

Blaire Willson Toso, Ph.D.

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SKILLS

- Leadership: Manage and lead local and national cross-functional teams to collaborate on and conduct research or design and deliver training or technical assistance. Engage multiple stakeholders to support or participate in delivery of adult education and ESL services or ongoing professional development or projects. Manage multiple projects simultaneously. Staffed, budgeted and oversaw day-to-day operations of ESL language programs, university licensure programs, and student travel programs.
- Training & Technical Assistance: Create and deliver stand-alone, extended face-to-face, multi-modal, and distance learning professional development activities that increase or build staff or program competency in delivering quality education. Target audiences: local, national, or international adult education, career pathways, ESL, or family literacy program administrators and practitioners.
- Research: Design and conduct all aspects of research projects. Topics include: immigrant learners' agency; leadership, voice, and social capital; program evaluation; partnerships between educational agencies and workforce partners; immigrant integration; diverse parents' experiences of navigating social institutions; benefits of educational programming.
- Course Design & Teaching Design and teach for post-baccalaureate courses on family literacy and ESL and bilingual methodology courses. Development of Adult Basic Education post-baccalaureate certificate. Taught beginning level ESL, literacy, and workforce development classes to adult immigrant and refugees.
- Writing & Product Development: Produced peer-reviewed and invited articles, grant applications, practitioner guides, yearly reports, evaluation reports, conference proceedings, curriculum, and classroom materials. Reviewer for journals and conference presentations.
- Presentation: Presented at international, national, regional, and local research and practitioner conferences.

EDUCATION

The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania
Ph. D. Adult Education; Minor, Women's Studies

Monterey Institute of International Studies, Monterey, California
Master of Arts, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)

University of California, San Diego, California
Bachelor of Arts, Spanish Literature

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Faculty, Associate Director** 2015-Present
Faculty, Research Associate 2010-2015
Literacy Specialist 2008-2010
Research Assistant 2005-2008
The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania
Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy/Institute for the Study of Adult Literacy
- **Professional Development ESL Trainer** 2013-Present
EDSI, Detroit, MI & Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Indianapolis, IN
Extended Supported Learning for English as a Second Language (ESL-4- ESL)
- **Consultant** 2012-Present
Center for Applied Linguistics, Washington, DC
 - *ESL Evaluation*, Dammam University, KSA
 - *Pilot Study BEST Plus*, Mexico
 - *ESL Teacher Trainer* Saudi Aramco, Dhahran, KSA
 - *ESL Teacher Trainer* Educational Experts, Riyadh, KSA
- **Research and Training Specialist** 1998–1999 & 1990-1991
Upper Great Lakes Multifunctional Resource Center, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin
- **Director / Instructor ESL and Bilingual Education Licensure Program** 1992–1993
Hamline University, St. Paul, Minnesota
- **Volunteer Adult Education Teacher** Aug-Dec 2012
Centre County Correctional Facility, Bellefonte, PA
- **Adult ESL Teacher**
Abraham Lincoln Adult Education Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota Jan-Aug 2005
International Institute of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 1997–1998
Minneapolis Public Schools, Adult Education, Minneapolis, Minnesota 1989–1990
- **Youth ESL Teacher** Jan-July 1992
Youth International, Global Language Institute, St. Paul, Minnesota
- **ESL Teacher / Curriculum Writer** 1991-1991
Creative Learning Center, Monteverde, Costa Rica

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Program Director**, Language & Friendship, Inc., Edina, Minnesota 1999–2004
- **Curriculum Development**, Little Big Land, Toulouse, France 2003–2004
- **Dean / Curriculum Writer**, American Village USA, Minneapolis, Minnesota 1989–1990

GRANT PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Career Pathways Programming for Lower-Skilled Adults and Immigrants: A Comparative Analysis of Adult Education Providers in High-Need Cities. Institute of Educational Sciences.

Pennsylvania Career Pathways Network. Pennsylvania Department of Education, Division of Adult Education.

Families Reading & Talking Together. Evaluation Grant, National Center of Families Learning.

Toyota Family Learning: Families Learning and Serving Together. Evaluation Grant, National Center of Families Learning.

Health literacy in parents of low-SES, minority group school-age children with ADHD. Research Initiation Grant, College of Education, Pennsylvania State University.

Health literacy in parents of low-SES, minority group school-age children with ADHD. Children Youth and Families Consortium Grant, Pennsylvania State University.

Literacy Information Communication Systems. National Institute of Literacy.

Assessment of GED Services for Youth and Young Adults in Central Pennsylvania. Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation Grant.

Lebanon Early Reading First Partnership. Early Reading First Grant, United States Department of Education.

Pennsylvania's Forgotten Rural Immigrants: Strengthening Pennsylvania's Diverse Communities. College of Agricultural Sciences, Pennsylvania State University.

PUBLICATIONS (Selected)

Toso, B. & Krupar, A. (in progress). *Parents and Employability: A Survey of Family Literacy and Career Pathways Programming*. The Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy.

Clymer, C., Toso, B., Grinder, E., & Sauder-Parrish, R. (in progress). *Family Literacy Funding: A Policy Brief*. The Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy.

Toso, B. W. & Grinder, E. (under review). Engaging parents in meaningful roles: The benefits of parent leadership activities for family, school, and community. *Educational Policy*.

Prins E., Monnat S., Clymer C., and Toso B. (2015). Examining associations between adult health and literacy, numeracy, technological problem-solving skills, and post-initial learning in the U.S. Washington, DC: American Institutes for Research and the National Center for Education Statistics.

http://static1.squarespace.com/static/51bb74b8e4b0139570ddf020/t/54da78a6e4b0f5214f04f907/1423603878589/Prins_Monnat_Clymer_Toso_PIAAC.pdf (peer review but was not published in a journal)

Cramer, J. & Toso, B. (2015). Family Service-learning brief. National Center for Families Learning and The Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy.

Toso, B.W., Prins, E. & Mooney, A. (2013) The changing face of immigrants in the U.S.: Implications for Adult Educators. *Pennsylvania Association of Adult and Continuing Education Journal*, 1-22.

Toso, B. W. (2013). "My girls are going to make it in the future": Intertwined discourses of mothering, literacy, and desire (pp. 145-162). In A. Richey (Ed.), *Mothering and literacies*. Bradford, ON: Demeter Press.

Toso, B., Prins, E., Drayton, B., Gungor, R., & Gnanadass, E. (2009). Finding voice: Shared decision making and student leadership in a family literacy program. *Adult Basic Education and Literacy Journal*, 3(3), 151-160.

PRESENTATIONS (Selected)

Hamilton & Toso (2016, May) Remember the Wheel? An introduction to the New and Improved Foundation Skills Framework, PAACE, Hershey, PA.

Career and College Readiness Standards, English as a Second Language (2016, April), Pennsylvania Department of Education, Division of Adult Basic Education, Malvern, PA.

Toso, B., Cramer, J., Clymer, C., (2016, April). Building Employability Skills with Project-Based Learning Service-Learning Activities. Conference for Commission on Adult Basic Education, Dallas, TX.

Prins, E., Clymer, C., Toso, B., Elder, S. F., Needle, M., & Raymond, R. (2016, April). A New Urban Researcher-Practitioner Partnership: Career Pathways Programming for Lower-Skilled Adults and Immigrants in High Need Cities. Conference for Commission on Adult Basic Education, Dallas, TX.

Hamilton & Toso (2016, January) *Introduction to WIOA Training*, Sonoma Adult Education Consortium, Santa Rosa, CA.

Toso & Hamilton (2016, January) *Designing ESL Work-based Curriculum*, Sonoma Adult Education Consortium, Santa Rosa, CA.

Career and College Readiness Standards, Standards in Action. (2015-2016; series of in-depth face-to-face training and webinars) Statewide professional development series for adult basic education system.

Career Pathways English as a Second Language Working Group Webinars (2015-2016)

Clymer, C., & Toso, B. (2015, April). Adult health literacy: How is it related to literacy, numeracy, technological problem-solving skills, and adult learning? Conference for Commission on Adult Basic Education, Denver, CO.

Toso, B. (2014, July). Jobs vs. Career: Building Career Awareness for Beginning English Language Learners. Indiana Workforce Development Department, Indianapolis, IN.

Toso, B. & Burt, M. (2012, March). Building Reading Skills Using Authentic Materials. Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA.

Toso, B., (2011, June). How Latina Immigrant Mothers Enact Agency and Extend Learning Through Family Literacy. Paper presented at the European Research Network about Parents in Education, Milan, Italy.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE (Selected)

- Member, Advisory Policy Workgroup, WIOA Service to Individuals with Barriers to Employment (2015).
- Certified Trainer, Aspen Institute, Sector Strategies (2015)
- Participant, College and Career Readiness Standards in Action National Training, USDOE, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (2014-2015)
- Contributor and Reviewer, *Preparing English Learners for Work and Career Pathways*, American Institutes of Research
- Member, Diversity and Community Enhancement Committee, College of Education, The Pennsylvania State University (September 2010–2013).
- Conference Proceedings Editor, National Conference on Family Literacy (2011, 2012)
- Reviewer, *Journal of Literacy Research*; *Adult Basic Education and Literacy Journal*; *International Journal about Parents in Education*; Grant Proposals (various states)
- Scientific Committee Member, European Research Network about Parents in Education (2010-2011)