

EDUCATION**Ph.D. Special Education, 2015**

University of Pittsburgh

M.S. Educational Psychology, 2011

George Mason University

B.A. Developmental Psychology, 2005

Smith College

PRESENT POSITION**Senior Associate, edCount, LLC***2018 – present*

Directs projects and supports team in the design and execution of project deliverables; Develops innovative assessment designs; Plans and implements methods, techniques, and skills to complete projects in a timely and cost-efficient manner; Manages project team and the work of junior staff to consistently produce deliverables on deadline; prepares high-quality reports and other outputs; Utilizes field expertise to design and implement training workshops as well as evaluate assessment systems; develops corporate knowledge and knowledge of individual program areas and projects.

PROJECTS**Louisiana’s Educational Assessment Program Connect Assessment System for Students with Cognitive Disabilities (LEAP)**

Manage the design and development of the Louisiana alternate state assessment, LEAP Connect; Meet the requirements of an end-to-end assessment, manage project staff, and prepare the assessment for peer review; Work with state stakeholders to improve on the content of the assessment while meeting continuous deadlines and contractual deliverables; Provide the state with technical documentation that supports the design, administration, and performance of the summative assessment.

**PROFESSIONAL
EXPERIENCE****Lead Test Developer and Project Coordinator, PASA Reading & Math:
University of Pittsburgh***2017 – 2018*

Designed the Math, ELA and Writing assessments for state of Pennsylvania alternate assessment. Managed team of test developers, assigning relevant workflow, and determining necessary changes and adaptations to the assessment. Transform the assessment into a digital platform. Presented all blueprints, as well as other validity data to the Pennsylvania Department of Education in quarterly reports and meeting presentations. Managed quarterly reports and other communications with government stakeholders.

Data Manager and Analyst, PASA Reading & Math: University of Pittsburgh*2015 – 2017*

Managed student data, perform analysis on student performance, as well as other differential analysis on items, tasks, and other components of the assessment. Performed small-scale validity projects with teachers throughout the state on components of the assessment.

Teaching/Research Fellow, University of Pittsburgh

2011 – 2015

Assistant Editor, Journal of Technology and Teacher Education

2010 – 2011

Owner/Director, The Learning Curve

2007 – 2011

Sr. IRB Regulatory Analyst, University of Miami

2005 – 2007

**PROFESSIONAL
AFFILIATIONS &
CERTIFICATIONS**

Council for Exceptional Children, Teacher Education Division 2010 – Present

**HONORS &
AWARDS**

Teaching and Research Fellowship Full Scholarship, University of Pittsburgh (2011 – 2018)

Educational Psychology Outstanding Award Winner, George Mason University Graduate School of Education (2011)

Graduate Assistant Part Scholarship, George Mason University (2010 – 2011)

**RESEARCH
EXPERIENCE**

Dvorchak, J. & Zigmond, N. (2015). PASA Core Research: Assessing Mastery of the New PA Core Math Alternate Eligible Content with Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities. Principal Investigator. Multi-phase study investigating the ability of students with significant cognitive disabilities to master the new PA Core Math alternate eligible content.

Dvorchak, J., Mrachko, A., & Kostewicz, D. (2013). Increasing secondary teachers' use of praise in the inclusive classroom. Principal Investigator. Classroom management intervention for secondary teachers to improve the use of praise statements.

Dvorchak, J. & Mastropieri, M. (2010-2011). Self-regulated strategy instruction and attribution training in high school students with learning disabilities. Principal Investigator. Trained high school students to use the SRSD method to study for tests while using attribution training to improve the use of the method.

Hughes, C. & Ensor, R. (2003-2004). Toddler's Up Study. Research Assistant. Conducted all developmental testing, interviews, and home visits associated with this longitudinal study following toddlers from single-mother families.

Flynn, E. & MacLeod, M. (2003). Retrieval induced forgetting and inhibitory control in children. Research Assistant. Performed all necessary developmental testing of child participants.

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Publications

Hughes, C. & Leins, J. (2004). Stress and the parent child relationship. Guardian Newspaper, August.

Presentations

Dvorchak, J., Coy, J. & Zigmond, N. (2017, April). Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities Mastering and Maintaining Grade Level Aligned Common Core State Standards. Paper presented at the Council for Exceptional Children 2017 Convention Expo, Boston, MA.

Dvorchak, J. & Zigmond, N. (2016, April). Teaching Math Common Core State Standards to Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities. Paper presented at the Council for Exceptional Children 2016 Convention Expo, St. Louis, MO.

Dvorchak, J. & Kostewicz, D. (2016, April). Decreasing Disruptive Behavior in the Middle School Inclusive Classroom. Paper presented at the Council for Exceptional Children 2016 Convention Expo, St. Louis, MO.

Kostewicz, D.E., Mrachko, A.A., Dvorchak-Leins, J., & King, S.A. (2013, December). Improving Teacher-initiated Interactions in Elementary and Secondary Classrooms. Paper presented at the 26th annual International Precision Teaching Conference, Tampa, FL.

Mrachko, A. & Leins, J. (2013, April). Program to Encourage Educator Positive Statements. Annual meeting of the Council for Exceptional Children, San Antonio, TX.

Dvorchak-Leins, J. (2013, November). Increasing Secondary Teachers' Use of Praise. Council of Graduate Students in Education Colloquium, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Kostewicz, D.E., Dvorchak-Leins, J., Mrachko, A.A., & King, S.A. (2013, July). Improving Teacher- Initiated Interactions. Paper presented at the 1st Annual North Eastern Federation for Precision Teaching, Pittsburgh, PA. (co-presenter).