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Formal Education

Florida International (1989) Bachelor of Science in Elementary Ed. GPA 3.7

Education Nova University (1992) Master's Degree in TESOL GPA 3.9

Barry Univ. (1997) Ed. Specialist Degree in Computer Education GPA 4.0

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (1999) National Board Certified Teacher, Middle Childhood Generalist

Miami Dade College: (2009) Early Childhood Educator Administrator Certification

BPIECE (Best Practices In Early Childhood Education) Certified for Special Needs Children

Teaching & Experience

Youth Ending Hunger Educator, (1989-1991) club sponsor in home school and coordinator in setting up clubs and projects in other schools to teach students about the plight of the homeless.

Classroom Teacher (1989-1991) grade 4 North Beach Elementary, Miami, FL

Teacher Advocate for the Homeless, (1989-1996) take part in the education of homelessness, feeding the homeless, coordinator of annual School-wide programs to make and distribute 1,500+ meals.

Classroom Teacher (1991-1994) grade 3 South Pointe Elementary, Miami, FL

Whole Math Trainer/Staff Development Specialist (1993-1995) Education Alternatives Inc., development and implementation of hands on math workshops in Baltimore and Miami

PTA Teacher Liaison, Jack Gordon Elementary (1994-1995) (1997-1998)

Classroom Teacher (1994-1996) grades 4-5 Jack Gordon Elementary, Miami, FL.

Science Lab Teacher & Staff Science Resource Advisor Jack Gordon Elementary, (1996-2005) (responsible for teaching 43 classes (1,450 students) grades 2-5 hands-on science, also provided professional development & materials set up to support classroom teachers in science instruction) Miami, FL

Kids 4 Kids Club Sponsor/Founder Kids 4 Kids Inc. Nonprofit Organization, (1997-present) oversee weekly meetings with over 200 students to take part in community service projects that assist kids in need and teaching students how to make a difference for others and to appreciate what they have. Manage a campaign yearly to collect & distribute 95,000 filled backpacks and 150,000 new books to homeless, migrant, abused and kids with AIDS.

Kids For Kids Academy Preschool Owner / Director (2005-Present)

Dade Partner, Jack Gordon Elementary (2005-Present)

Educational Excellence School Advisory Council (EESAC) Community Liaison, (2006-2012) Jack Gordon Elementary, 2012-2014 Miami Sunset Senior High

Professional Development

NBPTS: (1999) National Board Certification Process

Dade County Science Teacher Association: (2000-2005) Workshop sessions on elementary science

FL Association of Science Teachers Conference: (2001) Workshops session on elementary science

TNPI (2002-2004) Research Group-meet with other teacher researchers and university professor monthly

Florida League of Teachers- (2002-2005) participate in workshops geared toward leadership and teaching quality

NBPTS: (2003) Teacher Leadership and Mentor Training

Miami-Dade County Schools-Workshops in science assessment (2006)

Professional Service, Leadership Roles

Education Alternatives Inc. (1994-1995) Whole Math Cadre/Staff Development Specialist/ Teacher Trainer in Manipulative Math

Eisenhower Teacher Trainer in Science, Miami Dade County Schools (1996)

National Board Certified Teacher Mentor (1999-2004)

Barry University (2000-2004) Adjunct Professor (Elementary Science Methods)

Science Resource "Coach" (2002-2003) (Volunteered to spend one teaching day a week on loan to two struggling schools. While there, I taught science to large groups of students in their school cafeteria. Classroom teachers observed and followed up with science in their own classes. In one of the schools, I assisted in setting up an actual lab.)

Florida Department of Education- (2002-2004) Assistance Plus Team Working With Failing Schools

Florida Department of Education (2002-2005) -Grade 5 Science FCAT (Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test) Rangefinding, Rangefinding Review, and Item Review Committee

Florida League of Teachers (2003-Present)

Florida Department of Education (2008) VPK Standards Review Committee Member

Florida Department of Education (2010) Four Year Old Standards Expert Panel Member, assisted in writing the Four Year Old Science Standards

Florida Department of Education (2014) Reviewer for 21st Century Grants

Professional Affiliations

Delta Kappa Gamma (1991-2020)

Organizations Miami Dade County Science Teacher's Association Board Member (1996-1999) (1996-2004)

Florida Association of Science Teachers-FAST (Board Member 2000-2001) (2001-2003)

National Board Certified Teachers of Miami-Dade (2001-2005)

Florida League of Teachers (2003-2006)

FACCM Member (2005-Present)

National Association for Education of Young Children (2005-Present)

SFACYC Board Member (2013-2015)

SFACYC Member (2013-present) Conference Presentations

One Goal Conference (2012): Hands-On Minds-On Preschool & You Are Never Too Small To Make A Big Difference

Lake City Early Learning Coalition (2012) Hands-On Minds-On Preschool Workshop for Directors and classroom teachers

College of Central Florida (2013) Hands-On Minds-On Preschool Workshop (6 hour in-service) for Early Childhood Majors

College of Central Florida 25th Annual Early Childhood Conference (2013) You Are Never Too Small To Make A Big Difference, Featured Presenter

One Goal Conference (July 2013): Hands-On Minds-On Preschool & You Are Never Too Small To Make A Big Difference

Florida Afterschool Conference (October 2013) Hands-On Minds-On Science

FLAEYC Conference (November 2013) Hands On Minds-On Science

Early Learning Coalition of Miami Dade (September 2014) Hands On Minds-On Science

One Goal Conference (July 2015): Hands-On Minds-On Science

Florida Afterschool Conference (August 2015) Hands-On Minds-On Science

Early Learning Coalition of Miami Dade (September 2015) Hands On Minds-On Science

Florida Department of Education 21st CCLC Conference (July 2017)

Hands On Minds-On Science Region 4 ECE, Houston, TX (July 2018 & November 2018) Hands On MindsOn Science & Block Play and Engineering

PUBLICATIONS/ AUTHORED Works

Jack D. Gordon Whole Math Curriculum grades 3-5: A two year manipulative approach

Bridging the Gap: Summer school math manipulative curriculum for Dade County Schools grades 2-5

I Love Math Correlation: Correlation to the Dade County CBC objectives for grades K-4 written for **Time Life Books** Stanford Correlation: Correlation of objectives for all state adopted math textbooks including assessment items for Dade County Schools

Math Made Easy: A four component program written for the 1995 Beginning Teacher Math Workshop for Miami-Dade County Schools

Keeping The Peace: A one month unit of study on Bosnia, components used by **TIME FOR KIDS**, a weekly publication of TIME magazine with a circulation **Wacky Word Problems:** Math word problems published in **SPORTS ILLUSTRATED FOR KIDS**, a monthly publication of Sports Illustrated

Curriculum Consultant: Florida Dairy Farmers

Curriculum Consultant: **TIME FOR KIDS** (A division of **TIME** magazine)

Science For All Students: A Hands on Lab Approach: 150 hands-on lessons emphasizing science process skills.

Co-Author **Simple Shoebox Science:** Science Center Activities

Inquiry Science: Matter, 14 lessons for grades 2-3 published by **Instructional Fair**

Inquiry Science: Flowering Plants, 14 lessons for grades 2-3 published by **Instructional Fair**

Inquiry Science: Electricity & Magnetism, 14 lessons for students in grades 4-5 published by **Instructional Fair**

ARISE Best Citizen Series: Eight books written and edited involving lessons on making good choices and living life responsibly published by **ARISE**

Sow It, Grow It, Know It: An integrated math and science program to teach students about plants and gardening.

Hands-On Minds-On Preschool: An integrated Early Childhood Curriculum for ages 1 –5, Approved as A Developmentally Appropriate Curriculum by The Early Learning Coalition of Miami Dade/Monroe

You Are Never Too Small To Make A Big Difference, A Guide for Parents and Teachers to Instill Empathy in Children, Published 2011

Hands on Science and Math Published by Gryphon House July 2015

Shira's Dirty Paws, A Rhyming book for Children Published by Hands On Minds On Education 2016

The Mischeovous Adventures of Patches The Cat, A Children's Published by Hands On Minds On Education 2018

June & Juju's Animal Adventures, A bilingual book that teaches counting, colors and critical thinking skills 2026

PUBLISHED RESEARCH

TNPI (Teacher Network Policy Institute) Action Research Title: **TLC-Teachers Learning and Collaborating** Conducted research to show that when teachers collaborate in professional development activities, they will increase their knowledge and comfort level in teaching hands-on science. As a result their students increased their science content knowledge.

Awards

State Of Florida Department of Education Beginning Teacher of the Year (1989-1990)

Sallie Mae Beginning Teacher of the Year (Dade County 1989-1990)

Hunger Project Profile Teacher Ending Hunger (1991)

Miami Dade County Public Schools Elementary Mathematics Teacher of the Year (1994-1995)

Jack Gordon Elementary Science Teacher Of The Year (1995-1996),(1996-1997), (1997-1998)

Florida Marlins Community Hero (Threw out the 1st pitch at the 1997 World Series)

Stephen P. Clarke Children's Award Honorable Mention (May 1997)

Region VI Finalist Teacher of the Year (1997-1998)

Guest Appearance- *The Cosby Show* CBS (1999)

United Way American Values Award Recipient (1999)

National Science Teacher Association Presidential Science Award State Finalist (2001)
Eckerd 100 Salute to Women-one of 100 women nationwide (2001)
Princess Cruises Hearts of Gold Winner (2001)
United Way Essie Silva Community Builder Finalist (2002)
Tamiami Airport Business Association Community Leader Award (2003)
Melissa Institute For Violence Prevention Educator Recognition Award (2003)
Dade County Science Teachers Assoc. Elementary Science Teacher of The Year (2004-2005)
Science Presidential Award State Finalist (2005)
Florida International University Alumni Assoc. Torch Award For Service to the Community (2005))
Florida International University Entrepreneur of the Year (2008)
Jack D. Gordon Elementary Volunteer of the Year (2009)
Neighbors 4 Neighbors 20 Year Award Winner for Community Involvement (2012)
The Childcare Success Company Change The World Award For Childcare Leadership (2020)
Outstanding Provider Award Spotlight Early Learning Coalition Miami Dade Monroe (2021)

Grants

Education's Unsung Heroes National Award Winner (1998) \$12,000 for Kids 4 Kids Program
The Melissa Institute For Violence Prevention (2002) \$1,000 for Kids 4 Kids Program
The Education Fund (2003) \$900 for Sow It, Grow It, Know It Math/Science Garden Program
The Education Fund (2004) \$750 for Super Science Sleuths
Miami Dolphins Youth All Stars In the Community (2004) \$500 for Garden Study Program
The Education Fund (2004) \$950 for TLC: Teachers Learning & Collaborating (Action Research)
The Education Fund (2005) \$750 for Feed The Need-Farm Share In The Classroom
Florida Department of Education (2015) \$1.3 Million, 5 year 21st Century CCLC Afterschool Enrichment Grant

COVID Grants over \$650,000

Other Notables

Owner/Director of Kids For Kids Academy, and NAEYC Legacy School, opened in Miami, Florida in 2005 with 41 children. School sold January 2025 with to 175 children with including an elementary private school grades Kindergarten through Second Grade.

- Pilot Programs Implemented
 - Americorp Reading Mentor Program
 - Internship Program
 - Apprenticeship Program

Florida Department of Health Spotlight Outstanding Farm to ECE Garden Program

Florida Farm To ECE Program Spotlight Outstanding For outstanding garden and organic meal program

NAEYC Accredited 4 times; 2005-2025

Founder Kids 4 Kids Inc. Nonprofit Organization, (1997-present) www.kids4kids.org

- Raising over \$350,000 to provide over 95,000 filled backpacks for homeless, foster, and migrant children
- Providing over 100,000 books as part of a literacy initiative for foster kids and kids serviced through dependency courts, homeless shelter, and migrant camps
- Raised over \$120,000 for children with cancer
- Crafts For A Cause \$17,000 raised to send foster kids on fieldtrips

Hands On Minds On Education Founder/President, providing professional development training for early childhood & Elementary staff. www.handsonmindsoneducation.com

References

Heather Siskand, FLAEYC Board President 2018-2021: 305-298-6549

Evelio Torres, President/Chief Executive Officer: Early Learning Coalition Miami Dade-Monroe

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Additional Reference Available Upon Request