

Leah K. Vance-Berg

Curriculum Vitae

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Education

Doctor of Philosophy in Higher Education and Policy Studies

University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY - December 2021

Course Work: Higher Education Policy and Administration, Sociology, and Research Methods

Dissertation: *First-Generation Graduate Students' Experiences Navigating Graduate School*

Master of Science in Community and Leadership Development

University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY - December 2015

Course Work: Teaching Methods, Experiential Education, Leadership, and Research Methods

Study Abroad: Leadership Lessons from Prague

Thesis: *Family Support and the Educational Attainment of Female Youth in Appalachia*

Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and Extension Education

West Virginia University, Morgantown WV - May 2012

Course work specializing in: Communication, Teaching Methods, Agriculture Mechanics, Agriculture Business, and Leadership

Associates of Arts in Agriculture and Extension Education

Potomac State College of WVU, Keyser WV - May 2010

Course work specializing in: Communication, Animal Science, and Plant and Soil Sciences.

Professional Experience

Senior Academic Advisor

University of Kentucky First-Generation Student Services

May 2021-Current

- Implement research based advising and outreach techniques

- Collaborate with campus partners

- Engage with first-generation students from pre-matriculation through successful transitions through undergraduate years

- Determine demographic characteristics of first-generation students and provides associated advising and programming for community building, belongingness, and engagement

- Analyze data to inform first-generation student interventions from pre-matriculation through persistence to degree

- Advise first-generation scholarship recipient

- Assist in scholarship management

- Supervise social media intern

- Lead hiring committees

- Served on multi-department Explore First study abroad development team

- Represent the University in NASPA First-Gen Forward meetings as an advisory institution

Academic Coordinator

University of Kentucky Health Corps

August 2020-May 2021

- Assist students with contacting faculty about absences
- Provide support and guidance to students in persisting in courses while coping with COVID-19 related issues
- Connect students to appropriate academic resources
- Support faculty and staff with questions and concern related to COVID-19
- Collaborate with and provide up-to-date information to campus partners

Upward Bound Academic Liaison

Kentucky State University

June 2020-July 2020

- Provide virtual instruction to students
- Keep accurate records of student attendance
- Communicate directly with course instructors and guest speakers
- Communicate directly with students and parents to relay important updates and information

Communications Assistant

University of Kentucky Graduate School

August 2019-August 2020

- Assist in the development of training material for graduate teaching assistants
- Assist in the development of orientation material for new graduate students
- Create and distribute bi-weekly newsletter
- Manage Graduate School listserv
- Manage Graduate School social media accounts

Graduate Teaching Assistant

University of Kentucky Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching

May 2018-August 2020

- Assist in the development of training materials for graduate teaching assistants
- Develop and lead training workshops for graduate teaching assistants
- Conduct mid-semester feedbacks for faculty members and instructors to improve pedagogy
- Assist with the international faculty development program for faculty members from the Chinese Institute for Mining and Technology
- Support faculty in developing virtual course plans during the COVID-19 shut down

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Presentation U! at the University of Kentucky

May 2018-May 2019

- Co-develop GRE Preparation Seminar
- Co-present GRE Preparation Seminar monthly
- Serve as the primary instructor for UK 130: Developmental Writing
- Lead study skills workshops and communication workshops as requested
- Promote the Transformative Learning mission and programs across campus

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Academic Coaching at the University of Kentucky

August 2017-May 2018

- Conduct Individual Academic Coaching appointments with undergraduate students
- Follow up with students about academic progress after Individual Academic Coaching
- Connect with advisors about student goals and progress
- Assist in the development of workshops and student handouts
- Lead workshops on study skills
- Supervise peer coaches
- Lead trainings for undergraduate tutors and peer coaches
- Conduct undergraduate employee interviews
- Promote the Transformative Learning mission and Academic Coaching across campus

Site Supervisor

Energy Express: A Program of West Virginia University

May 2017-August 2017

- Supervise AmeriCorps members serving as classroom mentors
- Provide training to mentors on classroom instruction and management
- Support classroom mentors in the development of reading and writing programming for students age 5-12
- Conduct evaluations of mentors
- Manage site budget
- Assist students in their reading and writing development
- Contact community members and leaders to volunteer as guest readers
- Collaborate with community partners to develop service projects for staff
- Serve and eat family-style meals with students to foster healthy eating

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Presentation U! at the University of Kentucky

August 2016-May 2017

- Serve as the primary instructor of UK 110: Academic Essentials
- Supervise undergraduate Presentation U! Tutors
- Train and supervise undergraduate Peer Coaches
- Conduct Individual Academic Coaching appointments with undergraduate students
- Follow-up with students about academic progress after Individual Academic Coaching
- Lead workshops on study skills and presentation skills
- Conduct undergraduate employee interviews
- Promote the Transformative Learning mission and programs across campus

Vocational Agriculture Teacher

Greenbrier East High School

December 2014-June 2016

- Serve as a vocational agriculture teacher and FFA Advisor in a three-teacher department that is part of a 1,200-student high school
- Serve as instructor of all cooperative education, horticulture, floriculture, and livestock production classes
- Supervise FFA officers and members in leadership activities at local, state and national levels
- Supervise all chapter FFA activities and assist members in planning events
- Supervise student development of Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs
- Supervise student budgeting and record keeping for all Experience Programs
- Prepare and manage budgets for the agriculture education department and the FFA student organization

Graduate Teaching Assistantship

University of Kentucky Appalachian Studies Department

August 2013-May 2014

- Serve as recitation section leader for APP 200- Introduction to Appalachian Studies
- Assist with lecture sections
- Grade exams and papers
- Work directly with students to resolve issues

Summer Intern, University of Kentucky Appalachian Center

May 2013-August 2013

- Assist the STAY Project Steering Committee and members in preparing for the annual STAY Summer Institute
- Assist in marketing and registration for the Summer Institute
- Document events at the Summer Institute in both written form and pictures
- Assist the committee members with reviewing strategic plan and implement necessary changes
- Assist committee members in evaluation of the STAY Summer Institute

Graduate Teaching Assistantship, University of Kentucky Department of Agriculture Education Department

August 2012-May 2013

- Supervise lab sections of Methods of Teaching
- Assist with lecture sections of Curriculum Design
- Grade assignments
- Meet with students to discuss teaching strategies and lesson plans
- Assist with Agriculture Education Society functions

University Instruction

Career and Major Exploration: London Explore First

University of Kentucky

Co-Instructor

Summer 2023

Focus: Connect and Recover

College of Arts and Science at the University of Kentucky

Primary Instructor

Spring 2022

Academic Orientation

University of Kentucky

Primary Instructor

Fall 2021, Fall 2022, and Fall 2023

Introduction to Appalachian Studies-Online

College of Arts and Science at the University of Kentucky

Primary Instructor

Summer 2019 and Summer 2020

Developmental Writing

Transformative Learning at the University of Kentucky

Primary instructor under the supervision of Dr. Rachael Deel

Fall 2018

Academic Essentials

Transformative Learning at the University of Kentucky

Primary instructor under the supervision of Dr. Molly Reynolds

Fall 2016

Introduction to Appalachian Studies

Appalachian Studies Program at the University of Kentucky

Graduate Teaching Assistant-Recitation Section Instructor

Fall 2013 under the supervision of Dr. Ann Kingsolver

Spring 2014 under the supervision of Dr. Dwight Billings

Designing Curriculum and Assessment in Career and Technical Education

Community and Leadership Development at the University of Kentucky

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Spring 2013 under the supervision Dr. Rebekah Epps

Teaching Methods

Community and Leadership Development at the University of Kentucky
Graduate Teaching Assistant
Fall 2012 under the supervision of Dr. Brian Haynes

Publications

Guest, M.A., Carter-Stone, L., Vance-Berg, L. (2022) *Recovering the Commons, A Decade Later: Appalachian Commons and Possibilities for Interdisciplinary Research and Action*, Journal of Appalachian Studies, 27 (2): 177-186

Professional Conferences

Vance-Berg, L., Gill, K., Martin, M. (2024) *Launching a Career-Focused First-generation Study Abroad Program*. To be presented at the annual conference of NASPA, Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, Seattle, Washington, March 9-13

Vance-Berg, L. and Zimmerman J.N. (2022) *Lived Experiences of Rural First-Generation Graduate Students*. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society Annual Conference, Westminster, Colorado, August 4-7

Vance-Berg, L. (2022) *Driving without a Roadmap: First-generation Students' Experience Navigating Graduate School*. Presentation at the NASPA Conferences on Student Success, Baltimore, Maryland, June 26-29

Vance-Berg, L. (2022) *"My Dad Would Have been Prouder if I Stayed Home and Worked at Walmart." Experiences of Appalachian First-Generation Doctoral Students*. Presentation at the annual conference of the Appalachian Studies Association, Morgantown, West Virginia, March 11-14

Vance, L. (2021) *Lessons Learned: Online Teaching Strategies and Best-Practices* Presentation at the annual conference of the Appalachian Studies Association, Virtual, March 11-14

Ferrare, J., Miller, J., Simms, L., Vance, L. (2020) *The Multiple Ways of Being First: Exploring How Variable Forms of Social Capital Creation Differentially Shape the Experiences of First Generation College Students* Presentation at the annual conference of the Sociology of Education, Pacific Grove, California, February 21-23

Vance, L., Zimmerman, J. (2019) *Building an Understanding of Rural-First-Generation Graduate Students* Presentation at the annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, Richmond, Virginia, August 7-11

Vance, L. (2019) *We Ain't in the Mountains Anymore: First-Generation Graduate Students from Rural Appalachia* Presentation at the annual conference of the Appalachian Studies Association, Asheville, NC, March 14-17

Vance, L., Reynolds, M., Bradley, J. (2018) *Challenges, Changes, and Creating Success in an Academic Coaching Program* Presentation at the annual conference of the College Reading and

Learning Associate, Albuquerque, New Mexico October 24-27

Vance, L., Guest, M., Carter-Stone, L., Wiser, M. (2018) *Roundtable: The Future of Appalachian Studies* Presentation at conference of Appalachian Studies Association, Cincinnati, Ohio, April 5-7
Reynolds, M., Ferrell, D., Davenport, C., Lam, J, McGlynn, M., Vance, L. (2018) - *Put me in Coach!: Exploring the Motivation & Success of College Students who Self-Select an Academic Coach* Presentation at the annual conference of the American Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada, February 27-28

Vance, L. (2015) *Family Support and the Educational Aspirations of Female Youth in Appalachia.* Presentation at the annual conference of the Appalachian Studies Association, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee, March 27- 29

Research Projects

Brokering Persistence Pathways- A Study of Social Capital Creation Among First-Generation College Students

Principle Investigator: Joseph Ferrare

Interviews collected Fall 2016 and Spring 2017

This study seeks to examine the processes by which first-generation college students create social ties and social capital, and to explore the impact these processes have on their educational persistence.

Invited Presentations

First-Generation Graduate Students, University of Kentucky Graduate Student Congress General Meeting, February 10, 2022

A Discussion on Support Systems for First-Generation Students in the College of Arts & Sciences, Sponsored by the UK College of Arts and Sciences, Friday, September 18, 2020

Demystifying Appalachia Panel, sponsored by UK College of Education Inclusiveness Committee and the UK Appalachian Center, February 13, 2019

The Future of Appalachia Panel, Class meeting of Introduction to Appalachian Studies at the University of Kentucky, April 25, 2017

Professional Associations and Service

NASPA, Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education

Conference Proposal Reviewer

Appalachian Studies Association

2020 Conference Planning Committee

Education Committee Member

Journal of Research in Rural Education

Journal Reviewer

Rural Sociological Society

Rural Sociological Society Teaching and Curriculum RIG

University of Kentucky Graduate Appalachian Research Community

2017 GARC Symposium Co-Chair

2017-2018 & 2018-2019 GARC President

Honors and Awards

Nathan Vanderford Award for Excellence in Research on Graduate and Professional Students

University of Kentucky, 2022

Alpha Alpha Alpha Honor Society

University of Kentucky, 2021

EPE Dissertation Award

University of Kentucky Department of Education Policy Studies and Evaluation, 2019

Dissertation Fellowship

University of Kentucky Department of Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation, 2019

Volunteer Leader of the Year

Greenbrier County 4-H Program, 2017

Teaching Assistant of the Year

University of Kentucky Presentation U!, 2017

Phi Kappa Phi Honorary

University of Kentucky, 2014

Skills

- Tableau
- ProSAM
- Scholarship Universe
- Salesforce
- Canvas and Blackboard Learning Management Systems
- Team oriented
- Detail oriented
- Collaborative