

# Emily Thatcher

## Professional Preparation

Iowa State University	Ames, Iowa	Special Education Consultant	M.A.Ed., 2008
University of Northern Iowa	Cedar Falls, Iowa	Special Education Behavioral Disabilities	Endorsement, 1996
University of Northern Iowa	Cedar Falls, Iowa	Special Education Severe & Profound Disabilities	Endorsement, 1990
Iowa State University	Ames, Iowa	Special Education Mild/Moderate Disabilities Art Education	Endorsement, 1989 BA Arts

## Experience

<i>Years</i>	<i>Title</i>
2019–Present	<p>Research Project Manager, Accessible Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Systems (ATLAS), University of Kansas Shared Writing Instructional Model Grant (SWIM), Model Demonstration Site for K-6 Students with Intellectual Disabilities, OSEP Funded</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coordination and management of SWIM Model Demonstration Sites through implementation science</li><li>• SWIM intervention components technical assistance products<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Professional development</li><li>○ Coaching Guide</li><li>○ Instructional Plans</li><li>○ Implementation Guides</li></ul></li><li>• System and Practice Coaching</li></ul>
2008–2019	<p>Consultant, Students with Significant Intellectual Disabilities, Iowa Department of Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project Lead for Specially Designed Instruction- Literacy, Office of Special Education State Personal Development Grant, Significant Disabilities Focus Area</li><li>• Significant Disabilities State Advisory Team Lead</li><li>• Significant Disabilities State Leadership Team Lead</li><li>• Significant Disabilities Strategies II: ID Institute of Higher Education Task Team</li><li>• Member of Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired Deaf-Blind Committee</li><li>• State Assistive Technology Liaison Team Lead in partnership with the University Iowa Center for Assistive Technology Education and Research</li><li>• State Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) workgroup</li><li>• State Coordinator for National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS)</li><li>• State Alternate Assessment Consultant Dynamic Learning Maps and Iowa’s Early Literacy Alternate Assessment</li><li>• Project Lead for the Literacy, Language &amp; Communication for Students with Significant Developmental Disabilities: Reaching Potentials through Systemic &amp; Sustainable Statewide Professionals Development and the</li></ul>

Comprehensive Communication Literacy Project in Partnership with Faculty at University of Northern Iowa and Dr. Karen Erickson, Center for Literacy and Disabilities Studies, UNC Chapel Hill

- 2008–1989 Special Education Teacher, Students with Significant Intellectual Disabilities, Mild/Moderate Intellectual Disabilities and Behavioral Disorders
- 2007-2008 Gilbert Community School District, Gilbert Middle School, Iowa
    - Establishment of new services and classroom
    - Emphasis in supporting students within full inclusion educational settings
    - Strategies to access general education curriculum
    - Supervision of paraprofessionals
  - 2007-2006 Ankeny Community School District, Ankeny Middle School, Iowa
    - Emphasis in supporting students within self- contained educational settings
    - Development and implementation of behavior support plans for students with intellectual disabilities, autism and challenging behavior
    - Core academic content instruction
    - Prevocational and community life skills instruction
    - Supervision of paraprofessionals
  - 2005-2006 Ames Community Schools, Ames Middle School, Iowa
    - Core academic content instruction
    - Prevocational and community life skills instruction
    - Supervision of paraprofessionals
  - 1998-2005 Roland Story Community Schools, Roland High School, Iowa
    - Establishment of new services and classroom-Life Centered Career Education Classroom Emphasis in the development and implementation of student IEPs which increased students' independence in all areas of adult living
    - Responsible for the establishment and maintenance of community based vocational sites
    - Coordination of school, adult service providers, and state transition services
    - Supervision of paraprofessionals
  - 1996-1998 Ames Community School District Sawyer Elementary, Iowa
    - Establishment of new services and classroom K-6 Self-contained with integration program for students with mild/moderate disabilities (multi-categorical)
    - Emphasis on providing direct services in reading, language arts, and mathematics
    - Support in designing/implementing accommodations/modifications within social studies and science

- Supervision of paraprofessionals
- 1993-1996 Johnston Community Schools, Lawson Elementary, Iowa
  - Establishment of new services and classroom within public school setting for school aged children who reside in a residential medical care facility
  - Emphasis on incorporating appropriate educational goals within integrated settings
  - Supervision of paraprofessionals
- 1990-1993 Madrid Community Schools, Madrid Elementary, Iowa
  - Establishment of new services and classroom for shared school districts.
  - Emphasis in providing age-appropriate life skills programming within school and community-based environments
  - Supervision of paraprofessionals
- 1989-1990 Ames Community Schools, Willson Beardshear School/ Kate Mitchell Elementary School
  - Establishment of new classroom transition in students from a segregated school environment to a public-school setting
  - Emphasis in providing age-appropriate functional curriculum within school and community-based environment
  - Supervision of paraprofessionals

## **Awards**

Iowa Teacher of the Year- Exceptional Magazine, 2002

## **Selected Presentations**

Thatcher, E. (2020). Driving the CAR all day long. Assistive Technology Industry Association.

Thatcher, E. (2017). Transitioning to new science standards. Association for Science Teacher Education.

Thatcher, E. (2017). Statewide collaboration to prepare and license teachers to educate students with significant disabilities. Council of Exceptional Children.

Thatcher, E. (2016). Students with significant disabilities: Building the future, transforming our past. Office of Special Education.

Thatcher, E. (2015). One state's theory of action for developing a statewide system of integrated supports. Council of Exceptional Children.

Thatcher, E. (2015). Consortium of Low Incidence Teacher Preparation Programs in Kansas Project.

Thatcher, E. (2014). One state's journey. Office of Special Education Project Meeting.

Thatcher, E. (2014). Alternate assessment data in support of local decision making. U.S. Office of Special Education