

# Azure (Anne) Showers

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## **Education**

### **University at Buffalo, The State University of New York**

Certificate of Advanced Study in Applied Statistical Analysis, June 2017

Master of Education, Biology Education – Adolescence, September 2012

Certificate of Advanced Study in Adolescence Education, June 2011

Bachelor of Science, Animal Science – Special Major, September 2009

## **Certification**

New York State Professional Certification, Biology 5-12, September 2012

## **Professional Experience**

### **Accessible Academics, Amherst, NY**

*Chief Executive Officer*, January 2015 – Present

- Provide academic tutoring and advocacy, and teach independent living skills to college students with disabilities
- Assess student academic skill level, then develop and implement interventions to support skill deficits
- Recruit prospective board members and serve as liaison between the board and the organization
- Develop a sustainable funding stream through grants and public philanthropy
- Develop and manage an intern and volunteer program
- Manage all aspects of the organization, including human resources, payroll, and administration

### **UB Curriculum, University at Buffalo**

*Teaching Assistant*, August 2018 – Present

- Teach two online sections of UBC 399 UB Capstone to undergraduate students
- Promote and guide faculty in how to use Digication e-Portfolios in their classes
- Lead Digication orientations

### **Center for Educational Innovation, University at Buffalo**

*Graduate Assistant*, September 2016 – August 2018

- Assist in implementation of the University at Buffalo Excellence in Course Instruction Through Enquiry (UB EXCITE) initiative
- Developed workshops to teach faculty and post-doctorates about inclusion in their

- classroom and Universal Design for Learning
- Support faculty in redesigning their large-enrollment courses to improve student retention and achievement
- Collect observational and survey data to assess the progress of the redesign
- Developed and taught a workshop series on self-regulated learning to undergraduate students in Evolutionary Biology (BIO 200) and Cell Biology (BIO 201)
- Trained undergraduate TAs on how to facilitate collaborative learning for Peer-Led Team Learning sessions with their students

### **The Gersh Experience, North Tonawanda, NY**

- *Director of Academics & Director of Volunteers*, September 2012-June 2015 • Provide academic tutoring and mentorship to 30 college students with autism and other developmental disabilities
- Train and supervise tutors to ensure that students are receiving appropriate services
- Develop and deliver curriculum for academic and nutrition workshops
- Create and maintain weekly and daily schedules for all staff and students
- Designed and implemented an assessment tool utilizing Smartsheets to track skill achievement
- Designed The Gersh Experience Intern Program and recruited and managed 5 volunteers per semester
- Developed training curriculum and conducted weekly volunteer training

### **Cheektowaga High School, Cheektowaga, NY**

*Student Teacher*, January—February 2011

- Taught Honors Biology, General Anatomy & Physiology, and two classes of College-Level Anatomy & Physiology
- Developed entire 8-week genetics curriculum as well as the muscular system, nervous system, special senses, and endocrine system units for General Anatomy and College-Level Anatomy
- For all three classes, introduced creative instructional materials to meet individual learning styles. Incorporated technology into the classroom including web quests and online case studies. Implemented project and problem-based learning techniques to enhance instruction.
- Integrated study-skill mini-lessons into the curriculum for the General Anatomy students focusing on skills such as study-group formation, flash cards, and concept mapping
- Conducted after-school biology study-groups to help students prepare for the Regents Exam
- Active member of Conservation Club

### **Mill Middle School, Williamsville, NY**

*Student teacher*, March 2011—May 2011

- Taught 5 classes of 7<sup>th</sup> grade biology, developing the Genetics and Human Body units • Infused Smart Board and Elmo technology with online Prezi presentations to create highly interactive lessons

- Conducted early-morning review sessions for students which focused on study skills as well as incorporated hands-on activities to deepen content understanding
- Implemented differentiated project-based learning techniques to enhance instruction and student understanding of the material
- Collected data on student progress using CPS clickers – Students took pre-assessment questions at the start of each unit and a post-assessment at the end of each unit to determine student accomplishment of unit learning goals.

### **Research Experience**

- *Research Assistant*, August 2015-August 2016
  - Evaluate the effectiveness of the CLIMB program, which provides supplemental support to underrepresented students in the graduate school of Biomedical Sciences at the University at Buffalo.
- *Principal Investigator*, August 2015 – March 2016
  - Repeat of the 2013 research on the admissions experience of students who are underrepresented in medicine at UB School of Medicine.
- *Principal Investigator*, February 2014-May 2014
  - Completed a collective case study of social interactions among college students with autism within a residential support program.
- *Principal Investigator*, September 2013-December 2013
  - Conducted a case study on the experience of a young adult with high functioning autism and bipolar disorder as he navigates his first semester of college with the support of a transition program.
- *Principal Investigator*, January 2013 – June 2013
  - Conducted research for UB School of Medicine to determine why accepted underrepresented students did not choose to attend UB and how the school can improve their enrollment of underrepresented students. Research was mixed methods, including the development and implementation of a survey instrument, and completion of interviews.

### **Publications & Presentations**

- Showers, A., Rates, C. Rotundo, R., & Liu, X. (2018, June). *Redesign of large enrollment STEM gateway courses and measures of success* presented at the annual meeting of the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, Sherbrook, Canada.
- Showers, A. H. & Kinsman, J. W. (2017). Factors that contribute to college success for students with learning disabilities. *Learning Disability Quarterly*, 40(2), 81-90. doi: 10.1177/0731948717690115
- Liu, X, Rates, C., Showers, A., Hutson, L., & Baumstark, T. (in press). Enhancing student engagement and performance through course redesign by incorporating active learning. In J.J. Mintzes and E.M. Walter, Eds. *Active learning in college science: The case for evidence based practice*. Berlin: Springer Nature.