BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors.
Follow this format for each person. DO NOT EXCEED FIVE PAGES.

NAME: McSparrin Gallagher, Brenda

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login):

POSITION TITLE: Research Associate II

EDUCATION/TRAINING: (Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training, if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTITUTION AND LOCATION</th>
<th>DEGREE (if applicable)</th>
<th>Completion Date MM/YYYY</th>
<th>FIELD OF STUDY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>University of Memphis, Memphis, TN</td>
<td>B.S.</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Physical Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Memphis, Memphis, TN</td>
<td>M.Ed.</td>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Athletic Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Memphis, Memphis, TN</td>
<td>Ed.D.</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Research Methodology and Statistics</td>
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A. PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am currently a Research Associate II in the Statistics Department at the Center for Research in Educational Policy at the University of Memphis. I have extensive experience in providing accurate and meaningful data and reports to aid in the accountability and decision-making process regarding initiatives and programs affecting student success at the local, state and federal level. This includes past work as a Research Evaluator with Memphis City Schools, where I collaborated with principals and school staff in the development, implementation, analysis and reporting of large scale survey data and school based initiatives. I also have extensive experience in the areas of research design, data analysis, and reporting through my work on various projects at the Center for Research in Educational Policy (CREP) at the University of Memphis.

In addition, I was part of the team working with the data analysis efforts on a five year Investing in Innovation fund (i3) Validation grant from the US Department of Education’s Office of Innovation & Improvement, working in conjunction with the Smithsonian Science Education Center (SSEC) to evaluate the impact of the SSEC’s LASER program, an inquiry-based science instruction model being implemented in three states. This large-scale mixed-method Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) had stringent data collection, analysis and reporting requirements. I am also working on the quantitative data analysis efforts for a current Development grant (GRREC Get the Picture?!?) under the same i3 program, looking at the impact of the development of self-determination skills on the college and career readiness of high school students with disabilities in several districts in the state of Kentucky.

In my role as a Research Associate II in the Statistics Department at CREP, I have worked with representatives from numerous states to collect and house personally identifiable data for both minors and adults, and have experience and knowledge related to the collection, storage, and reporting of sensitive data.

Selected publications most relevant to the current application


for Students in Grades 3-5. Memphis, TN: The University of Memphis, Center for Research in Educational Policy.


Selected presentations most relevant to the current application


B. POSITIONS AND HONORS

Professional Appointments

2008–present Research Associate II, Center for Research in Educational Policy, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN
1991–2008 Evaluator, Memphis City Schools, Office of Research, Evaluation and Assessment, Memphis, TN
1989–1991 Graduate Assistant, Tennessee Career Ladder Program, Department of Foundations of Education, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN
1986–1989 Research Assistant, Fitness and Wellness Center, University of Memphis
01/86–11/86 Hogan Conversion Specialist, First Tennessee Bank, Hogan Department, Memphis, TN
1983–1986 Database Coordinator/Sales Support Services, RCA Cylix Communication Network, Marketing and Sales Department, Memphis, TN
**Specialized Professional Competence**

- Extensive experience providing meaningful and accurate information for a variety of decision makers.
- Current duties include statistical analyses of literacy and science programs, as well as conducting matched-pair analyses in the area of Supplemental Educational Services for the states of Alabama, Kentucky, North Carolina, and West Virginia.
- Qualitative analyses of survey and observation data in a wide variety of subject areas.
- As a Research Evaluator with Memphis City Schools, developed expertise in large-scale survey development, implementation, analysis, and reporting.
- Primary researcher for the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System which included 5-year data collection, monitoring, and evaluation program funded by the Centers for Disease Control’s Division of Adolescent and School Health.
- Detailed understanding and application of What Works Clearinghouse Procedures and Standards
- Proficient in SPSS
- Instrument development and validation
- Management of large database systems

**Other Evaluation/Research Projects**

- Adolescent Parenting Program
- Alternative Education Strategies for Suspended or Disruptive Students
- Aviation Optional School
- Block Scheduling
- Career Academies
- Cluster Approach Initiative
- Effects of Class Size & Gender on Student Achievement
- Equity and Civil Rights Programs
- Family Resource Centers
- Homebound Children and Youth
- Math Science and Computer Institute
- Memphis Health Project
- Memphis Homeless Children & Youth Project
- Open Enrollment Program
- Optional Schools Program
- Principal Performance Models
- Restructuring Initiatives
- Smoking Prevention Program
- Tri-State Building Trades Program
- Urban Systemic Initiative
- Zero Tolerance Policy

**C. CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCIENCE**

1. Assisted in evaluating a large, multi-site initiative aimed at helping state, district and school leadership teams implement and sustain high-quality, inquiry-based science education for elementary and middle school students. This STEM project was part of a five year “Investing in Innovation” (i3) Validation grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Education, and undertaken in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution’s Science Education Center (SSEC). This randomized controlled trial involved the collection and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data in 126 schools in three very different regions: The Houston Independent School District, northern New Mexico, and rural North Carolina. The research design for the study has been designated as meeting What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) Group Design Standards Without Reservations (the WWC’s highest rating).

2. Assisted in evaluating an i3 Development grant in conjunction with the Green River Regional Educational Cooperative (GRREC) to examine the impact of an intervention intended to improve the overall
college/career readiness of 900 students with disabilities in each participating school in 9 rural, high poverty Kentucky school districts.

3. Evaluated a supplemental literacy system developed by Heinemann Publishing Company by conducting a mixed-methods randomized controlled trial involving students in the Denver Public School System. Pre- and post- test performance were compared on three measures of student literacy achievement: The Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System, the Development Reading Assessment, 2nd Edition (DRA2), and the STAR Early Literacy Assessment. The quality of instruction was examined using classroom observations and participant feedback.

4. Have worked with the Virginia Department of Education as external evaluator for over nine years for its 21st Century Community Learning Centers program. This project involves the collection of data across the state, analysis of data, the design of rubrics to interpret and report findings, and the presentation of results to technical and non-technical audiences. The research design involves a quasi-experimental, matched group design using Hierarchical Linear Models (HLM) and Hierarchical Generalized Linear Models (HGLM) as well as qualitative data analysis.