

STEM SPOTLIGHT

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Master of Arts in Education in Administration & Instructional Leadership
Bachelor of Science in Exceptional Learning & Development
Bethel College



Q How did you select your college major?

A I knew I was considering the field of education so I spoke with an advisor to discuss my options at Bethel College. Through prayer, research, and talking with others, I decided on the field of Special Education.

Q What was the biggest influence in your selection of major/career?



A I was 36 and working full time at the Tennessee Department of Human Services as a secretary when I felt the Lord calling me to quit my full time job of 13 years and enroll in Bethel College. After much prayer, I felt the Lord leading me to choose the field of special education. I knew that I wanted to continue to help people in need and work with children who needed extra help and attention at school. I also personally experienced the struggles and blessings of dealing with a child with a disability as my sister who passed away at age seven had been born with cerebral palsy. Both of these life experiences and prayer led me into the special education field.

Q If you could go back to high school and select any elective course to take that would have better prepared you for college, what would it be?

A I wish and am still considering taking courses in the field of Christian counseling, human behavior, and ministry. People need hope and faith to help them to deal with life's difficulties, stress, and struggles. The field of special education offers a tremendous platform to be able to help families in need.



Q What is your favorite aspect of your job?

A I work in an amazing school district with people who care about their students, families, and employees. The faculty and staff of my K-3 Huntingdon Primary School all love working with the children. It is fun to learn new things and information together.

Q How do you/your company make a positive impact on society/our community?

A Our school saves tabs for Ronald McDonald House, we have a trailer in front of the school for the community to recycle cans for Habitat for Humanity, the Energy Team that I sponsor holds a CFL fundraiser each year to donate money to pay electric bills for needy families in Carroll County, we sponsor an annual walk or bike to school day to support healthy living, energy team members also teach the community about recycling and saving energy. Our school also supports students and their families during times of individual needs.

Q What is the most interesting thing you have been able to do in your career?

A Education offers many opportunities for travel and learning. I received a field trip grant to take my special education students and energy team to the Memphis Zoo. We had an amazing day and dedicated it to the memory of one energy team member's mother who passed away with cancer that year. As part of sponsoring the Wiser Miser Energy Team after school program and working with the Tennessee Environment and Conservation

Energy Education Division, I was fortunate to be invited with my energy team students to the White House to attend the President's Environmental Youth Awards with President George Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush. I also have the opportunity to travel to Washington DC each summer with my current energy team members to attend the National Energy Education Development Awards Conference.

Q What makes you get up each morning excited about your profession?

A My students make me feel like a Rock Star as they greet me with hugs, smiles, and high fives each morning when I get to school! And at Wal Mart of course! ☺

Q What advice would you like to share with K-12 students who are considering your profession?

A Take advantage of every opportunity possible that comes your way, research and learn as much as possible, stay positive, pray for guidance, and put yourself in other people's shoes to try and understand their perspective about their life and background. Take one day at a time, Stay Calm, and Pretend it is on the Lesson Plan!