

Leigh Kale D'Amico

Research Assistant Professor
College of Education
University of South Carolina
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Education

Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, 2007

University of South Carolina-Columbia

Dissertation Topic: Impact of Accountability on K-2 Teaching Practices

Master of Public Administration, 1999

University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Focus Areas: Education Policy and Administration

Bachelor of Arts in English and Communication Studies, 1996

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Experience

May 2006 to
Present

Research Assistant Professor (July 2010 to Present)

Research Associate (August 2007 to July 2010)

Research Assistant (May to August 2006, November 2006 to May 2007)

Research, Evaluation, and Measurement Center, College of Education
University of South Carolina-Columbia

- Served as principal or co-principal investigator/evaluator on projects totaling approximately \$2.8 million since July 1, 2010
- Serve as principal evaluator or consultant on evaluations related to early childhood education funded by South Carolina Education Oversight Committee, South Carolina State Library, South Carolina Department of Social Services, South Carolina First Steps, United Way, and Mary Black Foundation
- Serve as principal evaluator on School Improvement Grant (SIG) project and educator evaluation project funded by US and SC Departments of Education
- Serve as principal evaluator on National Science Foundation projects to prepare STEM secondary teachers and enhance teacher leadership of current teachers
- Serve as principal evaluator on annual process and outcomes evaluations for higher education institutions, school districts, and related organizations
- Served as co-principal investigator on special education workforce preparation grant funded by the US Department of Education
- Coordinate and lead teams that include graduate students in the development of research instruments and the analysis of quantitative and qualitative data
- Completed work as co-principal investigator on two projects that evaluated the implementation and impact of professional development across South Carolina

February 2008 to
Present

Research and Evaluation Consultant

Center of Excellence to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty

Francis Marion University: Florence, SC

- Oversee a research agenda focused on effective teacher preparation
- Develop student assessments, surveys, and other instruments to effectively understand the impact of higher education coursework on teacher preparation
- Manage the collection and interpretation of data and the dissemination of results

Winthrop University

- Developed an evaluation plan related to a National Science Foundation-funded STEM educator preparation program
- Collect and analyze quantitative and qualitative analysis on cohorts of prospective students, scholars, and alumni
- Consult on program revisions and improvements to increase the number of effective teachers prepared through the program

University of Kansas

- Consulted on SWIFT rubric validation study and became certified SWIFT rater
- Evaluated schools using SWIFT rubric in Maryland school districts for three years

South Carolina Department of Education

- Evaluated the implementation and impact of South Carolina TAP (System for Teacher and Student Advancement) in schools across the state

National Institute for Excellence in Teaching

- Evaluated the implementation and impact of TAP (System for Teacher and Student Advancement) in Knox County, Tennessee

Institute for Child Success

- Developed and analyzed survey for understanding early childhood developmental screening in South Carolina

South Carolina Education Oversight Committee

- Served as consultant on the development of a conceptual framework for the evaluation of the Child Development Education Program (4K)

Midlands Middle College

Lexington School District 1: Lexington, SC

- Conducted external evaluation as required by the U.S. Department of Education

South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness

- Provided consultation on the evaluation of early childhood strategies
- Worked to enhance data collection and analysis at the state and local levels

National Association for the Education of Young Children

Washington, DC

- Consulted on the evaluation of the *Quality Benchmarks for Cultural Competence*

August 2004 to
May 2007

Research Assistant

Curriculum Studies, College of Education
University of South Carolina-Columbia

- Contributed to research and assisted with graduate-level instruction
- Supported faculty members in leadership roles with educational organizations

October 1998 to
November 2004

Senior Program Manager (November 2002 to August 2004)

Program Manager (March 1999 to November 2002)

Consultant (October 1998 to March 1999, August to November 2004)

Mecklenburg Partnership for Children (Smart Start), Charlotte, NC

- Coordinated strategic planning and policy analysis for the organization
- Oversaw early childhood education programming and activities
- Involved in the research, writing, administration, and evaluation of grants
- Assisted in the implementation of the North Carolina *More at Four* initiative

Teaching-Related Experience

Instructor, University of South Carolina-Columbia

EDCS 823: Curriculum Inquiry (Fall 2017, Summer 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019)

EDCS 899: Dissertation Preparation (ongoing; Fall 2017-present)

Dissertation Chair/Committee Membership

- Chaired 11 completed dissertations
- Served as committee member on 9 completed dissertations
- Serve as chair on 9 in-progress dissertations
- Serve as committee member on 4 in-progress dissertations

Teaching Assistant, University of South Carolina-Columbia

EDCS 823: Curriculum Inquiry (Spring 2007)

EDRM 723: Classroom Assessment Methods (Summer 2006)

UNIV 201: Fundamentals of Inquiry (Spring 2006)

Publications

D'Amico, L. K., Jeffries, R. J., Costner, K., Costner, B., Bell, C. M., & Johnson, L. (under review) Promoting effective teaching and teacher retention in STEM in high-needs school districts. *Journal of the National Association of Professional Development Schools*.

D'Amico, L. K., Brown, W. H., & Sides, K. (2016, October). *Early childhood developmental screenings in South Carolina: Common practices, opportunities, and challenges*. Issue Brief. Greenville, SC: Institute for Child Success.

Goodlett, G. B., D'Amico, L. K., & Sides, K. (2014, March). *School readiness: Moving toward a shared definition, standardized assessment, and unifying language*. Issue Brief. Greenville, SC: Institute for Child Success.

D'Amico, L. K. (2007). *Impact of educational accountability on reported teaching practices among teachers in primary and elementary schools*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation. University of South Carolina.

Schramm-Pate, S. L., Jeffries, R. B., & D'Amico, L. K. (2006). Reflecting on Mary H. Wright Elementary: Ideologies of high expectations in a "re-segregated" school. In D. Armstrong & B. McMahon (Eds.), *Inclusion in urban educational environments: Addressing issues of diversity, equity, and social justice*. Greenwich, CT: Information Age Publishing.

Selected Research and Evaluation Reports

D'Amico, L. K., Fan, X., & Grohn, H. B. (2018, June). *South Carolina Educator Effectiveness: 2016-2018 Expanded ADEPT evaluation report*. Prepared for South Carolina Department of Education and Southern Regional Education Board.

D'Amico, L. K., Cain, J. M., Fan, X., Grohn, H., and Martin, C. (2018, January). *South Carolina School Improvement Grants (SIG) Cohorts 3 and 4: Year 1 evaluation report*. Prepared for South Carolina Department of Education and US Department of Education.

D'Amico, L. K., Fan, X., & Grohn, H. B. (2018, June). *South Carolina Educator Effectiveness: 2016-2018 Expanded ADEPT evaluation report*. Prepared for South Carolina Department of Education and Southern Regional Education Board.

D'Amico, L. K., Moon, A. M., & Prince, G., (2016, December). *Project Summer Stride 2016 interim evaluation report*. Prepared for Richland Library and United Way of the Midlands.

D'Amico, L. K., Pompey, K., & Prince, G. (2016, September) *Winthrop Initiative for STEM Educators 2015-16 evaluation report*. Prepared for Winthrop University and National Science Foundation.

Ranade, N., D'Amico, L. K., Prince, G., Moon, A., Fan, X., & Miller, K. M. (2016, July). *The Learning Bridge 2015-16 annual evaluation report*. Prepared for Richland Library and United Way of the Midlands.

Grohn, H. B., D'Amico, L. K., Prince, G., Moon, A., & Fan, X., (2016, July). *South Carolina Creating High-Quality Academic Reform through Effective Resources (CHARTER) evaluation report (2010–2016)*. Prepared for South Carolina Department of Education and US Department of Education.

D'Amico, L. K., & Pompey, K. (2016, July). *Developing master teachers through the South Carolina Science and Mathematics Teachers Leaders Program (SMTL) Year 2 evaluation report*. Prepared for University of South Carolina and National Science Foundation.

D'Amico, L. K. & Pompey, K., (2016, July). *University of South Carolina Science and Mathematics Teachers Initiative Year 6 evaluation report*. Prepared for University of South Carolina and National Science Foundation.

Office of Program Evaluation. (2016, June). *Keys to Interactive Parenting Scale (KIPS) analysis 2015-16*. Prepared for St. Lawrence Place and United Way of the Midlands. Primary Authors: Glenn Prince and Leigh Kale D'Amico

Office of Program Evaluation, (2016, July). *Quality Counts star rating evaluation report*. Prepared for Mary Black Foundation. Primary Authors: Leigh Kale D'Amico, Sondra Gaines, and Kelvin Pompey

- D'Amico, L. K., Zhang, X., Prince, G., Fan, X., Moon, A., Miller, K. M., & Gaines, S. (2015, December). *Quality Counts Year 1 evaluation report*. Prepared for Mary Black Foundation.
- Office of Program Evaluation (2015, November). *Student Learning Objectives: Perceptions of policies and practices in South Carolina*. Prepared for South Carolina Department of Education. Primary Authors: Leigh Kale D'Amico, Melinda Eagle, Kassie Mae Miller.
- D'Amico, L. K., Miller, K. M., & Prince, G. (2014, December). *Richland Library Literacy 2030, Richland County*. Prepared for Richland Library and Central Carolina Community Foundation.
- D'Amico, L. K., Miller, K. M., Dickenson, T., Prince, G., Blue, G., & Eagle, M. P. (2014, Fall). *South Carolina Department of Education educator evaluation pilot project: 2013-2014 annual report*. Prepared for South Carolina Department of Education and presented to South Carolina State Board.
- D'Amico, L. K. (2014, September). *Center of Excellence to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty: 2013-2014 research and evaluation report*. Prepared for Francis Marion University and South Carolina Education Oversight Committee.
- D'Amico, L. K., Miller, K. M., & Dixon, J. (2013, December). *Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools PK-8 transition study: Year 2 evaluation report*. Prepared for Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools.
- Miller, K. M., D'Amico, L. K., & Dixon, J. (2013, November). *Project Summer Stride program evaluation*. Prepared for Richland Library (projected funded by Institute of Museum and Library Sciences).
- Miller, K. M., & D'Amico, L. K. (2013, May). *Evaluation of science and mathematics teacher initiative*. Prepared for the University of South Carolina (projected funded by National Science Foundation).
- Brown, W. H., D'Amico, L. K., & Miller, K. M. (2013, March). *Defining, understanding, assessing, and evaluating school readiness in South Carolina*. Prepared for South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness.
- D'Amico, L. K. (2013, February). *Knox County TAP Year 2 evaluation report for Teacher Incentive Fund 3 Project*. Prepared for National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (project funded by U.S. Department of Education).
- D'Amico, L. K. (2012, August). *Evaluation of Winthrop initiative for STEM educators*. Prepared for Winthrop University (project funded by the National Science Foundation).
- D'Amico, L. K., Dickenson, T., Miller, K. M., & Tison, J. (2012, August). *Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools PK-8 transition study: Year 1 evaluation report*. Prepared for Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools.
- D'Amico, L. K., Hansen, A., & Miller, K. M. (2010, September). *South Carolina Writing Improvement Network 2008-2010 external evaluation*. Prepared for South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (SC Legislative Proviso 1A.39).
- D'Amico, L. K., Morgan, G., & Gilmore, J. (2010, May). *An Evaluation of Teacher Quality Research (TQR) investment, implementation and long-term student achievement effects*. Prepared for South Carolina Department of Education (projected funded by Institute of Education Sciences).

D'Amico, L. K. (2009, September). *Five-year comprehensive evaluation of Center of Excellence in Collaborative Learning at the University of South Carolina Beaufort (2004-2009)*. Prepared for South Carolina Commission on Higher Education.

Selected Presentations

D'Amico, L. K., Ward, B., Creech, F., Folsom, W., Manoski, B., & Linder, S. (2019, November). *Using teacher/child interaction assessments to examine the success of professional development: The stories of four school district 4K initiatives*. National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference, Nashville, TN.

Fan, X., D'Amico, L. K., & Toal-Mandanger, L. (2019, April). *Examining the Teaching Standards 4.0 observational rubric in teacher evaluation: Perceptions and scoring*. American Educational Research Association Conference, Toronto, Canada.

Fan, X., D'Amico, L. K., & Grohn, H. B. (2018, April). *Educator perceptions of student learning objectives in evaluating teacher effectiveness* (Poster session). American Educational Research Association, New York, NY.

D'Amico, L. K., & Cain, J. M. (2017, November). *Developing, selecting, and refining instruments in a mixed methods, multilingual, multicultural evaluation context*. American Evaluation Association, Washington, DC.

D'Amico, L. K. (2017, May 5). *Status of literacy in the Carolinas (Welcoming address)*. Reach Out and Read Carolinas Literacy Summit, Charlotte, NC.

Prince, G. M. & D'Amico, L. K. (2016, October). *Using reliable scales within mixed-method, utilization-focused evaluations*. American Evaluation Association Conference, Atlanta, GA.

D'Amico, L. K. (2016, June 13). *South Carolina beginning of year assessment results (2015-16) of prekindergarten and kindergarten students*. South Carolina Education Oversight Committee.

D'Amico, L. K., Brown, W. H., Greer, F., DiStefano, C., & Miller, K. M. (2016, February). *Early childhood language and literacy assessment: Policies, perceptions, and practices*. South Carolina Educators for the Practical Use of Research Conference, Columbia, SC.

D'Amico, L. K. (2015, December). Presentation to *Southern Regional Education Board and South Carolina Department of Education related to OPE's Evaluation of South Carolina Educator Evaluation System*. Columbia, SC.

D'Amico, L. K., Brown, W. H., & Sides, K. (2015, October). *Who's doing what: Understanding early childhood developmental screening*. Institute for Child Success Research Symposium, Greenville, SC.

Willis, K., Barnett, J. H., D'Amico, L. K., & Kirby, P. C. (2015, April). *Leading by example: Impact evaluation of TAP system across Knox County Schools*. American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.

D'Amico, L. K., & Brown, W. H., (2013, July). *Infusing special education content in teacher preparation*

programs. Office of Special Education Programs/US Department of Education Conference, Washington, DC.

Googe, H., Brown, W. H., & D'Amico, L. K. (2012, November). *Preparing early childhood educators by enhancing pre-service curriculum in early childhood special education*. National Association for the Education of Young Children Conference, Atlanta, GA.

D'Amico, L. K., & James, E. (2011, November). *The role of evaluation in informing program functioning and public perspectives*. American Evaluation Association Conference, Anaheim, CA.

D'Amico, L. K., & Rao, V. (2012, November). *Collaborative evaluation to enhance undergraduate coursework and prepare future leaders*. American Evaluation Association Conference, Anaheim, CA.

D'Amico, L. K., Morgan, G., Pawloski, T., & McWayne, J. (2010, November). *Understanding student mastery of higher education curriculum standards*. American Evaluation Association Conference, San Antonio, TX.

D'Amico, L. K., Pawloski, T., & McWayne, J. (2009, November). *Understanding the effectiveness of higher education coursework in preparing teachers for the profession*. American Evaluation Association Conference, Orlando, FL.

D'Amico, L. K., & Yap, C. C. (2009, June). *Examining the impact of training in effectively implementing a standardized professional development curriculum*. Poster session presented at the Institute of Education Sciences Research Conference, Washington, DC.

Morgan, G., D'Amico, L. K., & Hardee, S. (2009, April). *Improving teacher assessment knowledge and practices: Understanding the forces for and against educational change*. American Educational Research Association Conference, San Diego, CA.

D'Amico, L. K., & Schneider, C. (2008, November). *Longitudinal evaluation of a professional development program: Lessons learned*. American Evaluation Association Conference, Denver, CO.

D'Amico, L. K. (2008, March). *Impact of educational accountability on K-2 teaching practices in primary and elementary schools*. American Educational Research Association Conference, New York, NY.

D'Amico, L. K., & Peng, P. (2007, November). *Implications of arts programming characteristics on student achievement*. American Evaluation Association Conference, Baltimore, MD.

Pearsall, T., Lewis, A., D'Amico, L. K., Yap, C. C., & Dickenson, T. (2007, April). *Measuring fidelity of implementation of a coach-based professional development model*. American Educational Research Association Conference, Chicago, IL.

Jeffries, R. B., D'Amico, L. K., & Connolly, R. (2006, November). *Testing for test's sake: Examining diverse means for predicting student success in a doctoral program focused on diversity*. American Educational Studies Association Conference, Spokane, WA.

D'Amico, L. K. (2005, November). *An examination of the inclusion of appropriate and effective practices in the multiple domains of development for educators in P-12 learning environments*. American Educational Studies Association Conference, Charlottesville, VA.

Related Activities

Member

- Research Consortium on Children and Families, University of South Carolina
- Early Childhood Committee, South Carolina Council on Competiveness
- University of South Carolina NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Committee
- K-3 Formative Assessment State Team (South Carolina) BUILD Initiative

Grant Proposal Reviewer

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs
Higher Education Teacher Preparation Grants, September 2018
Higher Education Teacher Preparation Grants, May 2013
Higher Education Teacher Preparation Grants, July 2011

The Mecklenburg Partnership for Children
Annual Proposal Process, March 2014
Annual Proposal Process, March 2013
Annual Proposal Process, March 2012

Manuscript Reviewer

Urban Education
Evaluation and Program Planning
NHSA: Dialog

Advisory Board Member

Reach Out and Read Carolinas
August 2016-Present

North Star Literacy Tutor, Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools

August 2016-June 2018

Advisory Committee Member

Early Childhood Education
Midlands Technical College
Fall 2013-Spring 2015

Advisory Committee Member

Quality Benchmarks for Cultural Competence
National Association for the Education of Young Children
August 2009-August 2012

Board Member and Chair of Public Policy Committee

South Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children (SCAEYC)
January 2008-August 2009

Co-Recipient of Outstanding Paper Presentation Award

Division H: School Evaluation and Program Development
American Educational Research Association, 2007