

**BRENDA JOINER OVERTURF, ED. D.**  
**VITA**

**EDUCATION**

August 1994 to May 1999

**University of Louisville**, Louisville, Kentucky

Doctor of Education in Supervision with emphasis in literacy and sub-specialty in middle grades reform.

Research experiences included:

- an action research study on science literacy and attitudes of middle school students regarding science experiences.
- designing, implementing, and analyzing a school-wide reading portfolio initiative at Mt. Washington Middle School, Bullitt County, Kentucky.
- a study to survey and interview middle school teachers across Kentucky about reading knowledge and reading instruction.
- an action research study on middle school reading in social studies.
- dissertation research focused on teacher professional development in middle school reading across the curriculum on an interdisciplinary team.

Summer, 1997

**Western Kentucky University**, Bowling Green, Kentucky

Finished requirements for certification as Supervisor of Instruction, K-12.

June 1988 to August 1994

**University of Louisville**, Louisville, Kentucky

**Eastern Kentucky University**, Richmond, Kentucky

Additional course work done at both universities to satisfy optional 30 hours above Master's Degree (Rank I certification) and coursework was begun for certification as Supervisor of Instruction K-12. All hours transferred to University of Louisville.

August 1997 to August 1982

**Eastern Kentucky University**, Richmond, Kentucky

Received a Master's Degree in Elementary Education with emphasis in Reading. Received reading specialist certification.

August 1972 to May 1976

**Georgetown College**, Georgetown, Kentucky

Received Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education, grades 1-8.

**EXPERIENCE**

July 2005 to present

**University of Louisville/Jefferson County Public Schools**

**Coordinator, Clinical Reading Partnership**

Term professor. Responsibilities include teaching graduate and undergraduate literacy courses and designing literacy programs, among others. Director of the U of L M. Ed. in Reading program. Director of both the U of L Kentucky Reading Project and the Adolescent Literacy Coaching Project U of L site. Site Coordinator for JCPS Reading Recovery program. Facilitating university partnership to certify literacy coaches in a federal Kentucky Content Literacy Consortium Striving Readers grant.

September 1999 to 2005

**Jefferson County Public Schools District Reading Specialist**, Louisville, Kentucky

Responsibilities included advising 152 school reading programs, designing standards-based district reading initiatives, leading district reading assessment initiatives, serving on district, community, state, and national committees, and planning and delivering or overseeing professional development with ongoing follow-up in reading theory and research, practices, programs, and interventions. Designed and implemented an elementary District Literacy System that contains 79 of the district 88 elementary schools and features a

common literacy curriculum, a literacy assessment schedule, reading interventions, and professional development. Created a middle school reading program that all 24 middle schools implemented in the fall of 2004. Assisted with implementation of a high school reading initiative for struggling readers. Advised Early Childhood on literacy curriculum to meet new Headstart requirements. Have written 13 district reading grants that have been funded since 1999, totaling \$2,065,000. Additionally, coached 9 schools to write successful Reading First grants totaling \$1,510,000 each year for six years, and oversaw writing of Early Reading Incentive Grants for \$800,000 to implement Reading Recovery in 8 schools. Oversaw development of district curriculum and assessment documents.

February 1999 to September 1999

**Educational Consultant**

In the reading field, worked with various school districts in the state to help develop strong reading programs and leaders. In this capacity, participated on district and school-wide reading committees, planned and delivered professional development for teachers grades K-12, and facilitated alignment of language arts curriculum to meet state and national standards. Planned, hired presenters, and directed the Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative Summer Reading Institute.

August 1997 to June 1999

**Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative, Shelbyville, Kentucky**

Middle school specialist and coordinator for Project PROMISE, a Goals 2000 middle school change initiative grant at OVEC. Responsibilities included providing technical support to teachers and administrators to achieve project goals in middle schools in nine rural school districts, managing a \$290,000 budget over two years, coordinating and/or providing all professional development aspects of grant, and completing all state reports for project.

August 1989 to May 1997

**Mt. Washington Middle School, Mt. Washington, Kentucky/Bullitt County Public Schools**

Over the years, was a language arts specialist, gifted education teacher in grades 6-8, as well as a sixth grade team leaders. Served as a KERA assessment specialist for the eighth grade teams in all subject areas in a collaborative capacity, 1995-96. Also taught seventh grade social studies for one year.

January 1996 to present

**University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky**

Part-time/adjunct professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning in these capacities:

- Co-taught (with Dr. Gina Schack) the Core III Middle Grades course for students preparing for the Master of Arts in Teaching, Spring, 1996
- Designed and taught the Language Arts strand of the first middle grades MAT program, Fall, 1996 and Spring, 1997
- Taught graduate class EDEM 645 (Advanced Studies in Children's Literature, K-8), Spring, 1998
- Co-taught graduate class EDEM 610 (Literacy Research and Theory, K-8), Spring, 1998
- Taught EDEM 610 (Literacy Research and Theory, K-8), Summer 1998
- Taught EDEM 618 (Literacy Practicum), Summer 2000
- Created and taught JCPS/U of L collaborative course EDEM 604 (Reading, Writing, and School Reform), Fall 2001 and Fall 2002
- Created and taught JCPS/U of L collaborative course EDEM 604 (School-wide Literacy Instruction), Spring 2002 and Spring 2003
- Created and taught JCPS/U of L collaborative course EDEM 604 (Balanced Literacy at the Middle Level), Fall, 2003
- Created and taught JCPS/U of L collaborative course EDEM 604 (Middle School Literacy Reform), Spring, 2004
- Taught graduate class EDEM 610 (Literacy Research and Theory, K-8), Spring, 2005

Term Professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning in these capacities:

- EDTP 603 (P-5 Language Arts Methods), Fall, 2005
- EDTP 620 (Reading and Writing Across the Curriculum), Fall, 2005
- EDTP 603 (P-5 Language Arts Methods), Spring, 2006

- EDAP 614 (Supporting Struggling Readers and Writers), Spring, 2006
- EDAP 694 (Kentucky Reading Project), Summer 2006
- EDAP 694 (Adolescent Literacy Coaching Project), Summer 2006
- EDTP 603 (P-5 Language Arts Methods—2 sections), Fall, 2006
- EDAP 639 (Advanced Reading Methods—new course), Spring 2007
- EDTP 603 (P-5 Language Arts Methods), Spring, 2007
- EDTP 311 (Introduction to Reading and Language Arts P-5), Fall 2008
- EDTP 320 (Reading and Language Arts Methods P-5)

2003 - 2005

**Bellarmine University**, Louisville, Kentucky

Co-designed elementary and middle school literacy cohort coursework. Co-taught “Theory and Politics of Literacy” for middle school cohort.

1988-1992

**Eastern Kentucky University**, Richmond, Kentucky

Part-time instructor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction for 5 years. Taught undergraduate education courses in Reading and Language Arts Theory, grades 1-8, and Reading and Language Arts Methods, grades 5-8.

August 1980-August 1988

**Irvine Elementary School**, Irvine, Kentucky/Estill County Public Schools

Fifth/sixth grade language arts and science teacher in a departmentalized setting; fifth grade self-contained for three years.

August 1976 to January 1979

**Ninth & O Christian School**, Louisville, Kentucky

Fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades math and science for one year; first grade for two years.

**CURRENT PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development  
 Greater Louisville Reading Council  
 International Mind and Brain in Education Society  
 International Reading Association  
 Kentucky Reading Association  
 National Council of Teachers of English/Language Arts  
 National Reading Conference

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Local, State, Nation

2007	Appointed member of IRA Task Force on Professional Development in Reading
2007	Higher Ed Representative on Kentucky National Association of State Boards of Education Team
2007-2008	Kentucky Reading Association, President
2005-2006	Kentucky Reading Association 2006 State Conference Chair
2004-2005	Advisory board member for Harcourt Achieve new product
2003-present	Kentucky Reading Association, Board Member, President-Elect, Chair of Governmental Relations Committee
2003-present	Greater Louisville Reading Council (revitalized council), President
2002-2003	Governor’s Literacy Summit, Planning Committee for Summits #1 and #2
2001-2002	Kentucky Reading Leadership Team (helped write the Kentucky Reading First proposal)
2001-2003	Kentucky Educational Television/Kentucky Department of Education Planning Team (middle school reading “Strategies in Action”)
2000-2003	Kentucky Literacy Partnership
1997-1999	Advisory Board Member: Kentucky Department of Education Middle

	Level Initiative
1997-1998	Stakeholders Advisory Group Member: Partnership for the Improvement of Middle Level Education
1995-1997	Superintendent's Faculty Senate, Bullitt County Public Schools
1994	Louisville Writing Project (National Writing Project Site)
1990	KERA Performance Assessment Fellows, Cohort II
1987	Commonwealth Institute for Teachers
1985-1986	Light Up My Life, Berea College, Language Arts Instructor

#### University of Louisville

2006-2007	Co-facilitator, NCATE Standard I Committee
2006-2007	University General Education Assessment Project
2005-2007	T & L, Director, M. Ed. in Reading program (revised program)
2005-2007	T & L, Elementary Curriculum Committee
2005-2007	T & L, Department of Teaching and Learning Mini-Leadership Team
2005-2006	CEHD Undergraduate Core Curriculum Committee
1995-1998	Advisory Board Member: Center for the Collaborative Advancement of the Teaching Profession, University of Louisville

#### Jefferson County Public Schools (part of U of L / JCPS Clinical Reading Partnership)

2002-2007	Superintendent's Instructional Cabinet
2003-2007	Reading First District Committee
1999-2007	Site Coordinator, Reading Recovery

#### **PROFESSIONAL HONORS AND AWARDS**

2000	Dissertation research paper "Developing Teachers' Knowledge of Middle Level Reading within a Social Constructivist Professional Development Perspective" chosen as semifinalist (one of six) for the <b>Outstanding Graduate Student Reading Research</b> papers at the 49 <sup>th</sup> international conference, National Reading Conference, Phoenix, Arizona
1997	Research paper "Implementing a Content Literacy Portfolio in a Middle School Social Studies Classroom" chosen as semifinalist for the <b>Outstanding Graduate Student Reading Research</b> papers at the 47 <sup>th</sup> international conference, National Reading Conference, Phoenix, Arizona
1994	Named Ashland Oil <b>Golden Apple Achiever Educator Award</b>
1994	Named an <b>Outstanding Educator by a Kentucky Governor's Scholar</b>
1989	Chosen <b>Estill County Teacher of the Year</b>

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

Have planned and presented numerous professional development seminars, workshops, and conference presentations since 1991. Presentation audiences have been teachers, administrators, community groups, local committees, state committees, etc. Some major presentations include:

#### New York State Reading Association/New York Department of Education

2007	Invited presentation on the Kentucky Content Literacy Consortium Striving Readers project, New York Reading Association Adolescent Literacy Research Symposium
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#### Appalachian Regional Comprehensive Center

2007	Invited presentation on the Kentucky Content Literacy Consortium Striving Readers project, Southeast Regional Conference on Adolescent Literacy
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#### International Reading Association

2007	"Advancing Adolescent Literacy for All Students: A U. S. Striving
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- Readers Project” (proposed for IRA 2008 World Congress on Reading)
- 2007 “Year 1 of the Kentucky Content Literacy Consortium” (proposed for IRA 2008, Atlanta)
- 2007 “From Paper to Practice: Applying IRA Standards to State Literacy Initiatives Grades 4-12” (Toronto conference)
- 2007 “Advocacy in Action: What State Councils Can Do” (invited presentation, IRA Regional Leadership Workshop, Atlanta, GA))
- 2004 “Three Years of Data on an Urban District Literacy Initiative: What Can Happen When We All Work Together” (Reno Conference)
- 2002 “Jefferson County Public Schools District Literacy Initiative” (San Francisco Conference)

Center for Research in Education, Diversity, and Excellence

- 2002 Invited session on dissertation research, California Council on Teacher Education (San Diego)

National Reading Conference

- 2007 “A Tale of Two Approaches: Comparing Field-based and University-based Reading Specialist Programs” (accepted, December 2007)
- 2006 “Literacy Instruction in an Age of Conflicting Standards” (Los Angeles, CA Conference)
- 2000 “Developing Teachers’ Knowledge of Middle Level Reading Within a Social Constructivist Professional Development Perspective” (Scottsdale, AZ Conference)
- 1997 “Implementing a Content Literacy Portfolio in a Middle School Social Studies Classroom” (Scottsdale, AZ Conference)

Kentucky Middle School Association

- 1999 Invitational session on middle school reading
- 1998 Facilitated 1998 Middle School Curriculum and Assessment Institute, Lexington, KY. Introduced a model unit of study authored for KDE.
- 1995 “Using the Jim Beane Model” (Kentucky Middle School Institute)
- 1994 “Demonstrating Student Success: Student Assessment Strategies That Work” (co-presented, Kentucky Middle School Conference)
- 1994 “To Beane or Not to Beane” (co-presented, Kentucky Middle Conference)

National Middle School Association

- 1998 “Teaming for Reading Development” (Denver Conference)
- 1996 “Implementing a Standards-Based Science Classroom” (co-presented, Baltimore Conference)
- 1995 “From Paperwork to Portfolio the Painless Way” (co-presented, New Orleans Conference)

Kentucky Educational Television

- 2000 Helped plan 3-part series on middle school reading and appeared on Program #2
- 1999 Presentation to KET programming staff on the use of study groups as professional development
- 1998 Helped plan 4-part series on middle school reform and appeared on Program #1, “Transforming Middle Schools Through DWoK”
- 1994 “Integrated Instruction in the Middle School” (with Betty Edwards, KDE)
- 1993 “Planning and Implementing “Quality Units of Study” (with Kit Marshall)
- 1993 “Quality Demonstration Performances” (with Kit Marshall)

#### Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative

- 1998 "Reading in Every Subject at the Middle Level" (Project PROMISE professional development opportunity workshop)
- 1998 "Conducting Classroom Teacher Research" (Project PROMISE professional development opportunity workshop)
- 1998 "Trends in Reading Instruction, K-12" (Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative Summer Administrators' Conference)
- 1998 "Middle School Reform" (Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative Summer Administrators' Conference)
- 1994 "A Model for Integrated Units of Study" (Bell South Foundation High School Integration Project)
- 1994 "Integrated Instruction In, Around, and Through a Kentucky Classroom" (Boston, MA, for the Massachusetts Teachers' Association)
- 1993 "Planning an Integrated Unit of Study" (Transforming the Learning Environment Institute")

#### High Success Network (all invited presentations)

- 1994 "Integrated Role Performances: Planning for Success" (Lake Tahoe, CA for *Middle Schools for the Twenty-First Century* International Seminar)
- 1994 "Validating and Celebrating Quality Performances" (Lake Tahoe, CA for *Middle Schools for the Twenty-First Century* International Seminar)
- 1994 "Middle School Teams" (Louisville, *Implementing KERA*, part III)
- 1993 "Introducing Rubrics" (Louisville, *Implementing KERA*, part II)
- 1993 "Designing Open-Ended Questions" (Louisville, *Implementing KERA*, part I)

#### National Association for Gifted Children

- 1993 "Meeting the Needs of High Ability Learners on a Heterogeneous Team" (co-presented, Atlanta Conference)

#### Kentucky Department of Education

- 1999-2003 Helped plan the Kentucky Reading Project; presented at several University of Louisville Projects
- 1993-2004 Presented for various committees and task forces
- 1992 Served as a writing consultant for state writing grants in various school districts in Kentucky (summer)

#### **GRANTS FUNDED**

- 2007 Co-wrote National Association of State Boards of Education Grant Adolescent Literacy planning grant for Kentucky for Kentucky Board of Education/Kentucky Department of Education (\$15,000)
- 2006 Assisted Jefferson County Public Schools with Read to Achieve grants for 13 schools (12 funded at \$840,000 total)
- 2006 Striving Readers grant for University of Louisville in collaboration with Collaborative for Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education, Collaborative Center for Literacy Development, and Danville Independent Schools (\$16 million)
- 2005 Wrote 5 state Read to Achieve grants for 13 schools totaling \$800,000.
- 2000-2005 Planned and wrote six KDE Middle Level Reading Academy grants for JCPS (total of \$330,000).
- 2002-2005 Planned and wrote four KDE High School Reading Academy grants for JCPS (total of \$220,000).
- 2003 Co-authored (with Ann Larson, Linda Irwin-Devitas, Ellen McIntyre, and Bronwyn Williams) a Council on Postsecondary Education training and research grant entitled "A Multiple Literacies Approach to Closing the Academic Achievement Gap for Urban Middle School Students"

- (254,000).
- 2003 Planned and wrote district narrative for the JCPS Reading First grant (total of \$1,510,000 each year for six years for nine schools).
- 1999 Planned JCPS Reading Excellence grant (total of \$880,000 for seven schools).
- 1998 Planned and wrote OVEC Project PROMISE grant for \$140,000 for OVEC to continue project for year 2.
- 1992 Wrote a \$1400 OVEC grant to implement and continue a pilot middle school team at Mt. Washington Middle School.
- 1990 Co-planner and principle writer of a \$25,000 school-wide state writing grant funded for Mt. Washington Middle School.
- 1988 Member of planning committee for a \$30,000 district-wide state writing grant funded for Estill County Public Schools. Principle writer of draft.
- 1987 Wrote a \$500 community-school collaboration grant for Irvine Elementary School entitled the "C.L.A.S.S. Project."

### PUBLICATIONS

Overturf, B. J. (2002). Creating open response questions in reading: 16 ways to improve our own practice. Kentucky Reading Journal.

Overturf, B. J. (2001). The middle level academy experience. Kentucky Reading Journal.

Overturf, B. J. (1999). *Developing teachers' knowledge of middle level reading within a social constructivist professional development perspective*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, University of Louisville.

Overturf, B. J. (1999). Reading in Kentucky's middle level schools: The lightweight side of the balance. Kentucky Reading Journal.

Overturf, B. J. (1997). Reading portfolios reveal new dimensions of students. Middle School Journal, 28 (3), 45-50.

Overturf, B. J. (1994, Fall). Teacher teaming. Connections. High Success Network.

Overturf, B., & Schack, G. (1998) On the high wire. In T. Bliss and J. Mazur (Eds.), Secondary and middle school teachers in the midst of reform: Common thread cases (pp. 21-41). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Schack, G. & Overturf, B. J. (1998). Professional development teams. Teaching Education Journal, 9 (2), 91-98.