

Hannah Brenner Nieto

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EDUCATION

- 2024 **Ph.D. in Special Education**
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Dissertation: *Paraprofessionals as job coaches: Supporting students with extensive support needs during community-based work experiences*
- 2020 **M.Ed. in Special Education**
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Focus: *Severe/Multiple Disabilities*
- 2015 **B.S. in Special Education**
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATIONS

- 2015 Professional Educator License (PEL)
Illinois Educator Identification Number: 943774
Endorsements: *Learning Behavior Specialist (LBS) I (2015)*
LBS II: Multiple Disabilities (2020)

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Spring 2025-Present **Program Director**
Special Education Program
North Central College, Naperville, IL

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Fall 2024-Present **Assistant Professor of Special Education**
Education Department, School of Education and Health Sciences
North Central College, Naperville, IL
- 2015-2020 **Low-Incidence Special Education Teacher**
Lincoln Park High School
Chicago Public Schools, Chicago, IL

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Ray, A. B., Connor, K. E., **Brenner, H. R.**, & Kim, C. (in press). Effect of an SRSD informative writing intervention for high schoolers with learning disabilities. *Learning Disabilities Quarterly*.
- Rooney-Kron, M., Malouf, E. T., **Brenner, H. R.**, Taylor, J., Whittenburg, H., Carlson, S., & Avellone, L. (2024). A scoping review of pre-employment transition services for transition aged youth with disabilities. *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*, OnlineFirst.

Brenner, H. R., & Dymond, S. K. (2023). Navigating challenges to work-based learning experiences: Responses from special educators. *Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals*, OnlineFirst.

Brenner, H. R., & Dymond, S. K. (2023). Making every minute count: Identifying instructional opportunities for IEP goals during community-based work experiences. *Inclusive Practices*, 2(4), 83-90.

Brenner, H. R., & Dymond, S. K. (2023). Teachers' perspectives on challenges to providing work-based learning experiences for students with extensive support needs. *Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities*, 48(4), 186-202.

MANUSCRIPTS ACCEPTED

Rooney-Kron, M., **Brenner, H. R.**, Malouf, E., Whittenburg, H., & Taylor, J. (accepted). *Key features of community-based work experiences for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.*

MANUSCRIPTS SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION

Dymond, S. K., **Nieto, H. B.**, & Rooney-Kron, M. (under review). *Qualifications, responsibilities, training, and supervision of job coaches hired by school districts.*

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Nieto, H. B., & Dymond, S. K. (In preparation). *Paraprofessionals as job coaches: Supporting students with significant disabilities during work-based learning experiences.*

Dymond, S. K., & **Nieto, H. B.** (In preparation). *Challenges to training and supervising paraprofessional job coaches.*

Nieto, H. B., Rooney-Kron, M., Malouf, E. T. (In preparation). *Differences in community-based work experiences for students with mild vs. significant intellectual disability.*

Rooney-Kron, M., Frala, H., Malouf, E. T., **Nieto, H. B.**, Whittenburg, H., Taylor, J. (In preparation). *Programmatic factors that impact the success of students with intellectual disabilities during community-based work experiences.*

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCES

Instructor, North Central College

SPED 225: Disability Law and Policy

SPED 308: Social Emotional Learning Interventions for the Classroom and Individuals

SPED 300: Assistive Technology for Exceptional Diverse Learners

SPED 340: Teaching Communication, Reading, and Writing to Exceptional Diverse Learners

SPED 227: Collaboration with Families, Caregivers, Professionals, and Community

Co-Instructor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

SPED 440: Instructional Strategies I (Fall 2022)

**Included on list of instructors ranked as outstanding by their students*

SPED 431: Assistive Technology and Physical Disabilities (Fall 2021)

**Included on list of instructors ranked as outstanding by their students*

University Practicum Supervisor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

EDPR 250: School and Community Experiences (Fall 2021-Spring 2022)

- Observed student teachers in their fieldwork placements
- Graded fieldwork assignments and provided ongoing feedback and support

Invited Guest Lecturer

SPED 448: Curriculum Development II (Winter 2023). *Addressing barriers to curriculum development for students with extensive support needs: Being a change agent at your school.* Remote lecture. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL.

SPED 448: Curriculum Development II (Fall 2023). *Longitudinal curriculum planning for students with extensive support needs.* Remote lecture. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL.

SPED 592: Concepts and Issues in Special Education (Fall 2022). *Supporting new doctoral students in special education.* Remote panel discussion. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL.

EDS 497: Educational Interventions: Cognitive Impairments (Spring 2022). *Transition planning for special educators: Paving the way to adulthood.* Remote lecture. Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, MI.

REHB 435: Work and Disability (Fall 2021). *Employment for individuals with disabilities.* In-person lecture. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL.

SPED 432: Multiple Disabilities (Spring 2021). *Teaching students with progressive/degenerative disabilities.* Remote lecture. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL.

SPED 590: ACCESS Seminar (Spring 2021). *Improving employment outcomes for students with disabilities: What can we do as teachers?* Remote lecture. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL.

The Chicago School of Psychology (Spring 2018). *Functional behavior assessments and function-based behavior interventions.* In-person lecture. Chicago, IL.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Nieto, H. B. (December 2024). *Paraprofessionals' role in job coaching for students with ESN.* Breakout session. TASH Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Dymond, S. K., **Nieto, H. B.**, & Rooney-Kron, M. (December 2024). Qualifications, responsibilities, training, and supervision of paraprofessional job coaches. Breakout session. TASH Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Brenner, H. R., Rooney-Kron, M., Malouf, E., Whittenburg, H., & Taylor, J. (January 2024). *Implementing effective community-based work experiences for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.* Breakout session. Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities (DADD) Annual Conference. Honolulu, HI.

Mayer, J., **Brenner, H. R.**, & Strauser, D. (December 2023). New Illinois school-to-work transition guide: An interagency collaboration. Breakout session. TASH Annual Conference. Baltimore, MD.

Brenner, H. R. (December 2023). *Using IEP matrices to identify instructional opportunities during community-based work experiences*. Breakout session. TASH Annual Conference. Baltimore, MD.

Rooney-Kron, M., **Brenner, H. R.**, Malouf, E., Whittenburg, H., & Taylor, J. (December 2023). *Key features of community-based work experiences for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities*. Breakout session. TASH Annual Conference. Baltimore, MD.

Rooney-Kron, M., **Brenner, H. R.**, Malouf, E., Whittenburg, H., Taylor, J., & Evans, J. (October 2023). *Essential features of community-based work experiences for students with intellectual disability*. Breakout session. Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT) Annual Conference. Reno, Nevada.

Brenner, H. R., & Dymond, S. K. (October 2023). *Paraprofessionals' perceptions and implementation of workplace supports for students with extensive support needs*. Breakout session. Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT) Annual Conference. Reno, Nevada.

Brenner, H. R. (December 2022). *Work-based learning experiences for students with extensive support needs: Overcoming challenges*. Breakout session. TASH Annual Conference, Phoenix, AZ.

Brenner, H. R. (November 2022). *Overcoming challenges to providing work-based learning experiences for students with extensive support needs*. Breakout session. Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT) Annual Conference, Little Rock, AR.

Brenner, H. R. (December 2021). *Overcoming challenges to providing work-based learning experiences*. Poster presentation. TASH Virtual Conference.

Price, R., **Brenner, H. R.**, Donnelly, N., Li, R. (December 2021). *Caregivers' perspectives on post-secondary employment outcomes for adolescents with significant disabilities*. Poster Presentation. TASH Virtual Conference.

Brenner, H. R., Lohman, C., & Tarle, J. (January 2020). *A blueprint for success: Increasing AT use in the classroom*. Breakout session. Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) Conference, Orlando, Florida.

STATE AND LOCAL PRESENTATIONS

Nieto, H. B. (September 2024). *Job coaching supports for paraprofessionals*. Transition Tennessee Webcast Series, Virtual.

Rooney-Kron, M., **Nieto, H. B.**, & Malouf, E. T. (July 2024). *Planning and implementing high-quality work-based learning experiences*. Long Island School Districts Town Hall, Virtual.

Brenner, H. R. (April 2024). *Paraprofessionals' role in job coaching: Findings from a qualitative exploration*. Poster presentation. Illinois Center for Transition and Work (ICTW) Annual Symposium, Champaign, IL.

- Brenner, H. R.** (November 2023). *New Illinois School-to-Work Transition Guide - Overview and Explanation*. Breakout session. Illinois Council for Exceptional Children (ICEC) Annual Convention. Naperville, IL.
- Strauser, D. R., Hanson, E., Truesdale, B., Mayer, J., **Brenner, H. R.**, Jones, R., & Rentmeister, A. (November 2023). *Rollout of new Illinois "School-to-Work Transition Guide:" Overview and explanation*. General session. Illinois Statewide Transition Conference, Bloomington, IL.
- Brenner, H. R.** (April 2023). *Navigating barriers to work-based learning experiences: Responses from special educators*. Poster Presentation. Illinois Center for Transition and Work (ICTW) Annual Symposium, Champaign, IL.
- Brenner, H. R.**, Osoba, S., & O'Donnell, J. (November 2022). *Building vocational programs from the ground up*. Breakout session. Illinois Statewide Transition Conference, Peoria, IL.
- Brenner, H. R.**, Osoba, S., & O'Donnell, J. (April 2022). *All good things take time: Building vocational programs from the ground up*. Breakout session. Illinois Center for Transition and Work (ICTW) Annual Symposium, Champaign, IL.
- Malouf, E., & **Brenner, H. R.** (April 2022). *Establishing community partnerships for work-based learning experiences*. Breakout session. Illinois Center for Transition and Work (ICTW) Annual Symposium. Champaign, IL.
- Brenner, H. R.** (April 2022). *Overcoming challenges to providing work-based learning experiences*. Poster Presentation. Illinois Center for Transition and Work (ICTW) Annual Symposium. Champaign, IL.
- Brenner, H. R.**, & Malouf, E. (March 2022). *Transition planning for special educators: Paving the way to adulthood*. Breakout session. Illinois New Teacher Collaborative (INTC) Annual Leadership Conference, Champaign, IL.
- Brenner, H. R.**, (March 2022). *A review of the literature on challenges to providing work-based learning experiences*. Poster Presentation. Graduate Student Conference, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
*Received poster presentation award
- Brenner, H. R.**, Price, R., & Malouf, E. (March 2021). *Special education and vocational rehabilitation: The landscape of collaboration following WIOA*. Poster Presentation. Graduate Student Conference, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
- Brenner, H. R.**, Tarle, J., and Lohman, C. (March 2020). *A blueprint for success: Increasing AT use in the classroom*. Breakout session. Tech Talk, Chicago Public Schools, Chicago, IL.

POLICY EXPERIENCE

- Summer 2023 Intern, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Office of the Director
- Develop presentations for OSEP director's speaking engagements
 - Draft options memos for OSEP policy guidance
 - Compose blog posts for OSEP's initiative on postsecondary transition

- Contribute to policy discussions

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CONSULTING

Technical Assistance and Consulting

- 2023-Present Content Developer, “Show Me College” Project (Grant #P407A200051)
- Create original content and resources for Show Me College website, which spreads awareness and provides support for students, families, and practitioners related to postsecondary education for students IDD in Missouri
- 2023-2024 Co-chair, Statewide Special Education and Vocational Rehabilitation Collaboration Study Group, Illinois Center for Transition and Work (ICTW)
- Work with Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) to develop and disseminate statewide manual on transition services, roles, and responsibilities for transition service providers, students, and families in IL
- Summer 2023 Outside Consultant, Division of Intercollegiate Athletics (DIA) Learning Services, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Create research-based, accessible learning resources for student athletes with disabilities
- 2022-2023 Consultative Intern for Special Education Vocational Program
Champaign Central High School, Champaign, IL
- Evaluated programmatic needs through data collection
 - Developed and shared resources to improve student work experiences
 - Developed trainings (e.g., job coach webinar) based on programmatic areas of need
 - Connected with community businesses to establish new worksites

Workshops and Resource Development

Phelan, M., & **Brenner, H. R.** (December 2022). *Overcoming challenges to providing work-based learning experiences*. Illinois Center for Transition and Work (ICTW) Regional Workshop, Virtual.

Brenner, H. R., & Strauser, D. G. (November 2022). *Job coaching for paraprofessionals*. Webinar.

Brenner, H. R. (May 2021). *Work-based learning experiences* [Research brief]. Illinois Center for Transition and Work (ICTW), Champaign, IL.

Brenner, H. R. (May 2021). *Work-based learning experiences (WBLEs)* [Fact sheet]. Illinois Center for Transition and Work (ICTW), Champaign, IL.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

- 2023-Present Member-at-Large, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Departmental Committee, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

- 2021-Present Member-at-Large, TASH Early Career Researcher Network (ECRN)
- ECRN Mentor Program subcommittee
 - ECRN Award subcommittee
 - ECRN Fundraiser subcommittee
- 2021-2022 Doctoral Student Representative, Recruitment and Admissions Committee, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

SERVICE

Faculty Secretary (2024-2024)

North Central College, Naperville, IL

Conference Proposal Reviewer

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Convention (2023-present)

CEC Teacher Education Division (TED) Annual Conference (2023-present)

Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT) Annual Conference (2022-present)

TASH Annual Conference (2021-present)

Guest Journal Reviewer

Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals

Inclusive Practices

Teacher Education and Special Education (TESE)

Remedial and Special Education (RASE)

Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities (RPSD)

Other Service

Instructor and Leader, New TA Orientation (Summer 2023)

Doctoral Student Mentor, University of Illinois (2021-2024)

Table Host, Community Conversations on Strengthening Inclusion of Students, Faculty, and Staff with Disabilities on Campus (April 2023)

Judge, Undergraduate Research Symposium, University of Illinois (2020-2021)

Secretary, Special Education Graduate Student Association, University of Illinois (2020-2021)

Treasurer, Special Education Graduate Student Association, University of Illinois (2020-2021)

New Teacher Mentor, Lincoln Park High School, Chicago, IL (2018-2020)

AWARDS, HONORS, AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2024 Alice H. Hayden Emerging Leader Award
TASH

2022-2023 Robert and Linda Hauser Graduate Award in Special Education
Department of Special Education, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

- 2022 Poster Presentation Award, Graduate Student Conference, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- 2021-2022 Robert and Linda Hauser Graduate Award in Special Education
Department of Special Education, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2020-2025 Secondary Curriculum that leads to Outcomes & Research in Employment for youth with severe disabilities (SCORE). Office of Special Education Programs Leadership Grant. Dr. Stacy K. Dymond, Principal Investigator.
- 2018-2020 Innovative ACCESS to Curriculum for Students with Severe Disabilities. Office of Special Education Programs Personnel Preparation Grant. Dr. Stacy K. Dymond, Principal Investigator.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

TASH (formerly The Association for the Severely Handicapped)
Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
 Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT)
 Division for Autism and Developmental Disabilities (DADD)
 Teacher Education Division (TED)