JENIFER B. VANEK

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Summary of Skills & Knowledge

- *Teacher educator focused on digital literacy, blended learning, and adult English language learning*
- *Researcher, international conference presenter, author of publications on education programming, professional development, educational technology, education policy, and second language acquisition*
- *10 years+ experience as an adult basic education and adult ESL classroom teacher*
- *Ed tech project manager responsible for design, evaluation, budget administration, and staff supervision*

Education

University of Minnesota, College of Education and Human Development, Second Language Education.
   Doctor or Philosophy. June, 2017

University of Illinois-Chicago, College of Liberal Arts
   Master of Arts, Linguistics (MA TESOL), 1996

Iowa State University, College of Liberal Arts.
   Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, with Distinction, 1991

Professional Experience - Consulting

Ed Tech Center at World Education, Inc., Boston (2015 – present)

Director of Digital Learning and Research

- Ed Tech Field Testing - Technical advisor supporting the design and successful implementation of field testing for selected educational technology tools; contribute to the analysis of ed tech effectiveness
- Massachusetts ESOL Standards for Adult Education – Collaborate with MA Dept. of Education staff and teachers to develop integrated, leveled ESOL standards aligned with relevant technology standards
- NELRC Professional Development - Design and facilitate webinar series on technology integration and digital civics titled "Civics in a Digital World," facilitate on online discussion to support teacher work in coordination with webinars

Director of the IDEAL Consortium

- Convene and nurture network of adult education leaders from across the U.S. engaged in developing or improving distance and blended learning opportunities for adult learners in their states.
- Facilitate both in-person and online community of practice, generating opportunities for program improvement in member states
- Continuously update IDEAL authored publications and online professional development curricula for adult education teachers and program administrators
- Provide technical support to member leaders in areas of NRS policy, ed tech & instructional strategies
- Represent the work of the Consortium at professional conferences and meetings

Minnesota Literacy Council, St. Paul (2007 – July 2018)

Northstar Digital Literacy Assessment Project – Executive Team/Ed. Coordinator (2011 – July 2018)

- Co-led project from inception; supported development resulting in over 2 million assessments completed
- Set up digital badging process, resulting in awarding of digital badges to over 50,000 participants
- Lead research and project development to continuously update standards and assessment

Learner Web Regional Administrator for Minnesota (2007 – July 2018)

- Coordinated development and authored online curricula on career pathways, ESL, and digital literacy, including suite of digital literacy curricula accessed by over 12,000 learners across the U.S.
- Ttrained 100+ teachers to use curricula in MN, resulting in over 80,000 learner hours since 2011
- Authored learning objects on the topics of career pathways and digital literacy
- Broadband Technologies & Opportunities Program (BTOP) – Online Curriculum Coordinator (2010 – 2013)

Minnesota Teachers of English to Speakers of other Languages

Technical Editor and Senior Editor of the MinneTESOL Journal (2015 – present)

- Facilitate publication activities in peer reviewed research and practitioner journal
- Formatted and published over 50 manuscripts for the biannual peer reviewed online journal
- Maintain website and liaise with the developer on website improvements and technical issues
- Developed strategic plans for the journal with editorial board and other senior editors

Minnesota Department of Education

ABE Distance Learning Leadership Team (2009 – 2015)

- Initiated partnership between MN Department of Education and Project IDEAL in 2010
- Provided professional development and technical support regarding online learning for teachers in over half of the ABE consortia in Minnesota
- Co-authored (with the Leadership Team) self-paced professional development courses on seamless classroom technology integration and distance learning

MN Department of Employment and Economic Development, St. Paul

Professional Development Online Content Developer and Facilitator (2010 – 2014)

- Authored PD curricula on adult career pathways programming for low-literacy adults in the US
- Created several courses in a content management system, embedded with self-authored learning objects
- Facilitated community of practice discussion forum in the content management system

Professional Employment - Teaching

University of Minnesota, College of Education & Human Development
Second Language Education Program in College of Education and Human Development (2013 – July 2018)

- Teach graduate level courses on assessment and second language acquisition
- Authored and taught blended learning courses in the TESL Minor program: Basics of ESL Instruction, Linguistics for Teachers, and Practical Language Learning for International Communication
- Coordinated TESOL Minor program from 2013-2015: advising students, mentoring teachers, and building visibility of the minor at the University

St Paul Public Schools Adult Basic Education, Ronald M. Hubbs Center
English language/ABE Instructor (2002-2011)

- Taught workplace ESL to recently arrived refugees and immigrants
- Created workplace ESL curricula for an assembly facility employing adults with disabilities
- Established the Digital Education Lab and developed digital literacy programming in Learner Web for learners and supervised AmeriCorp staff
- Developed online and classroom programming and provided instruction to job seekers at the Ramsey County Workforce Center on work readiness and preparation for the National Work Readiness Credential

Research

Supporting Teachers: Classroom Technology Integration and Teaching Digital Literacy

- Authored commissioned research to practice brief for PIAAC/American Institutes of Research on Problem Solving in Technology Rich Environments
- Conducted several research projects exploring the impact of ubiquitous technology on learners and use of technology in teaching and learning in ABE
- Utilized a range of research perspectives, including: focusing on learner identity and digital literacy, supporting instructors with limited technology skills, and supporting volunteers/service corps members in their work as untrained digital literacy teachers
- Employed qualitative research methodologies, including participatory strategies to ensure relevance of research for the ABE field (i.e., Participatory Action Research and Design Based Research)
- Successfully published numerous articles in peer-reviewed education and linguistics journals, practitioner publications, books for adult educators, and online publications

Language and Education Policy

- Conducted case study and critical discourse analysis in two research projects analyzing the impact of language and education policy on adult ESL instruction in ABE programs
- Published an article reporting on my research in the Journal of Language Policy and one chapter in press

Facebook and Language Arts for Somali Youth

- Conducted research two consecutive summers at charter high school serving Somali youth
- Co-authored curriculum for blended learning courses to facilitate study on use of Facebook for English language instruction for refugee youth
- Co-authored two published articles in peer-reviewed academic journals

Selected Publications, Presentations, and Authored Courses

Recent Publications

Vanek, J., King, K., and Bigelow, M. (2018). Social Presence and Identity: Facebook in an English Language Classroom. *Journal of Language, Identity & Education*, 1–19.

Vanek, J. (2018). Technology, mobility, and transnational reality: Reconsidering the speech community. *Proceedings from the Second Language Acquisition Symposium.* April, 2017. University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

Bigelow, M., Vanek, J., King, K., & Abdi, N. (2017). Literacy as social (media) practice: Refugee youth and home language literacy at school. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations, Special issue: Cultural and Academic Adjustment of Refugee Youth in Educational Settings*, 60, 183-197.

Vanek, J. (2017). *Using the PIAAC Framework for Problem Solving in Technology Rich Environments to Guide Instruction: An Introduction for Adult Educators*. Research to practice brief. Washington DC. American Institutes for Research.

Rosen, D. and Vanek, J. (2017). Technology for innovation and change in adult education, literacy, and English language learning in the US. In A. Belzer (Ed), *New Directions in Adult and Continuing Education. Turning Points: Recent Trends in Adult Basic Literacy, Numeracy and Language Education*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 51-60.

Rosin, M., Vanek, J., and Webber, A. (2017). How investment in technology can accelerate collective impact in adult learning. Boston: World Education, Inc. and Aztec Software.

Vanek J. (2016). Book review: Blended learning for the adult education classroom. *Journal of Research and Practice for Adult Literacy, Secondary, and Basic Education*, 5(1). p. 72-75.

Vanek, J., Simpson, D., Johnston, J., and Petty, L. (2016) *IDEAL distance and blended learning handbook.* Boston: World Education, Inc.

Vanek, J. and Johnston, J. (2015). Enhancing the digital skills of English language learners studying at a distance. *TESOL Adult Interest Section Newsletter. TESOL International Association.*

Recent Presentations

Vanek, J., Olszewski, B., and Goonan, D., (June, 2018). Equity for non-traditional students: ISTE standards in adult learning. *ISTE 2018 International Conference*. Chicago, IL.

Vanek, J. (March, 2018). Digital Literacy, Computer Vocabulary, and English Language Learning: An Inseparable Combination. *Conference on Adult Basic Education (COABE)*. Phoenix, AZ.

Vanek, J. (March, 2018). What is Blended Learning? Real Implementation Examples from IDEAL Consortium States. *Conference on Adult Basic Education (COABE)*. Phoenix, AZ.

Vanek, J. (March, 2018). Problem Solving in a Digital World: Using PIAAC's PS-TRE to Support Learning. *Conference on Adult Basic Education (COABE)*. Phoenix, AZ.

Vanek, J. (November, 2017). Fostering technology skills and tools for learning and employability for all. Panel discussion convener and moderator. National College Transitions Conference. Providence, RI

Vanek, J. (October, 2017) Blended learning: What does this instructional model look like in Adult Basic Education? *Conference on Adult Basic Education – Virtual Conference*. Online.

Rosen, D., Constantakis, P., Kattan, S., Aalami, J and Vanek, J. (September, 2017). Blended learning: Leveraging technology to advance adult learning. ProLiteracy Conference. Featured presentation invited panelist. Minneapolis, MN.

Vanek, J. (April, 2017). Technology, mobility, and transnational reality: Reconsidering the speech community. Second Language Acquisition Symposium. Plenary session invited panelist. University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN.

Vanek, J. (April, 2017). The Digital Homeroom: A resource to help teach computer skills to low-literacy adults. *Conference on Adult Basic Education (COABE)*. Orlando. OR

Vanek, J. (November, 2016). Involved instruction: Leveraging technology in distance and blended learning. Preconference workshop. National College Transitions Conference. Providence, RI

Selected Authored Online Courses

IDEAL Consortium Courses. (2016 – present). Created content and collaborated in development of online PD to support creation and implementation of blended learning in ABE programs from IDEAL Consortium states

Minnesota FastTRAC Adult Career Pathway Online PD. (2013) Developed content, resources, and online community of practice for instructors, navigators, and administrators implementing new ACP programs.

Broadband Technology and Opportunities Program (BTOP) Digital Literacy. (2009). Project leader on creation of multiple online courses. Managed content experts & instructional design, created content, liaised with developer on software trajectory.

Awards and Grants

"Partner of the Year" Award, St. Paul Neighborhood Network, 2018
Awarded for outstanding engagement in community-based research and mentoring of AmeriCorp members supporting digital literacy of low-skilled adults

University of Minnesota Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, 2016-2017
Awarded to support innovative dissertation research recognized in a university-wide competition

Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition (CARLA), 2015
Summer Research Assistantship. Award based on my expertise working with Somali English language learners, research strengths, and facility with online technologies. Funding supported classroom research on use of Facebook for English language instruction in alternative school of Somali-refugee youth.

Technology Resources Used in Online Course Development

Articulate Engage and Storyline	Moodle	Schoology
Google Apps	Canvas	Word Press
Learner Web	Ning	Facebook