

## Rebecca Marie Sheffield

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### Education

Texas Tech University

August 2011 - present | Candidate, Ph.D. program in Special Education

- Anticipated graduation August, 2014
- M.Ed., Special Education (December, 2011)
- Certified Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (December, 2010)
- GPA: 4.0/4.0 for all graduate coursework
- Working title for dissertation: *Qualitative Investigation of the Experience of Quality of Life for Young Adults Who Are Blind*

Texas Teaching Fellows

- Standard Teaching Certificate, Special Education (May, 2007)

Rice University

May 2003 | B.A., Psychology

- GPA: 3.38/4.0

### Publications

Peer-reviewed

Barnard-Brak, L., Wei, T., Schmidt, M., & Sheffield, R. (in press). Inclusivity in the classroom and international achievement in mathematics and science. *International Journal of Educational Reform*.

Non-peer-reviewed

Sheffield, R. (2013, August 6). CRPD committee reports at a glance. *DISES Newsletter*. Retrieved from <http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1102539686512-303/Committee+Reports+at+a+Glance+Rebecca+Sheffield.pdf>

Sheffield, R. (2013, March 18). The global struggle for disability rights: An Interview with Richard Rieser. Retrieved from <http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1102539686512-270/Sheffield+Interview+1.pdf>

### Invited Lectures

Sheffield, R. (October 2-3, 2013). *Person-centered planning*.

Presented for conference of leaders of organizations for women with disabilities in Central-Eurasia. Conference in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; lecture delivered via video conferencing from the United States

Sheffield, R. (October 2-3, 2013). *Strategies for improving access to important, complex information about personal health and rights*.

Presented for conference of leaders of organizations for women with disabilities in Central-Eurasia. Conference in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; lecture delivered via video conferencing from the United States

## Conference Presentations

Confirmed to Present:

Sheffield, R. (March 27, 2014). *Not another YouTube Video! Accommodating for videos and other multi-media materials in inclusive classrooms*

Will present at the Texas Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired Conference in Austin, Texas.

Sheffield, R. (May, 2014). Searching for non-visual access in a sighted world.

Will present at the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois.

Sheffield, R. (July-August, 2014). Quality of life for young adults who are blind: What we know and what we can do with quality of life research.

Will present at the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired International Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Presented:

Sheffield, R. (May 16, 2013). *Autoethnographic websites & personal portfolios: New sites for special education advocacy & literacy instruction*

Presented at the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana-Champaign.

Sheffield, R. & Skivington, M. (April 4, 2013). *The UNCRPD: Global indicators of the educational rights of persons with disabilities*

Presented at the Council for Exceptional Children's annual Convention and Expo, San Antonio.

Sheffield, R. (July, 2012). *Sharing a world of experiences.*

Presented at the Council for Exceptional Children's Division for International Special Education and Services Round Table, Sligo, Ireland.

Mauro, T. & Sheffield, R. (July, 2012). *The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.*

Presented at the Council for Exceptional Children Division for International Special Education and Services Round Table, Sligo, Ireland.

## Courses Taught

University Internship Supervisor **Fall, 2013, and Spring, 2014**

Texas Tech University | College of Education

EDSP 5093 Internship in Special Education; supervision for seven pre-certification graduate students including on-site observations and evaluation. Traveled to Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Arkansas for on-site observations of interns. Supervising additional students with travel planned to New Jersey and Georgia in Spring, 2014.

Instructor **Spring, 2013**

Texas Tech University | College of Education

EDSP 3302 Assessment and Program Planning in Special Education

Instructor **Fall, 2012**

Texas Tech University | College of Education

EDSP 3300 Exceptional Children and Youth

Graduate Teaching Assistant **Spring, 2012**

Texas Tech University | College of Education

EDSP 5389 Instructional Strategies for Individuals with Visual and Multiple Impairments or Deafblindness (distance delivery), with Dr. Holly Cooper

## Guest Lectures

Differentiating instruction: High-tech and low-tech teaching in inclusive classrooms **October, 2013**

Texas Tech University | College of Education EDSP 3300 Exceptional Children and Youth

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities **October 4, 2012**

Texas Tech University | College of Human Sciences Dept. of Human Development & Family Studies

Students with Low-Incidence Disabilities **February 28, 2012**

Texas Tech University | College of Education EDSP 3300 Exceptional Children and Youth

## Workshops

Workshop facilitator **March 16-17, 2013, and February 15, 2014**

Texas Tech University | Texas School for the Blind

Assisted with event organization, preparations, and delivery during Texas Tech's "Technology Weekend" for graduate students in the visual impairment certification program.

Workshop facilitator and presenter **April 28-29, 2012**

Texas Tech University | Texas School for the Blind

Assisted with event organization and presented two sessions (Introduction to JAWS and Introduction to Bookshare) during Texas Tech's "Technology Weekend" for graduate students in the visual impairment certification program.

International Workshop Facilitator, Consultant and Presenter **March 9-23, 2012**

Texas Tech University | Helen Keller International | Perkins School for the Blind | USAID

Workshop for Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments, University of Makeni, Makeni, Sierra Leone; with Dr. Amy Parker and Ms. Phoebe Okungu. Workshop was followed by consultant activities to support the University of Makeni's development of a training and certification program for teachers of students with visual impairments.

## Additional Contributions

- Presently contributing to advocacy efforts in support of the United States' ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including:

- development and management of Students4CRPD Facebook group and webpage; Campus Call Day for the CRPD
- development of educational advocacy videos for social networking campaigns (July 2012 – present).
- Facilitated the reorganization of course syllabi templates for the Texas Tech College of Education Special Education programs (Summer 2012).
- With fellow doctoral students, prepared grant proposal to be submitted to the Institute of Educational Sciences (Summer 2012)
- Participated in the re-writing and new design of course syllabi for the Texas Tech doctoral program in special education (Fall 2011 – Spring 2012)
- With fellow doctoral students, conducted program evaluation activities for the Orientation and Mobility program at Texas Tech (Fall 2012)

## Leadership

President **April 2012 – April 2013**

Education Graduate Student Organization | Texas Tech University

Helped the EGSO to more fully include the distance graduate students, have overseen a successful New Graduate Student Orientation for the College of Ed (with access for face-to-face and distance students), have directed and developed an informative web and social-media presence, and have initiated multiple fundraising opportunities.

Graduate Student Representative **October 2012 – April 2013**

Human Resources/Faculty Awards Committee | Texas Tech University College of Education

Membership & Communications Committees **August 2012** - present

Division for International Special Education Services (DISES) | Council for Exceptional Children

Assisted in email and web-based communications for the Division, including designing and submitting monthly new/lapsed/renewing member emails. Designed “at a glance” CRPD implementation reviews for DISES website.

Treasurer **October 2011** – April 2012

Education Graduate Student Organization | Texas Tech University

Graduate Student Representative **August 2011** - present

Sowell Center Advisory Board | Texas Tech University

Secretary **June 2010** – July 2011

Board of Directors CASA of Central Texas

## Work Experience

University Internship Supervisor **Fall, 2013, and Spring, 2014**

Texas Tech University | College of Education

Public Policy Intern **May 2013** – July 2013

American Foundation for the Blind | Washington, D.C.

- co-managed Anne Sullivan Macy Act National Call-In Day, 2013, including website development, social media campaigning, and inter-agency networking
- independently and collaboratively represented the American Foundation for the Blind in legislative advocacy efforts dealing with multiple policy issues
- provided research assistance to the Public Policy Director, Mark Richert, Esq.

Graduate Part-Time Instructor **August 2012** – May 2013

Texas Tech University | Lubbock, Texas

- field placement observations and evaluations of student teachers in Lubbock-area public schools
- instructor for undergraduate, general education and special education teacher candidates
- syllabus revision, lesson planning, content delivery, and assessment

Graduate Assistant **August 2012** – July 2012

Texas Tech University | Lubbock, Texas

- Assisted Dr. Robin Lock with online courses, professional communications, and manuscript submissions.
- Developed website and brochure in preparation for marketing Texas Tech's proposed Ph.D. program in Special Education, under the supervision of Dr. Rona Poggrund.
- Assisted Dr. Roseanna Davidson with program-wide syllabi revision project and grant writing activities.

Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments **August 2009**– July 2011

Comal Independent School District | Comal County, Texas

- Itinerant teacher for 15 students with low vision and blindness, grades K-12, as well as infants in the Homespun Early Childhood Intervention Program
- Responsible for the district-wide adoption of Bookshare digital texts and software for students with reading disabilities, orthopedic impairments, and visual impairments. Coordinated and lead staff training sessions and support Bookshare registration.
- Promoted community awareness of visual impairment and services through creation of departmental website for parents and students, through participation in radio broadcast and other events, and through organization of information table and parent forum during district's Special Education Agency Night.
- Developed and organized the first Holiday Party for Students with Visual Impairment (2009), involving local business support and students from New Braunfels and Comal Independent School Districts. Organized second annual event in December, 2010. Supported 2011 event as a volunteer.

Essential Academics Teacher **August 2007** – June 2009

Bill Brown Elementary School | Comal Independent School District | Comal County, Texas

Store Operations Development Manager **March 2006** – April 2007

Charming Charlie | Houston, Texas

Technology Support Specialist II **July 2003** – April 2005

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools & Katapultz, Inc. | Nashville, Tennessee

Intern – Summer Institute **February 2003** – May 2003

Teach for America | Houston, Texas

## **Awards and Recognition**

### **Texas Tech University College of Education Graduate Student Travel Award**

Awarded funding to attend 2014 International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry (Urbana-Champagne, Illinois) and 2012 Division of International Special Education Round Table (Sligo, Ireland)

### **Delta Gamma Foundation Fellowship**

Awarded travel stipend to attend the 2014 American Foundation for the Blind leadership conference

### **National Leadership Consortium in Sensory Disabilities Fellowship**

Fully-funded, national fellowship for doctoral students in sensory impairment fields (Office of Special Education Programs), Cohort 2 (2011 – present)

### **Helen DeVitt Jones Part-Time Graduate Student Scholarship – Texas Tech University**

Scholarship recipient (2010-2011)

### **Reach Across Texas**

Grant recipient (2009-2011)

### **United States State Department - U.S. Embassy, Stockholm, Sweden**

Selected for and served in Summer Internship in Information Resource Management (May 2002 - August 2002), Secret level security clearance