

## Darren William Minarik

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### Professional Experience

*August 2008 – Present* *Radford University* *Radford, VA*

#### **Special Education Faculty, School of Teacher Education and Leadership**

- Develop and teach courses in special education at the undergraduate and graduate level for elementary, secondary, and special education majors. Course topics include: Introduction to Special Education for Secondary Educators, Adaptive Strategies in Mathematics, Collaboration and Co-teaching, and Special Education Methods at the Secondary Level.
- Supervise field experience students in special education at the elementary, middle and high school level.
- Certified Strategic Instruction Model® (SIM®) Professional Developer in Content Enhancement Routines through the University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning.

*October 2005 – Present* *American Civics Center* *Alexandria, VA*

#### **Director of Curriculum and Professional Development**

- Develop, coordinate and lead training for American Civics Center staff and teacher program participants. Specific responsibilities include:
  - (1) train civics instructors regarding best practices in instructional strategies and behavior management in working with diverse middle school, high school, and adult learning populations;
  - (2) develop and provide professional development sessions in Content Enhancement Routines;
  - (3) create and update a staff professional development curriculum and lesson plan handbook that incorporates the research-based Content Enhancement series, principles of universal design, and Robert J. Marzano, Debra J. Pickering, and Jane E. Pollock identified instructional strategies;
  - (4) collaborate with American Civics Center staff on development and revision of program curriculum and professional development needs.
  - (5) create curriculum, collaborate with other non-governmental organizations, and train instructional staff for international programs including: Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX); Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX); and the Iraqi Youth Leadership Exchange Program (IYLEP).

*July 2004 – August 2008* *Radford University* *Radford, VA*

#### **Project Coordinator, Training and Technical Assistance Center (T/TAC)**

- Provided educational training and technical assistance to schools and community programs in 34 school divisions throughout southwest Virginia. Serve on statewide Virginia Department of Education initiatives and priority projects including the Virginia Transition Outcomes Project, the Self-Determination Project (I'm Determined), and the Instructional and Learning Strategies Project (Strategic Instruction Model).
- Planned and lead the Virginia Department of Education's 2008 Self-Determination Youth Summit held during the Virginia Transition Forum in Roanoke, Virginia.

*January 2002 – July 2008* *Radford University* *Radford, VA*

#### **Adjunct Faculty**

- Taught EDSP 445/545 Adaptive Strategies in Arithmetic for students preparing for a career in a special or general education setting, grades K-8. Emphasis on techniques and strategies for the teaching and remediation of arithmetic and mathematical skills and competencies. The course examines current mathematics research and has students develop a detailed lesson using Joan Fulton's Cognitive Process of Instruction and the University of Kansas Strategic Instruction Model (SIM).

*January 1999 – June 2004*

*Pulaski County Schools*

*Dublin, VA*

**Pulaski County High School Teacher**

- Taught 9<sup>th</sup> grade World History, 11<sup>th</sup> grade U.S. History, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade U.S. and Dual Enrollment Government. Wrote lesson plans and units based on a four by four block schedule. World History classes designed for students academically at risk of failing high school. Used presentation software, Web-based technologies, principles of backward design, Marzano, Pickering, and Pollock identified research-based strategies, and SIM Content Enhancement routines in the classroom.
- PLS 135 American Politics and PLS 136 State and Local Politics instructor for the high school dual enrollment government program in cooperation with New River Community College.
- Technology Integration Lead Teacher responsible for training staff on all state technology competencies. Helped teachers in all subject areas with technology needs through direct assistance and modeling instructional and administrative technology applications in the classroom.
- Wrote and received the Virginia Learn and Serve Grant in 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 totaling \$21,000 focusing on improving academic achievement of 9<sup>th</sup> grade students struggling in math and social studies.

*January 1993 – January 1999*

*Close Up Foundation*

*Alexandria, VA*

**Program Instructor and Training and Educational Design Specialist**

- Participated as an instructor in the Close Up education programs, including programs involving the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union. Met regularly with members of Congress, their staffs, and other federal government officials.
- Trained instructors to lead high school and middle school students through a variety of weeklong civic education and history programs. Taught instructors how to develop, research, and write effective lesson plans. Created lesson plans, training and reference materials. Co-designed the first Foundation Web site.

*October 2003 – June 2004*

*New River Community College*

*Dublin, VA*

**Adjunct Faculty**

- Taught technology courses for Pulaski County Schools through the New River Community College Division of Business, Technologies, and Workforce Development. Emphasis on instructional technology and software applications used by Pulaski County Schools.

*June 2000 – June 2002*

*Grove United Methodist Church*

*Radford, VA*

**Youth Director**

- Designed and organized youth ministry events for grades 7-12. Led sessions on various religious topics pertaining to youth. Managed a \$2,000 budget and developed fundraising initiatives.

**Professional  
Activities**

*November 1997 – Present*

**Conference Presentations**

- 2009 Virginia Transition Forum. *Using Civic Education to Promote Self-Determination*. Focused on instructional methods and tools to help students in special education lead more self-determined lives. Highlighted the Self-Determination Youth Summit and how to plan a summit at the local level.
- 2009 Virginia Transition Forum. *Talking With Youth About disAbility*. Co-facilitated a semi-structured forum where parents, educators, service providers and other adults posed questions to approximately 35 youth with disabilities. The adults learned from the youth about how to improve lives for youth with disabilities.
- 2008 National Council for the Social Studies Conference. *Creating an Inclusive Classroom*. Examined how to create an effective inclusive and collaborative social studies classroom setting using research-based strategies that help all students succeed, including students with disabilities.

- 2008 Virginia Middle and High School Principals Conference & Exposition. *Voices of Youth with Disabilities: Virginia's I'm Determined Project*. Co-presented with H. Douglas Cox, Assistant Superintendent, Special Education & Student Services, Virginia Department of Education on how Virginia's I'm Determined Project supports youth with disabilities to participate fully and effectively in their IEP meetings. The session highlighted self-determination resources and videos developed through the project.
- 2007 National Council for the Social Studies Conference. *Self-Determination is Citizenship Education*. Addressed the relationship between citizenship education and self-determination education for students with disabilities. Emphasis placed on how to promote self-determination during classroom instruction.
- 2007 Virginia Transition Forum. *Using Social Studies to Teach Self Advocacy*. Examined strategies for teaching self-advocacy in the IEP and transition process, and during social studies classroom instruction to promote self-determination.
- 2007 Virginia Transition Forum. *Self-Determination through "Radical Math."* Modeled specific classroom strategies to address problem-solving skills and math concept knowledge necessary to help promote more self-determined lives in students with disabilities.
- 2005 Virginia Transition Forum. *Teaching Students to Problem Solve*. Participants learned specific classroom strategies to address problem solving skills and conceptual knowledge employers seek when they are hiring.
- 2005 Virginia Council on Learning Disabilities Regional Symposium. *Getting Students to Think Mathematically Across Disciplines*. An interactive workshop demonstrating how to integrate math concepts with other content areas. Discussions and activities centered on Jerome Bruner's three levels of concept representation.
- 2005 Virginia Branch of the International Dyslexia Association Conference. *Getting Students to Think Mathematically*. Hands-on session demonstrating how to help students think mathematically through the use of word problems and other problem solving techniques.
- 2005 International DCDT Conference. *Citizenship Education Leads to Self-determination*. Participants learned ways to address citizenship during the transition process, while writing and implementing the IEP, and during classroom instruction to promote self-determination.
- 2004 Virginia Branch of the International Dyslexia Association Conference. *Cognitive Instructional Strategies for Teaching Math and Science*. Participants learned specific classroom strategies to help students improve their academic achievement in mathematics while also addressing Virginia standards in science, grades K-8. Emphasis on problem solving and the National Council for Teachers in Mathematics (NCTM) standards.
- 2003 Virginia Branch of the International Dyslexia Association Conference. *Multidisciplinary Approaches to Cognitive Instruction*. Participants learned specific classroom strategies to help students improve their academic achievement while addressing Virginia standards.
- 2001 Educational Technology Leadership Conference. *Technology Integration Lead Teachers*. Presentation examined the role of Technology Integration Lead Teachers in Supporting Virginia's Technology Standards for Instructional Personnel.
- 1997 National Council for the Social Studies Conference. *Untangling the Web*. Presentation designed to help teachers and students develop criteria by which to evaluate Web sites for content and credibility with an emphasis placed on the seven basic citizenship competencies.

*April 2008*

**U.S. Department of State Educational Exchange**

- Served as a team member for Legacy International's *Responsible Governance, Civic Education and Citizen Participation* U.S. State Department grant. The project was a two-way exchange between Non-Governmental Organization leaders, educators, and education policy makers in the United States, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan. Met with policy and educational leaders to share knowledge about successful programs in citizenship education. Presented at three national universities in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan on the role of people with disabilities as citizens and instructional methods to promote citizenship skills and active civic engagement in emerging democracies.

*June 1995 – January 1999*

*Close Up Foundation*

*Alexandria, VA*

**U.S. Federal Government and Civic Participation Workshops**

- Presented a series of half day and full day workshops in cooperation with the United States Information Agency International Visitors Program, Delphi International, and the German Marshall Fund. Workshop attendees included political activists and civic leaders from Kazakhstan, Russia, and Ukraine, members of the Haitian Parliament, Polish student and political leaders, political journalists from Ghana, and German educators.

**Publications**

- *Transition Success Through Co-teaching and Collaboration*. T/TAC Bulletin, Fall 2008. v. 17, n. 1. The Virginia Department of Education's Training and Technical Assistance Centers.
- *Citizenship Education Leads to Self-Determination*. T/TAC Bulletin, Summer 2005. v. 13, n. 4. The Virginia Department of Education's Training and Technical Assistance Centers.
- *Making Word Problems the Centerpiece of Math Instruction*. T/TAC Bulletin, Winter 2004. v. 13, n. 2. The Virginia Department of Education's Training and Technical Assistance Centers.

**Education**

*2007 – Present*

*Virginia Tech*

*Blacksburg, VA*

**Department of Education**

- PhD program in Curriculum and Instruction (History and Social Science) with a focus on citizenship education and self-determination for youth with disabilities

*2000 - 2002*

*University of Virginia*

*Roanoke, VA*

**School of Continuing and Professional Studies**

- Classroom Technology Applications Curriculum Certificate to support technology lead teacher role.
- 3 credit hours in Reading in the Content Area to support professional development as a social studies educator

*1999 - 2006*

*Radford University*

*Radford, VA*

**Special Education - Specific Learning Disabilities and Educational Leadership**

- Masters level credit hours for a K-12 endorsement in specific learning disabilities
- 3 credit hours in Educational Leadership for continuing professional studies

*1987 - 1992*

*Auburn University*

*Auburn, AL*

**Liberal Arts and Graduate School of Education**

- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science
- Master of Education in Secondary Social Science with a concentration in Political Science
- Teaching Certificate in Social Studies, Civics and Government