

DR. NATALIE COLEMAN

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Curriculum Design Leader | Educational Program Development | Accreditation Compliance | Online & Blended Learning Environments | Grant Compliance

Brings over a decade of experience uniting strategic policy advocacy with immersive curriculum design, orchestrating cross-functional partnerships to drive institutional innovation. Fosters data-driven solutions that seamlessly blend cutting-edge research with experiential learning, optimizing outcomes across diverse programs. Spearheads comprehensive curriculum audits to ensure alignment with accreditation standards, institutional objectives, and an evolving higher education landscape. Delivers cohesive leadership approaches that harmonize faculty development, technology integration, and robust evaluation frameworks, elevating institutional performance. Positions institutions as catalysts of innovation, scholarship, and transformative experiences through forward-thinking strategy and collaborative execution.

KEY SKILLS

- **Curriculum Development & Instructional Design:** Curriculum Design & Implementation | Instructional Best Practices | Research-Based Curriculum Strategies | Technology Integration in Learning | Course Evaluation & Improvement | Learning Management Systems (LMS) Proficiency | Team Leadership
- **Program Management & Educational Leadership:** Faculty Training & Development | Student Learning Outcomes Assessment | Strategic Planning in Education | Data-Driven Decision Making | Budget Management | Professional Development Workshops | Stakeholder Engagement & Relations | Change Management in Educational Settings | Student Retention & Success Strategies

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Coordinator of Secondary Education, Supervisor K-8 Grade Clinical Experiences,
College of Education, Governors State University, IL**

08/2023 – Present

Direct a team of 7 professors. Spearheaded accreditation efforts and disciplinary hearings to maintain compliance with Illinois state standards. Managed and improved practical training by coordinating between university micro-teachers and local high schools. Led curriculum development and delivered presentations on classroom management, teaching methodologies, and grading philosophies. Represented the department on the Educator Preparation Provider and Division of Education Leadership committees to advocate for strategic improvements and recruitment. Mentored and enhanced instructional effectiveness of professors and micro teachers.

Curriculum Development Initiatives

- **Spearheaded the integration of advanced collaborative technologies and interactive platforms across the curriculum**, significantly elevating student engagement, higher comprehension rates, and more interactive learning environments.
- **Pioneered the introduction of an experiential learning curriculum in STEM education**, significantly boosting student engagement and understanding as evidenced by enhanced performance on standardized tests and increased interest in scientific subjects.
- **Redesigned teaching strategies to promote inquiry-based learning and critical thinking**, enriching the curriculum to encourage deeper intellectual engagement and higher order thinking skills among students.
- **Modernized post-COVID teaching methodologies** by shifting towards dynamic, student-centered instructional strategies, enhancing overall learning outcomes and increasing student participation and satisfaction.

- **Introduced professional readiness components into the curriculum**, including resume writing and interview preparation, significantly enhancing students' employability and readiness for the job market upon graduation.

Faculty and Student Engagement

- **Orchestrated comprehensive restructuring of faculty meeting protocols and content**, instituting structured agendas and an annual objectives framework that significantly enhanced team productivity and fostered inter-departmental collaboration.
- **Authored and disseminated three critical faculty handbooks**, establishing standardized operational frameworks that streamlined educational operations across multiple departments, reinforcing best practices and ensuring consistency in instructional delivery.
- **Formulated and implemented a comprehensive classroom management training program**, empowering student teachers with effective strategies to establish respect and control, thereby improving classroom dynamics and educational outcomes.
- **Advocated for and influenced equitable faculty workload policies during contractual negotiations**, ensuring that teaching credits were fairly allocated regardless of class size, which significantly impacted faculty satisfaction and workload management.
- **Enhanced diversity and inclusion initiatives** through strategic outreach and recruitment in minority-dense schools, significantly increasing the demographic diversity within the education program.

Recruitment and Evaluation Enhancements

- **Championed a targeted recruitment initiative** that significantly increased application rates, successfully converting a high school visitation into tangible enrollments by over 75%.
- **Revamped teacher candidate evaluation protocols** by realigning them with current educational standards and performance benchmarks, which markedly improved the preparation process and outcomes in teacher practical assessments.
- **Reformed and systematized student disciplinary procedures**, establishing clear guidelines and consequences that upheld academic integrity and facilitated fair resolutions.

CEO, After the Peanut

12/2014 – Present

As CEO and founder, spearheaded the development and execution of STEAM educational programs targeting underrepresented youth through a nonprofit and for-profit structure. Orchestrated strategic partnerships with schools, community centers, and businesses to expand hands-on learning opportunities. Managed and expanded a team of up to 15, including directors and instructors, to deliver customized curriculum and training. Secured grants and corporate donations to fund scholarships, enabling affordable access to programs that bridge students to college majors and career paths.

- **Developed 'Full Steam Ahead' program** to train educators to deliver 30-hour STEAM curricula in robotics, coding, and engineering for three distinct age groups, expanding teaching capacity in underrepresented communities.
- **Founded 'Summer STEAM Camp'**, providing hands-on learning experiences in STEAM fields and inspiring students to pursue careers in science and technology, including engineering and space science.
- **Launched 'STEAM CEO'**, a program focused on futuristic careers in clean energy and technology, teaching entrepreneurial skills and preparing students for emerging industries like solar panel installation.
- **Designed 90-hour curricula per STEAM topic**, customized for robotics, coding, entrepreneurship, and more, empowering students with skills that bridge education and real-world career opportunities.

- **Secured \$460,000 in grants** from government entities and private organizations, enabling program sustainability, funding scholarships, covering transportation, and providing necessary equipment and resources.
- **Directed outreach initiatives**, including monthly newsletters, social media campaigns, community events, and information handouts, increasing visibility and participation in STEAM programs across diverse communities.
- **Advocated for enhanced STEM education policies at the state level**, successfully proposing a law to increase science graduation requirements from two to three years, ensuring students are better prepared for college admission and career opportunities.
- **Directed cannabis tax revenue toward early childhood education**, allocating 30% of funds to programs for children under five, supporting early learning initiatives and advocacy centers for at-risk children.

Visiting Assistant Professor, College of Arts and Science, Governors State University, IL

08/2022 – 08/2023

Created original lesson plans and customized curriculum materials on Biology and Secondary Education to complement textbook content, ensuring non-lab students received practical exposure to biology concepts through real-world applications. Enhanced learning outcomes for students with limited lab access by embedding experiential learning activities in 8 class sessions.

- **Revitalized a 15-week biology curriculum for non-science majors** by integrating hands-on activities, videos, and interactive workshops, transforming a traditional lecture-based course into an engaging, experiential learning environment.
- **Increased program visibility and engagement through a multi-channel outreach strategy**, including a monthly newsletter reaching nearly 1,000 subscribers, bilingual resources in English and Spanish, and active participation in community events.
- **Expanded social media presence, growing a combined audience of 2,588 followers across Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn**, which amplified awareness for STEAM programs and recruitment efforts.
- **Tracked program effectiveness using participant surveys** that identified parent and community awareness as key drivers of enrollment, leading to targeted refinements in outreach strategies.
- **Strengthened public relations efforts** by producing press releases, securing radio spots, and placing advertisements in local newspapers, effectively broadening awareness of STEAM initiatives.
- **Established bilingual outreach practices**, ensuring accessibility for Spanish-speaking communities by providing translated program materials and communications.
- **Collaborated with schools, community centers, and local organizations** to distribute program information, fostering partnerships that supported sustained recruitment and enrollment.
- **Leveraged real-time feedback to refine curriculum delivery**, with students highlighting increased interest and enjoyment in biology due to hands-on, technology-enhanced learning experiences.

Adjunct Professor of Education: Elementary Education, College of Education, Lewis University, IL **08/2021 – 05/2023**

Improved student preparedness for teaching elementary and special education by designing a structured lesson plan template, incorporating beginning, middle, and end segments, and embedding tools for resource tracking, assessments, and student engagement. Introduced experiential learning, including solar car kits and reverse engineering activities, fostering curiosity, critical thinking, and practical understanding of scientific concepts.

- **Facilitated lesson plan development through collaborative classroom activities**, enabling teachers-in-training to work in pairs or groups and receive real-time feedback, significantly improving the quality of their final submissions.

- **Tailored teaching methodologies to address special education needs**, incorporating time management strategies, pre-built activity models, and social-emotional check-ins, ensuring equitable learning experiences for students with disabilities.
- **Cultivated inclusive teaching practices** by training future elementary teachers to manage diverse classrooms, emphasizing differentiated instruction, task segmentation, and strategies to support students with short attention spans.
- **Introduced inquiry-based teaching methods** to shift the focus from traditional lecturing to guided discovery, empowering future teachers to facilitate learning while encouraging student-led exploration and problem-solving.
- **Adapted science instruction for special needs students** by pre-assembling hands-on materials and designing activities that allowed students to feel a sense of accomplishment, enhancing engagement and inclusivity.
- **Transformed science education for elementary teachers-in-training** by emphasizing facilitation over direct instruction, encouraging the use of open-ended questions and student-driven problem-solving approaches.

Adjunct Professor of Chemistry, College of Arts and Science, University of St. Francis, Joliet, IL 01/2013 – 05/2020

Enhanced practical learning in chemistry labs by guiding students through multi-trial experiments, emphasizing the importance of precision and iteration in scientific processes to prepare them for real-world healthcare scenarios. Tailored real-world applications in biology instruction by incorporating discussions on cardiovascular health, diabetes, and skeletal injuries, connecting academic content to students' personal and cultural experiences.

- **Transformed chemistry lab instruction for nursing and radiology majors** by fostering confidence in students through encouraging inquiry-based learning and emphasizing resilience during lab challenges.
- **Integrated guest medical professionals into biology courses**, leveraging partnerships with local hospitals to bring in experts on cardiovascular health and inherited diseases, enhancing the relevance of lessons.
- **Incorporated social and cultural context into science lessons** by engaging students in discussions about health disparities, such as sickle cell anemia, and their implications within African American communities.
- **Expanded experiential learning opportunities** by teaching students to problem-solve using reverse engineering techniques and real-life applications, encouraging critical thinking and creativity in STEM fields.
- **Maintained curriculum innovation over seven years** by consistently updating teaching methods, integrating new activities, and adjusting lesson plans to keep content fresh and engaging for students.

Previous Experiences: Science and Social Studies Teacher, Joliet Public School District 86 (2011 – 2018); High School Chemistry and Physics Teacher, Bloom High School (2007 – 2011)

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

Doctor of Education in Educational Policy, Organization, and Leadership, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana [\[?\]](#)

Master of Education in Educational Administration, Governors State University, University Park, IL

Bachelor of Science in Chemistry with Honors, Governors State University, University Park, IL

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Science, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, IL

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

Governors State University

EDUC 4520 ELLs, SEL, and Content Reading

EDUC 6520 ELLs, SEL and Content Reading

EDUC 4301 Secondary Microteaching

EDUC 4302 Secondary Microteaching

EDUC 4340 Teaching Secondary School Science

EDUC 6340 Teaching Secondary School Science
EDUC 6301 Secondary Microteaching
EDUC 8920 Student Teaching Capstone
EDUC 4999 Student Teaching: Senior Capstone
NPSE 9203 Advanced Social Entrepreneurship

Lewis University

ELED 34000 Methods and Content of Teaching Science, Health and Movement
ELED 55400 Method and Content of Teaching Social Studies
SCED 54800 Clinical Practice & Seminar: Middle Grades
EDLD 57600 Multicultural Foundation of Education for Counselors
EDLD 55700 Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for School Improvement

University of St. Francis

CHEM 105 Chemistry and the Environment
CHEM 120 Foundation of Chemistry Lab
CHEM 121 General Chemistry Lab I

PRESENTATIONS

Coleman, N. (2025, May 28). *Putting the Swing into STEAM*, Workshop, Mildred Lavizzo Elementary School
Coleman, N. (2025, May 7). *Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader*, Workshop, Pershing Elementary School
Coleman, N. (2025, March 26). *Innovatively Crafting Effective Solutions*, Workshop, Plainfield High Schools
Coleman, N. (2025, March 25). *Women in STEM*, Panel Moderator, Governors Stet University
Coleman, N. (2025, January 20). *Coding for K-8 Students*, Workshop, Greater Joliet Area YMCA
Coleman, N. (2024, October 8). *Full STEAM Ahead: Robotics*, Workshop, Greater Joliet Area YMCA
Coleman, N. (2024, March 20). *Welcome to GSU*, Guided College Tour, Governors Stet University
Coleman, N. (2023, November 13). *Full STEAM Ahead*, Presentation, Northern Illinois Science Educators Conference
Coleman, N. (2023, August 10). *Full STEAM Ahead*, Presentation, State of Black Learning Conference
Coleman, N. (2022, July 1). *Global Learning! Global Teaching! Global Mindset!* Presentation, Professional Development Alliance

INVITED TALKS

Coleman, N. (2022, November 11). *The Art of Entrepreneurship*. Moderator at 2022 African American Business Association, Joliet, IL.
Coleman, N. (2016, September 30). *Best Practices in STEAM*. Longwill Digital Lab, Houston Aquarium, Houston, TX.
Coleman, N. (2019, June 5). *Women in STEM*. Panelist at CKL Engineering Women in STEM Awards, Chicago, IL.

DIGITAL MEDIA

Tuscano, S. (2024, October 30). Meet Dr. Natalie Coleman: The STEM Unicorn. Shoutout ATL.
Graham, M. (2021, May). Making STEAM Programs Accessible to Diverse Students. Lifewire Magazine.
Thompson, N. (2021, June 30). Public Speaking for Those in STEM. [Video]. YouTube.
Coleman, N. (2017, August 7). A STEM Competition that Connects Urban Planners with the Next Generation of Thinkers: Students! TED-Ed.
Shea, J. (2015, April 21). Educator of the Week: Flying Classroom Resource. National Geographic.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Chair of Secondary Education Committee at Governors State University
Advisor, Denise Winfrey, President of the National Association of Counties
Advisor, StatusPlaspace
Reviewer, Congressman Bill Foster Service Academy Board
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America
Illinois Veterans for Change
National Science Teachers Association
Joliet Area Chamber of Commerce
Alliance for Civic Engagement Member

AWARDS

African American Business Association Dream Big Award
Quad County Urban League Woman of the Month
National Hookup of Black Woman Educator of the Year
CKL Engineering Women in STEM
Generation Dance Hometown Hero
TEDEd Innovative Teacher
National Geographic Educator of the Week