

Natasha Cooke-Nieves

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EDUCATION

Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY
Ed.D in Elementary Science Education, May 2011
Dissertation Title: *A Collaborative Diagonal Learning Network: The Role of Formal and Informal Professional Development in Elementary Science Reform*

City University of New York: Brooklyn College, CUNY

Master of Science in Education, June 2001

Major: Childhood Science and Environmental Education

Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York

Bachelor of Arts, May 1996

Major: Biopsychology; Minor: Africana Studies

WORK EXPERIENCE

9/11-present

Senior Specialist in Science and Teacher Education, Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Program, The American Museum of Natural History

- Graduate course co-instructor of two courses: *Space Systems* and *Methods and Assessments in Student Science Research* for pre-service Earth Science education majors.
- As part of MAT Faculty, assist in planning and implementation of MAT mentoring program and MAT Summer I and school residency placements with two cohorts of pre-service Earth Science teacher candidates. Co-taught *Informal Residency Seminar*
- Provide professional development to administration and content teacher mentors in high needs public partner schools. Monthly school based seminars focus on areas of co-teaching models, mentoring tools, teaching strategies, assessment and pre-service teacher residency curriculum.

9/07-present

Education Specialist, New York State Education Department

- Develop question items (multiple choice, constructed response, and extended constructed response); Edit item writer submissions for New York State Science Exam-grade four; Review, edit and evaluate questions from field test results for New York State Science Exam-grade four

9/08-9/11

Instructional Content Specialist-Math & Science, Children First Network (CFN) #110, New York City Department of Education

- Assisted 21 schools with curriculum development and student assessment strategies within the content areas of math and science.
- Established an annual network-wide science fair with school winners represented from all 21 preK-12 schools.
- Provided principals, administrators, and personnel within each school with guidance and resources (i.e. one-on-one support, strategic coaching).
- Coordinated inter-visitations for principals, lead teachers and coaches with focused instructional class walkthroughs.
- Evaluated new schools for quality reviews.
- Facilitated collaborative inquiry team meetings providing support in analyzing student work and planning instruction accordingly. Lead network in the customization of services, pilot programs and initiatives to meet the unique needs of principals and schools. Advise other team members on student service-related questions.
- Network Pilot Lead- participated in the year-long pilot program implementing Common Core ELA Standards; provided in-school support that included coaching and participation/facilitation of teacher team meetings; consulted principal with implementation of PD emphasizing the use of informational and complex texts to inform curriculum planning and student task assessments.

1/04-6/11

Adjunct Lecturer, Education Department, City University of New York: Brooklyn College

- Graduate course instructor for four courses: *Foundations and Analysis of Teaching I* and *Teaching and Learning Science in Childhood Education* and Undergraduate course instructor: *Biology and Chemistry in Everyday Life* and *Natural Science in Early Childhood and Early Education* for pre-service education majors.

9/06-6/08

Science Coach, PS/MS 282, New York City Department of Education

- Provided professional development in science content and pedagogy through demo lessons, workshops, and lesson planning for all classroom teachers.
- Started afterschool science club
- Revamped science fair to include math, design, and engineering (robotics) –newly named STEM Fair

9/97 - 6/06

Science Cluster Teacher, PS 282, New York City Department of Education

- Designed and taught lessons in general science for 2nd - 6th grades.
- Promoted student inquiry through daily hands-on investigations of practical and theoretical scientific concepts.
- Established a weeklong school wide science fair for all grades that included a Family Science Night

HONORS/AWARDS

Milken Educator Award Recipient, New York State (2010)
Albert Shanker Grant Awardee for National Board Certification (01'-02')
Dewitt-Wallace/ Reader's Digest Pathways to Teaching Scholarship (99'-02')
Vassar Club of New York Scholar (92'-96')

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

State Reviewer, Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (5/13-present)
Member, State Leadership Team for Next Generation Science Standards, New York State Education Department. (6/11-present)
Education Reviewer, AMNH Science Scholars Award (2014)
Professional Developer, with scientific team from the American Museum of Natural History in collaboration with South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA) Geography Institute on the Mineral Resources of South Africa for High School Teachers, Pretoria, South Africa (August 16-20, 2010)
Web Mentor, www.teachersnetwork.org (08'-11')
Board Member, Science Education Advisory Board- ECLIPSE, New York State Education Department. (5/06- 5/08)
Accepted Participant, TRUST Earth Science Institute, Supervisor Cohort American Museum of Natural History (04'-05')
Board Member, Goldman Sachs Teaching Quality Forum, Bank Street College of Education (03'-04')

CERTIFICATIONS

National Board Certification- Science, Early Adolescence (2004)
New York State- School District Leader (SDL) (2013)
New York State- School Building Leader (SBL) (2013)
New York State- Common Branch, PreK-6 (2002)
New York State- Biology & General Science, 7-12 (1997)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Educational Research Association (AERA)
National Association for Research in Science Teaching (NARST)
National Science Teacher Association (NSTA)
Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD)
National Staff Development Council (NSDC)
Association for Science Teacher Education (ASTE)
New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS)
Elementary School Science Association of New York City (ESSA)
Science Supervisors Association of New York City (SSA)
Science Teacher Association of New York State (STANYS)

RECENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Contino, Julie & Cooke-Nieves, N. (2013, January). The Missing Ingredient in Science Teacher Preparation: The Role of the Senior Specialist. Paper presented at the Association for Science Teacher Education Annual International Conference, Charleston, South Carolina

Cooke, N. & Moore Mensah, F. (2009, January). The Emergent Teacher Voice: Identity Development of Preservice Elementary Teachers. Paper presented at the Association for Science Teacher Education Annual International Conference, Hartford, Connecticut.

Cooke, N. (2007, March). TRUST. Paper presented at the National Association for Research in Science Teaching Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana.

PUBLISHED WORK

Cooke, N. (2008-2011). *How to Teach Elementary Science*.

<http://teachersnetwork.org/NTNY/nychelp/science/index.htm>

Homemade Habitat -Edible Birdhouse Bonanza; Science Notebooks: How to Assess; Why are Field Trips Important; Light Reflection; Science Fair Projects are fun!; Science Project Grading Rubric ; Science Technology Family Night; Science Workshop Model Lesson Plan; Observation Activities; Ideas for Differentiating Your Science Classroom; Electromagnets!; Finding the Volume of Irregularly Shaped Objects; The Five E's: A lesson plan model; Ideas for Science Notebooking; Science Notebooking: How to get started

WORK IN PROGRESS

Cooke-Nieves, N. (2011). *Preservice Elementary Teachers and Science Teacher Identity*. (In Progress).

Cooke, N. (2001). *Elementary Students Learning Using Video Science Module*, Unpublished Masters thesis, Brooklyn College, City University of New York.

Cooke-Nieves, N. (2011). *A Collaborative "Diagonal" Learning Network: The Role of Professional Development in Elementary Science Reform*, Unpublished doctoral thesis, Teacher's College, Columbia University.