

**EDUCATION:**

**Argosy University, October 2014**

**Doctor of Education, Teaching and Learning**

Concentration: American History

Dissertation: "*A Comparative Study of Secondary Social Science Teachers' Perspectives on Instructional Methods and the Impact of Those Methods on Student Proficiencies in Historical Literacy*," chaired by Dr. Rosine M. Dougherty; Committee: Dr. Carmen Larson and Dr. George M. Spagnola

**University of South Florida, December 2006**

**Master of Arts in Teaching, Secondary Social Science Education**

**Florida State University, May 2003**

**Bachelor of Science, Interdisciplinary Social Science**

Concentrations: History, Anthropology, Sociology

**CERTIFICATIONS AND ENDORSEMENTS:**

Florida Educators Certification: Social Science, 6-12; Language Arts, 5-9; Gifted Endorsement

**EMPLOYMENT:**

- *Secondary Social Science Teacher*, Sarasota Middle School (2013 – present)
- *Secondary Social Science Teacher*, Sarasota Virtual Academy (2012 – 2013)
- *Secondary Social Science Teacher*, Booker Middle School (2007 – 2012)
- *Assistant-Teacher, Upper-elementary*, New Gate Montessori School (2005 – 2007)

**TEACHING FIELDS:**

- Middle school: Medieval and Renaissance, Civics, World Geography, United States History, Ancient Civilizations, and Critical Thinking
- High school: Speech and Debate, World History, and American History

**RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE:**

- *Education Class 9; Leadership Florida* (2024-present)
- *Nonprofit Leadership Team; University of South Florida College of Education Alumni Society* (2022-present)
- *Nonprofit Co-founder and Executive Board Member; Florida Council for History Education* (2016-present)
- *Time to Teach National Trainer; Empowering Educators, LLC and Center for Teacher Effectiveness* (2009-present)
- *School and District History Day Contest Coordinator for National History Day Florida affiliate* (2008-present)
- *Cooperating Teacher for University of South Florida Internships; Sarasota Middle School* (Fall 2015 & Spring 2019)
- *Social Studies Department Chair and Collaborative Planning Team Lead; Sarasota Middle School* (2017-2023)
- *Conference Proposal Reviewer; National Council for the Social Studies* (March 2016)
- *Research Assistant at The Washington Papers, University of Virginia* (Summer 2015)
- *Sarasota Teaching American History Grant Participant & Steering Committee Member* (2010-2013)
- *Team Leader for the Gifted & Talented Academy and Curriculum Coordinator for 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade; Booker Middle School* (2009-2012)
- *National History Day Contest Judge* (2011)

**CONFERENCE PRESENTER/PANELIST:**

- *Promoting Inquiry Through Historical Literacy* (Speaker)  
Facing History & Ourselves, Building Belonging: Online Conversation Space for School Leaders (October 2025)
- *Defining Democracy in the Early Republic: Who are "the People"?*  
SOURCES Annual Conference, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL (January 2024)  
National Council for History Education Annual Conference, Cincinnati, OH (March 2024)
- *Beyond Names, Dates, and Dead People: Teaching Historical Literacy and Critical Thinking to Affect Change*  
Venice branch of the American Association of University Women, Venice, FL (March 2023)  
Pelican Pointe Women's Association Current Topics Event, Venice, FL (February 2024)
- *Celebrating Excellence: Professional Learning with Florida Teachers of the Year* (Panelist)  
The David C. Anchin Center, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (September 2023)
- *Critical Conversations about the Early Republic: Connecting Higher Education, Public History Institutions, and K-12 Learning* (Panelist)  
Society for Historians of the Early Republic conference, Philadelphia, PA (July 2023)
- *Uncovering Lost Voices in American History Colloquium* (Master Teacher)  
National Council for History Education, St. Augustine, FL (April 2023)
- *How great teachers can overcome pandemics, hurricanes, and everything else...* (Panelist)  
Leadership Sarasota Education Day, Sarasota, FL (March 2023)
- *Don't Make Me Repeat Myself: Teaching Contextualization to Effect Change*  
SOURCES Annual Conference, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL (January 2023)
- 2023 Florida Teacher of the Year Finalists Panel – *Current Challenges and Needs in Education*  
FSBA/FADSS Annual Joint Conference, Tampa, FL (December 2022)

- *Empowering Students: Relationships, Rigor, Responsiveness* (Keynote)  
Education Foundation of Sarasota, Sarasota, FL (October 2022)
- *Don't Make Me Repeat Myself: Teaching Contextualization to Effect Change*  
Florida Council for the Social Studies Conference, Virtual (February 2021)  
SOURCES Annual Conference, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL (January 2023)
- *Yellow Roses, Sashes, and Signs: Voices of the Women's Suffrage Movement*  
National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference, Austin, TX (November 2019)  
SOURCES Annual Conference, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL (January 2019)
- *La Florida: Bringing New Content to Florida Teachers*  
Florida Council for the Social Studies Conference, Orlando, FL (October 2019)
- *Creating a Partnership to Advocate for History to Get History in the Forefront of All Levels of Education*  
Florida Conference of Historians Annual Meeting, New College of Florida, Sarasota, FL (February 2019)
- *Contextualizing Equality: Founding Fathers and Founding Principles*  
Florida Council for the Social Studies Conference, Orlando, FL (October 2018)  
SOURCES Annual Conference, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL (January 2018)
- *Inspiration and Implementation: Empowering Teachers and Students Through National History Day*  
Florida Council for History Education Annual Conference, Tampa, FL (August 2017 and July 2018)
- *La Florida: A Spanish Borderland and the 14th Colony*  
Florida Council for the Social Studies Conference, Palm Harbor, FL (October 2017)  
National Council for History Education Conference, Niagara Falls, NY (April 2016)  
SOURCES Annual Conference, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL (January 2016)
- *Connections to the Caribbean: Washington's Encounters in Barbados*  
SOURCES Annual Conference, University of Central Florida (January 2016)
- *Education and Business: Challenges and Prospects in Historical Thinking*  
10<sup>th</sup> Annual Argosy University College of Business Conference, Sarasota Campus (June 2012)

#### **AWARDS:**

- *Florida Teacher of the Year Top Five Finalist* (2023), State of Florida
- *Middle School and District Teacher of the Year* (2022), Sarasota County Schools
- *History Teacher of the Year nominee* (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021), The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History
- *James F. Harris Teacher Award middle school winner* (2018), Florida History Day
- *Outstanding Social Studies Teacher of the Year for Sarasota County Schools* (2016-2017), Florida Council for the Social Studies
- *Mayflower Outstanding Teacher Award*; Florida History Fair (2016), National History Day affiliate
- *Florida's 16<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Teacher Award Recipient* (2016), United States Congressman Vern Buchanan
- *Outstanding American History Teacher of the Year* (2013), Daughters of the American Revolution, Sara DeSoto Chapter