

Lyra Behnke

CURRICULUM VITAE

Western Oregon University
345 N Monmouth Ave
Monmouth OR 97361
Office: ED 239A
behnkel@wou.edu

American Sign Language (ASL) Professional with expertise in Linguistics and language use. 30+ years native user of ASL and personal experience as a Deaf individual providing a unique insight into the culture, history and experiences found in the Deaf Community. Trained and experienced in instruction of first and second language learners of ASL using a variety of curriculums, assessments and classroom strategies including hands-on and real-world application.

EDUCATION

May 2012

MA: Linguistics
Gallaudet University: Washington, District of Columbia

March 2010

BA: American Sign Language Studies
Western Oregon University: Monmouth, Oregon

PRESENTATIONS

April 2012

Functional Markers in Korean Sign Language
Linguistics Department, Gallaudet University
Presented findings on final research project to the Linguistics Department faculty, students and campus community members

Dec 2011

Plains Indian Sign Language: Lexicon- Historical to Modern
Linguistics Department, Gallaudet University
Co-presenters: Shane Blau and Keriann Lawler
The research group presented findings of the sociolinguistics research project on lexicon changes through history of Plains Indian Sign Language.

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Present

NTT Instructor

Western Oregon University

Special Education Division: ASL Studies Department

Instruction of American Sign Language (ASL)

Courses currently teaching:

ASL 101D (2)

ASL 201D

Aug 2012

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June 2014

American Sign Language Specialist

Washington School for the Deaf

Development of ASL curriculum, consultation and implementation of ASL

Instruction in classrooms for students Preschool-12th grade. Oversee ASL skills assessments of new students, tracking of assessment data into information to provide ASL acquisition support for new students. Serve on several school-wide committees, lead ASL/Deaf Culture Events committee, organizer of the annual state-wide ASL Poetry Competition.

Mar 2010

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June 2010

American Sign Language Instructor

Western Oregon University, ASL Studies Program

Taught ASL 102 using the Signing Naturally Curriculum. The course instruction emphasized on vocabulary development, introduction to grammatical structures and depiction verbs, conversational ASL, and introduction to the culture and beliefs of the Deaf community.

Jan-

March

2009 &

2010

Interpreting & Language Mentor

Western Oregon University, ASL/English Interpreting Training Program

I worked with ITP students on improvement of their ASL receptive and expressive skills. Observation and evaluation of performance in student's practicum. I provided feedback and encouragement in their development of ASL and interpreting skills.

Oct 2009

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Mar 2010

American Sign Language Tutor

Western Oregon University, Learning Center

Served as a tutor for students taking ASL 1-9. Focused on vocabulary development, one-on-one conversational ASL and introducing basic ASL linguistics concepts.

Oct 2007

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Aug 2009

Office Assistant

Western Oregon University, Western Region Interpreting Education Center

Assisting program coordinator with special projects and office tasks. Assisted in organizing the mentoring program and silent weekend. I also maintained the lending library.

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CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

- June 2014 **ASL English Bilingual Professional Development (AEBPD) – Level 2**
Washington School for the Deaf, Vancouver WA
20 hours of training on theory and practices of ASL-English Bilingual Education
- Oct 2013 **Signing Naturally Instructional Workshop**
Seattle Central Community College ASL Consortium, Seattle WA
12 hours of Signing Naturally Units 1-6 training
- Aug 2013 **ASL English Bilingual Professional Development (AEBPD) – Level 1**
Washington School for the Deaf, Vancouver WA
20 hours of training on theory and practices of ASL-English Bilingual Education
- Nov 2012 **American Sign Language Round Table (ASLRT) Conference**
Kansas School for the Deaf, Olathe KS
Professional conference focusing on ASL instruction for ASL as L1
- July 2012 **Silent Weekend participant**
Western Oregon University, Monmouth OR
Workshops on topics in relation to ASL and Interpreting
- Jan 2010 **Deaf Interpreting Training**
Beaverton OR
16 hours Orientation to Deaf Interpreting field, including the NAD-RID Code of Professional Conduct and introduction to Interpreting

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sign Language Teachers Association – Assoc. member since 2013

REFERENCES

References available upon request