

SERVICE

American Educational Research Association

2024-Present

Qualitative Research Special Interest Group

2025

Mentoring Committee

- Served as a mentor for the Qualitative Research Special Interest Group Office Hours program. Provided guidance to graduate students, postdocs, and early-career faculty on qualitative and post-qualitative research methodologies, theoretical frameworks, and navigating academia. Engaged in affirming and collaborative mentorship, supporting emerging scholars through consultations.

Graduate Student Committee

2024-2025

- Led the Graduate Student Writing Group for the AERA Qualitative Research Special Interest Group and contributed to graduate student initiatives. Assisted with additional duties for the Qualitative Research SIG board, supporting broader community engagement and organizational efforts.

American Journal of Education

2024-2025

Student Board Member

- Serve as a student board member for the American Journal of Education, contributing original content, managing daily operations of the AJE Forum, and collaborating with scholars to facilitate dialogue on educational issues. Peer-reviewed submissions to the AJE Forum and participated in professional development workshops focused on reviewing, editing, and publishing within the field of education.

University at Buffalo

Graduate School of Education

Department of Learning and Instruction

Graduate Student Writing Group

2025-Present

- Founded the Graduate Student Writing Group for UB's Department of Learning and Instruction and contributed to graduate student initiatives, partnering with the Graduate Student Association, supporting broader community engagement and organizational efforts.

Graduate Mentoring Program

2021-2022

- Goal setting and planning, developing strategies, making recommendations, and offering advice and guidance

United University Professions - Buffalo Center

2023

Contingents Committee Member

- Served as adjunct faculty spokesperson for the university, advocating for contingent faculty issues as a member of the United University Professions Contingents Committee. Collaborated with union representatives to address faculty concerns and promote equitable working conditions.

Aurora Players Community Theater

2022

Director for ProjectSTAGE Youth Summer Theater Camp

- Directed 5th-10th grade students in a theater intensive and final production, emphasizing student-led creativity and performance. Collaborated with the community and families to foster engagement and support throughout the camp. Facilitated workshops that developed acting, stagecraft, and collaborative skills through hands-on learning.

University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY – Graduate School of Education

2021-2022

Student Research Symposium Committee Member

- Collaborated on planning and executing the Graduate School of Education's annual Student Research Symposium, including theme selection, scheduling, and event promotion. Coordinated with faculty and student groups to generate engagement and secure keynote speakers. Managed logistics such as budgeting, venue selection, and proposal deadlines for a successful academic event.

Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Institute, Buffalo, NY

2018-Present

Oishei Children's Hospital of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY**Kevin Guest House, Buffalo, NY**

Volunteer Musician

- Provided music to patients and families being cared for at the hospitals, interacting with patients and families

West Buffalo Charter School, Buffalo, NY

2018-2019

Pen Pal Club

- Provided students outreach opportunities to interact with teacher candidates from Buffalo State College
- Interacted with diverse student population, assisted with student development of writing skills

Global Literacy Project, Buffalo, NY

2018

Global Book Hour

- Planned and taught lessons based on world cultures to community children from diverse backgrounds
- Assisted with the development of literacy skills, interacted with parents on a regular basis to provide literacy interaction opportunities at home, played ukulele and taught children songs from different cultures

PROFESSIONAL & GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)	2025-Present
Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)	2025-Present
International Literacy Association (ILA)	2024-Present
New York State Reading Association	2024-Present
International Society of the Learning Sciences (ISLS)	2024-Present
American Educational Research Association (AERA)	2022-Present
National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS)	2022-Present
National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity	2022-Present
New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA)	2020-Present
National Association for Music Education (NAfME)	2020-Present
Kappa Delta Pi – International Education Honor Society	2019-Present
Erie County Music Educator Association (ECMEA)	2017-Present
Gordon Institute of Music Learning (GIML)	2021-2022