

Clarissa Willis

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Center for Early Childhood Excellence
East Tennessee State University
Box 70434
Johnson City, TN 37614
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II. EDUCATION

- A. Ph.D. Special Education 1993
Area of Emphasis: Early Childhood
University of Southern Mississippi
Hattiesburg, MS
- B. M.A. Speech/Language Pathology 1979
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR
- C. B.A. Speech/Language Pathology 1977
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR

III. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- A. Associate Professor August, 2001 - Present
Early Childhood Special Education
Assistant Director
Center for Early Childhood Learning and Development
East Tennessee State University
Johnson City, TN 37659
- B. Assistant Professor 1998-2001
Department of Curriculum and Instruction
Early Childhood Program Coordinator
Arkansas Tech University
Russellville, AR
- C. Director of Education
Kinder Care International
Portland, OR 1997-1998

- D. Executive Director 1995-1997
Southern Early Childhood Association
Regional Office
Little Rock, AR
- E. Assistant Professor 1993-1995
Department of Special Education
East Tennessee State University
Johnson City, TN
- F. Early Childhood Special Needs Consultant 1992-1993
Center for Child Development
University of Southern Mississippi
Hattiesburg, MS
- G. Program Coordinator 1990-1992
Facilitating Adaptations in Family Routines
University of Southern Mississippi
Department of Special Education
Hattiesburg, MS
- H. Assistive Technology Consultant 1992-1993
University Affiliated Programs (UAP) (Institute for Disabilities Studies)
University of Southern Mississippi
Hattiesburg, MS
- I. Speech-Language Pathologist 1989-1990
Mayflower Public Schools
Mayflower, AR
- J. Early Childhood Consultant 1989-1990
Augmentative Communication Specialist
Arch Ford Educational Service Cooperative
Arkansas Tech University
Russellville, AR
- K. Community Based Instruction Coordinator 1987-1989
Centers for Youth and Families
Little Rock, AR
- L. Adolescent Communication Specialist 1983-1987
Speech-Language Pathologist
Pulaski County Special School District
Little Rock, AR

IV. KEYNOTE ADDRESSES/PAPERS PRESENTED/WORKSHOPS

National and International

- Willis, C.** (2004, April) *Brain Research: What a decade has taught us about how children learn*. Paper presented at the Association for Early Childhood International, Annual International Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Willis, C.** (2004, December) *The East Tennessee Autism Training Project: A family service provider partnership*. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Division of Early Childhood for the Council for Exceptional Children, Chicago, IL.
- Willis, C.** (2004, April). *Best practices: A roadmap for inclusion*. Paper presented at the Association for Early Childhood International, Annual International Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Willis, C.** (2004, April). *A child's brain: A key to lifelong learning*. Paper presented at the Association for Early Childhood International, Annual International Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Willis, C. & Lane, H.** (2004, April). *The East Tennessee Autism Training Project: A family service provider partnership*. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Council for Exceptional Children, New Orleans, LA.
- Willis, C., Compton, J., & DeVault, K.** (2003, November). *The electronic portfolio and its use with infants and toddlers with special needs and their typically developing peers*. Paper presented at the National Association for the Education of Young Children International Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Leonard, A.M., & Willis, C.A.** (2003, November). *Family home childcare providers: How to handle attrition*. Paper presented at the National Association for the Education of Young Children International Conference. Chicago, IL.
- Willis, C., & Lane H.** (2003, October). *The East Tennessee Autism Training Project: A family collaboration*. Paper presented at the Division of Early Childhood Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
- Willis, C.** (2003, October). *Project TIES: Training paraeducators for inclusion*. Poster session presented at the Division of Early Childhood Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
- Willis, C., & Burleson, R.** (2003, April). *Training paraeducators for inclusion*. Paper presented at the Council for Exceptional Children Annual Conference and Expo, Seattle, WA.
- Willis, C., & Little, B.** (2002, December). *Project TIES: Preparing paraeducators for inclusion*. Paper presented at the 18th Annual Division of Early Childhood National Conference, San Diego, CA.
- Willis, C., & Little, B.** (2002, June). *Project TIES: Building bridges for all learners*. Paper presented at the National Association for the Education of Young Children Eleventh Annual National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development Conference, Albuquerque, NM.

- Willis, C.** (2002, April). *Miscommunication or misbehavior: Communicating with toddlers*. Paper presented at the Association for Childhood Education International Annual Conference, San Diego, CA.
- Willis, C.** (1999, April). *Brain research: Practical applications for family literacy*. Paper presented at the National Family Literacy Conference, Louisville, KY.
- Willis, C., & Peck, N.** (1997, November). *One-on-one dialog: Consensus building*. Poster session presented at the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Anaheim, CA.
- Leister, C.** (1995, April). *Preparing young children without disabilities to accept their peers with disabilities*. Paper presented at the 73rd Annual International Conference of the Council for Exceptional Children, Indianapolis, IN.
- Leister, C.** (1994, April). *Parent-teacher communication: The consumer speaks out!* Paper presented at the 72nd Annual International Conference of the Council for Exceptional Children, Denver, CO.
- Leister, C., & Yates, C.** (1993, April). *Opportunities for growth: A transdisciplinary approach to assistive technology for preschool learners with developmental disabilities*. Paper presented at the 71st Annual International Conference of the Council for Exceptional Children, San Antonio, TX.
- Leister, C., & Yates, C.** (1993, January). *Transdisciplinary assistive technology assessments of children with low incidence disabilities*. Paper presented at the Tenth Anniversary International Technology and Media Conference on Special Education and Technology, Hartford, CT.

Regional

- Willis, C.** (2005). *Autism: Red flags and options*. Half-day workshop conducted at the Region 19, Annual Academy of Teachers of Young Children Conference, El Paso, Texas.
- Willis, C.** (2004). *Best practices in inclusion: A roadmap for success*. Half-day workshop conducted at the Region 19, Annual Academy of Teachers of Young Children Conference, El Paso, Texas.
- Willis, C.** (2004). *Missed behavior or missed Communication: When children with special needs act out*. Half-day workshop conducted at the Region 19, Annual Academy of Teachers of Young Children Conference, El Paso, Texas.
- Willis, C.** (1999). *Food for thought: Practical applications of the new brain research*. Keynote conducted at the Region III Head Start Annual Conference. Wilmington, DE.
- Willis, C.** (1998). *Practical applications of the new brain research: It's all about inclusion*. Keynote conducted at the Regional Child Care Directors and Administrators Conference, John Tyler Community College, Richmond, VA.
- Willis, C.** (1998). *Science projects for the early childhood classroom*. Workshop conducted at the DLM-SRA-McGraw Hill, Early Childhood Education

Summer Institute, Dallas, TX.

- Willis, C.** (1997). *Inclusion for all learners: Practical suggestions for teachers*. Keynote conducted at the Region X Head Start Annual Conference, Anchorage, AK.
- Willis, C.** (1997). *Using low-tech adaptations for young children with disabilities*. Parent workshop conducted at the Region X Head Start Annual Conference, Anchorage, AK.
- Willis, C.** (1997). *Inclusion of children with special needs: Suggestions for teachers*. Workshop conducted at the DLM-SRA-McGraw Hill, Early Childhood Education Summer Institute, Dallas, TX.
- Leister, C.** (1995). *Tips for teachers: Assistive technology in the inclusive classroom*. Paper presented at the Gulf Coast Conference on Early Intervention, Biloxi, MS.
- Leister, C.** (1995). *The princess was hearing impaired and the prince didn't know sign language: Interactive activities for preschool teachers*. Paper presented at the 46th Annual Conference of the Southern Early Childhood Association (SACUS), Orlando, FL.
- Leister, C.** (1994). *Misbehavior or miscommunication: Looking at the communicative attempts of young children*. Paper presented at the 45th Annual Conference of the Southern Early Childhood Association (SACUS), New Orleans, LA.
- Leister, C.** (1993). *Positive interactions: Teaching social skills to young children with developmental disabilities*. Paper presented at the 44th Annual Conference of the Southern Association on Children Under Six, Biloxi, MS.

State

- Willis, C.** (October, 2004). *Autism Spectrum Disorders: Red flags!* Featured presentation, Wisconsin Early Childhood Association Convention, LaCrosse, WI.
- Willis, C.** (October, 2004). *Missed behavior or missed communication: When children with special needs act out*. Featured presentation, Wisconsin Early Childhood Association Convention, LaCrosse, WI.
- Willis, C.** (2004). *Brain research: Ten years later!* Paper presented at the Virginia Association for Early Childhood Education Conference, Roanoke, VA.
- Willis, C.** (2002). *Open hearts, open minds: Brain research and emotions*. Keynote conducted at the Annual Preschool Conference, Maryland Education for Children. Annapolis, MD.
- Willis, C.** (2002). *Helping children cope: Handling grief*. Paper presented at the Virginia Association for Early Childhood Annual Conference, Norfolk, VA.
- Willis, C., & Little, B.** (2002). *Project TIES: Inclusion for all children*. Paper presented at the Virginia Association for Early Childhood Annual Conference, Norfolk, VA.

- Willis, C.** (2001). *Where do we go from here? Brain research and early childhood education*. Keynote conducted at the Joint Conference of Maryland Family Childcare Providers and Maryland Association for the Education of Young Children. Eastern Shore, MD.
- Willis, C.** (2001). *Brain research, practical applications for practitioners*. Paper presented at the Virginia Association for Early Childhood Education Annual Conference, Richmond, VA.
- Willis, C.** (2000). *Now that we have the brain research, where do we go from here?* Paper presented at the Virginia Association for Early Childhood Education, Richmond, VA.
- Willis, C.** (2000). *Brain research, practical applications for practitioners*. Paper presented at the Virginia Association for Early Childhood Education Annual Conference, Richmond, VA.
- Willis, C.** (2000). *Now that we have the brain research, where do we go from here?* Paper presented at the Virginia Association for Early Childhood Education Annual Conference, Richmond, VA.
- Willis, C.** (1999). *Brain development and learning: Practical applications for young children*. Pre-conference session conducted at the Virginia Association for Early Childhood Education, Roanoke, VA.
- Willis, C.** (1997). *Brain development and communication*. Paper presented at the Early Childhood Association of Florida Annual Conference, Orlando, FL.
- Willis, C.** (1997). *Brain development: Applications of the new research for the classroom teacher*. Paper presented at the Tennessee Association for the Education of Young Children, Gatlinburg, TN.
- Willis, C.** (1997). *Magicians in wonderland: Fostering creativity in young children*. Paper presented at the West Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children 5th Annual Conference, Morgantown, WV.
- Willis, C.** (1997). *Full inclusion: Ideas that work for all children*. Paper presented at the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children, Houston, TX.
- Willis, C.** (1996). *The magic of childhood*. Keynote conducted at the Second Annual North Carolina Early Childhood Association Conference, Moorhead City, NC.
- Willis, C.** (1996). *A journey through the field of education*. Keynote conducted at the South Carolina Early Childhood Association 45th Annual Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC.
- Willis, C.** (1995). *What's going on with our children?* Keynote conducted at the Florida Early Childhood Association 35th Annual Conference, Orlando, FL.
- Willis, C.** (1995). *Assessment and children: What are we really assessing?* Keynote conducted at the Virginia State Department of Education New Teacher Orientation Training, Richmond, VA.
- Leister, C.** (1995). *A process oriented approach to assistive technology*. Paper

presented at the Annual State of Tennessee Special Education Supervisor's Conference, Nashville, TN.

Local (Out of State)

- Willis, C., & Little, B. (2002).** *Project TIES: Toward Inclusion in Early Settings.* Workshop conducted at the Early Childhood/Early Childhood Special Education Teachers In-service, College Station Independent School District, College Station, TX.
- Willis C., & Little, B. (2002).** *Project TIES: Toward Inclusion in Early Settings.* Three-day workshop conducted at the invitation of the Navajo Nation for the Navajo/Hopi Child Care Providers (Head Start), Tuba City, AZ.
- Willis, C. (2002).** *Project TIES: Toward Inclusion in Early Settings.* Workshop conducted at the Arch Ford Educational Coop, Early Childhood/Early Childhood Special Education Teachers, Pottsville, AR.
- Willis, C. (1999).** *Applications of the new brain research for the Head Start classroom.* Keynote conducted at the Fairfax County Head Start Annual Fall Conference, Fairfax, VA.
- Willis, C. (1999).** *Practical applications of the new brain research: What does it mean for Head Start?* Staff development workshop conducted at the Bucks County Head Start Fall Training, Philadelphia, PA.
- Willis, C. (1999).** *A parent's guide to the new brain research: It's all about time.* Parent workshop conducted at the Bucks County Head Start Parent Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- Willis, C. (1998).** *Portfolio based assessment: Uses in the regular and special education classroom.* Workshop conducted for the Russellville Public Schools, ELLA Training Workshop, Russellville, AR.
- Willis, C. (1997).** *Brain research: Applications for parent-child interaction.* Keynote conducted at the Danforth Foundation Dad's Day Conference, Beau Bridge, LA.
- Willis, C. (1997).** *You can make a difference: The importance of childcare workers.* Keynote conducted at the Annual Childcare Provider's Conference, Texas A & M University, Kingsville, TX.
- Willis, C. (1997).** *Resource conservation: Taking care of tomorrow's leaders.* Workshop conducted at the Louisiana Tech University Student Chapter, Early Childhood Education Association Annual Conference, Ruston, LA.
- Willis, C. (1997).** *The fourth little pig: Literacy learning in early childhood settings.* Keynote conducted at the Murray State University Child Care Provider Appreciation Dinner, Murray, KY. August 14, 2002 *Open hearts, open minds: Brain research and emotions.* Annual Preschool Conference Maryland Education for Children. Annapolis, MD.

Invited Workshops (Highlights only, full information available upon request)

- Willis, C.** (December, 1998). *Portfolio based assessment*. Russellville Public Schools, ELLA Training Workshop, Russellville, AR.
- Willis, C.** (August, 1998). *Science projects for the early childhood classroom*. DLM-SRA-McGraw Hill, Summer Learning Workshop, Dallas, TX.
- Willis, C.** (May, 1998). *Making kindergarten fun for all learners*. Kinder Care Staff Development Workshop, Chicago, IL.
- Leister-Willis, C.** (July, 1997). *Tips for inclusion*. DLM-SRA-McGraw Hill Learning Seminar, Dallas, TX.
- Leister-Willis, C.** (July, 1996). *Behavior management: Time in the time-out syndrome*. DLM-SRA-McGraw Hill Learning Seminar, Dallas, TX.
- Leister, C.** (June, 1996). *Observation of infants and toddlers: How to listen, watch, and learn*. Patrick Airforce Base, Melbourne, FL.
- Leister, C.** (May, 1996). *Behavior management in the pre-school classroom*. Oklahoma Head Start Association, Spring Conference, Ada, OK.
- Willis, C.** (October, 1997). *Brain development and how it relates to developmentally appropriate practice for all children*. Georgia Association for Young Children, Atlanta, GA.
- Willis, C.** (September, 1997). *Moving and playing!* Early Childhood Association of Florida, Annual Conference, Orlando, FL.
- Leister-Willis, C.** (May, 1997). *Southern issues and perceptions: Public policy concerns for education*. Gulf Coast Conference on Early Intervention, Point Clear, AL.
- Leister-Willis, C.** (September, 1996). *Getting started: Developing a plan of action for the local association*. Louisiana Association for Early Childhood Development, Fall Retreat, Monroe, LA.
- Leister-Willis, C.** (August, 1996). *Putting all the pieces together: Developing a family friendly plan for all learners*. Alabama Association for the Education of Young Children, Fairhope, AL.
- Leister, C.** (February, 1995). *Children and software: Meeting the needs of the curriculum and providing opportunities for children with development delays*. Shelby County, TN.
- Leister, C.** (January, 1995). *Using assistive technology with children in a classroom environment*. Bristol, TN.

- Leister, C.** (August, 1994). *Workshop: Assistive technology issues for learners with severe disabilities*. LRE for Life Conference, Gatlinburg, TN.
- Leister, C.** (June, 1994). *Workshop: Assistive technology for children with disabilities*. Tennessee Early Intervention Project, Knoxville, Nashville, and Jackson, TN.
- Leister, C.** (October, 1994). *Assistive technology: Expanding the process to include all learners*. Western Tennessee Special Education Director's Fall Retreat, Nashville, TN.
- Leister, C.** (September, 1994). *Assistive technology for teachers: A high tech/low tech alternative*. Jackson Special Education Teachers, JacksonMadison County Schools, Jackson, TN.
- Leister, C.** (September, 1994). *Assistive technology: A process oriented approach*. Kingsport Special Education Teachers, Kingsport, TN.
- Leister, C.** (September, 1994). *Assistive technology for teachers: A high tech/low tech alternative*. Oakridge Special Education Teachers, Oakridge Public Schools, Oakridge, TN.
- Leister, C.** (August, 1994). *Assistive technology across the lifespan*. LRE for Life Project, Knoxville, TN.
- Leister, C.** (April, 1994). *Behavior disorders in the public school classroom*. Southeast Community College, Johnson City, TN.
- Leister, C.** (January, 1994). *Communicating with persons with disabilities: Strategies for helping students achieve*. Southeast Community College, Johnson City, TN.
- Leister, C.** (August, 1993). *Children exposed to crack cocaine, HIV, and alcohol: The role of the public school*. In-service training project for Liberty Public Schools, Liberty, MS.
- Leister, C.** (November, 1990). *Understanding non-symbolic communication*. Pulaski County Special School District, Little Rock, AR.
- Leister, C.** (November, 1990). *Planning communication interactions for learners with low incidence disabilities*. Hattiesburg Public Schools, Hattiesburg, MS.

Recent Local Workshops

- Willis, C.** (2004). *Inclusion for all children: A journey of discovery*. Workshop conducted at the New Horizons Conference (A Parent-Practitioner Collaboration), Abingdon, VA.
- Willis, C.** (2004). *Autism Spectrum Disorder: Red flags*. Paper presented at the Annual

Early Childhood Conference, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN.

Willis, C. (2002). *Child grief: Helping children cope*. Paper presented at the Annual Early Childhood Conference, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN.

V. PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER SCHOLARLY WORK

A. Refereed Journals

Willis, C. (2002). The grieving process in children: Strategies for understanding, educating, and reconciling children's perceptions of death. *Early Childhood Education Journal*, 29(4), 221–226.

Willis, C. (2001). Talking to children about death. *Tennessee's Children, Journal of the Tennessee Association for the Education of Young Children*, 14–17.

Willis, C. (1999). Brain research implications for caregivers and teachers. *Viewpoint, The Virginia Association for Early Childhood Education*, 2, 1–3.

Willis, C. (1998). Language development: A key to lifelong learning. *Childcare Information Exchange*, 121, 63–65.

Schiller, P., **Willis, C.**, & Peck, N. (1997). Kids these days: What Americans really think about the next generation. *Dimensions of Early Childhood*, 25(3), Special Insert.

Willis, C. (1997). Report on White House Conference on brain development: What it tells us about America's youngest children. *Dimensions of Early Childhood*, 25(2), Special Insert.

Leister, C., Langenbrunner, M., & Walker, D. (1995). Pretend play: Opportunities to teach social interaction skills to young children with developmental disabilities. *Australian Journal of Early Childhood*, 20(4), 30–34.

Walker, D., & **Leister, C.** (1994). Recognition of facial affect cues by adolescents with emotional and behavioral disorders. *Behavioral Disorders, Journal of the Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders*, 19(4), 269–276.

Leister, C., Koonce, D., & Nesbit, S. (1993). Best practices in full inclusion: An update. *Daycare and Early Education*, 21(3), 9–12.

Leister, C. (1993). Innovative teaching in the 90's: Assistive technology and young children with severe disabilities. *Reading Improvement*, 30(3), 134–139.

Leister, C. (1993). Bridges to success: Developing cultural competence in the preschool classroom. *Dimensions of Early Childhood*, 21(2), 13–14.

Books

Willis C., & Irby, B. (2003). *Inclusive classrooms resource guide*. Worthington, OH: A part of the DLM-Early Childhood Professional Library published by SRA, a

division of McGraw Hill.

Willis, C. (1997/Reprinted 2000). *Your child's brain: Food for thought*. Little Rock, AR: Southern Early Childhood Association.

Leister, C. (1996). *Children with Special Needs*. Worthington, OH: A part of the DLM- Early Childhood Professional Library published by SRA, a division of McGraw Hill.

Articles In Press

Willis, C. (in press). Children with special needs and grief: Suggestions for caregivers. *Childcare Information Exchange*.

Sluss, D. J., & **Willis, C.A.** (in press). Creating inclusive curriculum in a statewide system. *Journal of Early Intervention*.

B. Other Publications (Non-refereed)

Leister-Willis, C. (1997-1999). Invited columnist, *Childcare Provider Magazine*, Bowie, MD.

Leister-Willis, C. (1995-1997). Arkansas Early Childhood Commission bimonthly newsletter (Editor and major contributor), Little Rock, AR.

Willis, C. (1995). Moving and playing: A parent's guide to a healthy child. (Brochure disseminated nationally to parents, over 50,000 printed and sold). Southern Early Childhood Association, Little Rock, AR.

Leister, C. (1992). Celebrate Children: A manual of best practices for integrated schools.

Leister, C., Hollingshead, L., Stremel, K., & Bennett, T. (1992). Their future is in our hands: A resource guide for families of children with disabilities.

Stremel, K., Molden, V., **Leister, C., Matthews, J., Wilson, R., Goodall, D., & Holston, J.** (1990). Communicating systems and routines: A decision making process.

Stremel, K., Wilson, B., **Leister, C., & Holston, J.** (1992). Communicating with children who are deaf and blind: A resource manual.

C. Review/Editorial Work

Paid book reviewer for Delmar Publishing 1994, 1995, 1996.

Supervised publication of *Dimensions of Early Childhood*, 1995-1997.

VI. GRANTS FUNDED

- Willis, C.** (2004). State of Tennessee Student Improvement Grant (GSIG), A Federal Project to Systematically Compliment Early Reading First. . Subcontract with the State of Tennessee (Special Education) to provide training for pre-school children at risk for failure and to serve on the GSIG steering committee. Funded July 1, 2004-June 30, 2009. (\$175,000 annually).
- Willis, C.** (2004). Tennessee's Early Intervention System (Statewide Technical Assistance Project). Funded by the State of Tennessee (Special Education) Part C- Funds. Funded July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005. (\$394,435).
- Willis, C.** (2004). Tennessee's Early Intervention System (District 1). Funded by the State of Tennessee (Special Education) Part C- Funds. Funded July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005. (\$1,166,243).
- Willis, C.** (2004). East Tennessee Autism Training Project. Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant, Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Funded, January 15, 2004-September 30, 2004. (\$72,515).
- Willis, C.** (2003). Tennessee's Early Intervention System (Statewide Technical Assistance Project). Funded by the State of Tennessee (Special Education) Part C- Funds. Funded July 1, 2003-June 30, 2004. (\$390,632).
- Willis, C.** (2003). Tennessee's Early Intervention System (District 1) Funded by the State of Tennessee (Special Education) Part C- Funds. Funded July 1, 2003-June 30, 2004. (\$1,025,429).
- Willis, C.** (2002). East Tennessee Autism Training Project. Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant, Tennessee Higher Education Commission. Funded December 1, 2002-September 30, 2003. (\$69,647).
- Willis, C.** (2002). Tennessee's Early Intervention System (Statewide Technical Assistance Project). Funded by the State of Tennessee (Special Education) Part C- Funds. Funded July 1, 2002-June 30, 2003. (\$361,197).
- Willis, C.** (2002). Tennessee's Early Intervention System (District 1) Funded by the State of Tennessee (Special Education) Part C- Funds. Funded July 1, 2002-June 30, 2003. (\$915,933).
- Willis, C.** (2001). Project TIES: Toward Inclusion in Early Settings. A Model Demonstration Project sponsored by U.S. Department of Education, Grant Number H024B960032-00. Funded December 14, 2001-December 15, 2002. (\$133,000).
- Leister, C.** (1995-1997) Arkansas Early Childhood Commission. Received \$35,000 to produce and disseminate a newsletter six times per year to all licensed child care providers in Arkansas.
- Leister, C.** (1995) Arkansas State Department of Education. Received \$144,000 to create staff development opportunities for public school teachers in grades K-3 in Arkansas.
- Leister, C.** (1994) Tennessee State Department of Education. Received approximately

\$60,000 to plan and administer a summer institute for 100 teachers to attend East Tennessee State University for a three week intensive summer workshop.

Leister, C. (1994) Research and Development Grant, East Tennessee State University. Received \$500 to study the use of computer technology in both regular and special education early childhood public school classrooms.

Leister, C. (1993) Presidential-Grant-In-Aid recipient, East Tennessee State University. Received \$1,500 to visit exemplary programs utilizing technology for students with disabilities and to complete a feasibility study on implementation of similar programs at ETSU.

Leister, C. (1993) After School Care of Children at Risk for School Failure, Mississippi State Department of Human Services. A grant funded through Federal block grant money to provide students at risk for school failure with after school care and tutoring services.

Leister, C. (1992, 1993) Project Full Inclusion, Mississippi State Department of Human Services. A \$25,000 grant designed to implement inclusive practices for learners with developmental delays at the Center for Child Development located on the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi .

VII. SPECIAL INVITATIONS

Oxford Roundtable on Special Education, March 23-30, 2003, Jesus College, Oxford, England.

Learning and the Brain Conference, May 7-8, 1999, Harvard University, Boston, MA.

AT&T Technology Conference, June 7-9, 1997, Basking Ridge, New Jersey.

Coalition for America's Children, Steering Committee, 1997.

White House Conference on Early Childhood "What the New Brain Research Tells Us about America's Youngest Children," April 17, 1997, Washington, D.C.

VIII. Professional Affiliations

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA)

Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI)

National Association for Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE)

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)

Division of Early Childhood Council for Exceptional Children (DEC)

Tennessee Association for the Education of Young Children (TAEYC)

IX. Courses Taught

East Tennessee State University

- SPED 2300 Characteristics of Learners
- SPED 4487-5487 Family, School, Agency Collaboration
- SPED 5001 Critical Issues in Special Education
- SPED 5365 Functional Skills Curriculum
- SPED 5350 Special Education Workshop: Autism Spectrum Disorders
- SPED 5350 Special Education Workshop: Advanced Child Development
- HDAL 5253 Theories of Play

Arkansas Tech University

- EDFD 6053 Students at Risk
- EDFD 6043 Social Issues in Education
- ELED 4423 Kindergarten Curriculum
- ELED 3413 Kindergarten Methods
- ECED 3023 Foundations of Education
- ECED 2001 Introduction to Early Childhood Education
- ECED 2002 Introduction to ECED Field Experience
- ECED 3053 Children and Families in a Diverse Society (Special Education)
- ECED 3113 Integrated Curriculum (Special Education)
- EDFD 5455 Gifted Education Curriculum
- ECED 4456 Student Teacher Supervision

University of Arkansas at Little Rock (Adjunct)

- SPED 7681 Curriculum Planning for Infants and Toddler with Special Needs

University of Southern Mississippi

- SPE 440 Mental Retardation
- SPE 451 Classroom Management