**Sharon L. Thomas, MEd, NBCT**

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***Education***

**Master of Education**, College of Education, Towson University, Towson, Maryland. Major field: secondary education; research interests: high school literacy, school-wide reading programs, content area literacy. Advisor: Dr. Cynthia Hartzler-Miller. May 2005

**Bachelor of Arts**, College of Arts and Sciences, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia. Major field: English; minor fields: secondary education and political science. May 1989

***Professional Certifications***

**National Board Certification**, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, certified in Adolescent/Young Adult English Language Arts. December 2006

* Trained as a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Candidate Support Provider in 2007
* Co-facilitator of the Cecil County Public Schools NBC Candidate Support Network 2007-2017
* Renewed certification in 2015

**Writing Strategies Certification,** University of Kansas. September 2014

* Certified to teach and train others in the Strategic Instruction Model, specializing in the instruction of the writing strategies in the Expression Strand
* Member of the Cecil County Public Schools (CCPS) Writing Strategies Professional Learning Community (PLC), a collaborative endeavor involving learning the strategies and then creating professional development around them for all CCPS English, special education, social studies, and science teachers
* Attends SIM conferences to maintain certification every two years (conferences in 2015, 2017, and 2019 thus far)

**Education Experience**

***Education Consulting Experience***

*2023-present*

**Director of K-12 and Family Engagement Programs, Touchstones Discussion Group, Stevensville, Maryland**

* Manages all school-related sales of goods and services and provide prompt and professional customer support that advances Touchstones’ exceptional reputation.
* Proactively manages conference schedule (including proposal and conference deadlines) and marketing budget.
* Delivers training and programming as per grant outlines and support reporting requirements.
* Develops additional training materials needed to support educators through all stages of discussion leadership development, as needed and based on specific requests and feedback from educational partners or prospective partners.
* Identifies opportunities to introduce and expand the use of Touchstones training and curricula in teacher training programs at the undergraduate, post-secondary, and graduate educational levels.
* Coordinates with Executive Director and Director of Leadership Programs to learn about/attend other Touchstones programs for various adult populations, including community program participants, seniors, veterans, incarcerated adults, executives, and new audiences as projects arise.
* Supports Executive Director and other staff in the development and delivery of twice-annual art collection programming (evening discussion series/raffle/exhibition with discussion events, etc.).
* Works with staff on new projects that bring Touchstones to new audiences through special outreach or funding opportunities.

*2017-2023*

**Senior Consultant, East Region, Instructional Coaching Group (ICG), Lawrence, Kansas**

* Delivered workshops on Jim Knight’s instructional coaching model for teachers, instructional coaches, and administrators nationally and internationally
* Developed, administered, and provided candidate support for ICG’s pilot certification program for instructional coaches
* Wrote and edited content for ICG publications, including books (*Evaluating Instructional Coaching,* 2022, and *The Instructional Playbook*, 2020), workshop workbooks, facilitator guides, and professional development follow-up kits

*2017-2023*

**Instructional Coach and Consultant, Touchstones Discussion Project, Stevensville, Maryland**

* Trained and coached teachers, instructional coaches, and administrators in the Touchstones Discussion Project pedagogy
* Advocates for Touchstones Discussion as central to English language arts and social studies instruction in schools and as a vehicle for civil discourse in society

*2017-2018 school year*

**Certified SIM Professional Developer in Writing Strategies, Trenton City Public Schools, Trenton, New Jersey**

* Trained literacy coaches in the writing strategies curriculum from the Strategic Instructional Model from the Center for Research on Learning at the University of Kansas
* Developed (with Trenton’s Director of Humanities) follow-up support on writing instruction

***Teaching and Instructional Coaching Experience***

*2013-2017*

**English Teacher and Instructional Coach, North East High School,** Cecil County Public Schools, North East, Maryland

* Planned and assessed English courses for students in grades 9–11 in all settings
* Instructionally coached all English language arts teachers at their request (and teachers in other content areas at their request as permitted by the principal)
* Served as an in-house mentor for new teachers in all content areas
* Worked with the English lead teacher to develop in-house professional development for English teachers
* Worked with the principal to develop school-wide in-house professional development for all faculty members
* Worked with the CCPS English Instructional Coordinator and county-wide English Instructional Coach to design county-wide professional development for teachers
* Piloted new programs at both the school (English instructional coach, year-long block English 10 intervention) and county (Strategic Reading & Writing; University of Kansas Sentence Fundamentals, Sentence Proficiency, and Paragraph Writing pilots; textbook pilot; University of Kansas Differentiated Visual Tools [DVT] reading module pilot) levels
* Assisted in new teacher orientation at school and county levels
* Participated in county and state-level initiatives such as Grading and Reporting Committee, Common Core implementation, English 10 curriculum revision
* Assisted principal with special projects as assigned (writing and facilitating professional development, training teachers to lead professional development, School Improvement Team initiatives)

*2000–2013*

**English Teacher, Elkton High School**, Cecil County Public Schools, Elkton, Maryland

* Planned and assessed English courses for students in grades 9–11 in collaborative, heterogeneous, honors, and advanced placement classrooms
* Served as an intervention specialist for novice English teachers and teachers who teach state-tested areas
* Mentored new teachers at both department and school-wide levels
* Piloted new program at both the school (year-long block English 10 intervention) and county (Strategic Reading & Writing, University of Kansas Sentence Fundamentals, Sentence Proficiency, and Paragraph Writing pilots) levels
* Wrote, revised, and/or reviewed county curriculum for English teachers
* Presented English curricula to county English teachers and county curriculum council
* Assisted in new teacher orientation at department, school, and county levels
* Assisted with English intervention for students who struggle in passing their High School Assessments (Appropriate Assistance, Bridge Projects, English 10 and English 11 interventions)
* Participated in county and state level initiatives such as Maryland Governor’s Academy (2009), the CCPS Race to the Top application committee (2010), and the MSDE Teachers of the Year Race to the Top Summit (2011)
* Assisted principal with special projects as assigned (Grade Recoup, Excellence by Design, Maryland High School Assessment [HSA] interventions)

*2007–2011*

**Adjunct Instructor, College of Notre Dame,** Baltimore, Maryland

* Planned and assessed two graduate-level Teaching Reading and Writing in the Content Areas courses for teachers in Cecil County
* Taught educators how to embed literacy strategies into their daily lesson plans across age-groups and across disciplines
* Integrated new information from the Common Core State Standards and Race to the Top into existing literacy strategies curriculum to provide both instruction in a strategies-based philosophy and the Common Core close-reading philosophy

**Selected Curriculum Writing Experiences**

* “Implementing the Common Core State Standards” (online course for Maryland teachers developed in a partnership between Maryland Public Television and the Maryland State Department of Education), MPT and Maryland State Department of Education, 2012.
* English 10 Year-Block Intervention Course (course curriculum). Cecil County Public Schools, 2010.
* “Cultures in Conflict” (grade 10 unit curriculum revision). Cecil County Public Schools, 2008.
* “Crisis and Conflict” (grade 9 unit revision). Cecil County Public Schools, 2006.
* “Perceptions and Change II” (grade 9 unit revisions). Cecil County Public Schools, 2006.
* English 9 final exam (grade 9 county exam revisions). Cecil County Public Schools, 2006.
* “The Possibility of Evil,” “From Angela’s Ashes,” and “A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings” (grade 9 honors-level model lesson plans). Cecil County Public Schools, 2006.
* Honors English 10 final exam (county exam revisions). Cecil County Public Schools, 2006.
* Guidelines for incorporating novels into the Honors English curriculum. Cecil County Public Schools, 2006.
* “Challenging the System” (grade 10 unit curriculum revision). Cecil County Public Schools, 2005.
* Strategic Reading and Writing (course curriculum). Cecil County Public Schools, 2004.
* Freshman Seminar (revision of course curriculum). Cecil County Public Schools, 2003.

***Selected Additional Professional Development Experience***

*2002–2013*

**Professional Development Facilitator, Elkton High School Literacy/Instructional Program**, Cecil County Public Schools, Elkton, Maryland

* Wrote and implemented three multi-year school-wide literacy plans (2002–2005, 2005–2008, 2008–2011)
* Wrote, coordinated, and managed monthly staff development for teachers on instructional strategies and initiatives
* Served as the instructional support representative on the principal’s Instructional Cabinet
* Created and obtained instructional materials and provided assistance school-wide on request from teachers and as directed by principal
* Coordinated and facilitated monthly discussion groups to address faculty and administrative concerns
* Advocated for high school literacy and instructional concerns at the school, community, local, and state levels
* Provided support for new teachers each year in content area literacy, pedagogy, and English
* Provided support for teachers on improvement plans at school and county level
* Served as an instructional coach to train a CCPS instructional coach on the Sentence Writing pilot programs

*2012-2017*

**Participant, CCPS Secondary Writing Professional Learning Community**, Elkton, Maryland

* Engaged in collegial conversations about pilot program implementation
* Assisted in the transition from an administrator-directed to a teacher-directed PLC
* Created professional development modules for county-wide teacher introduction to the writing strategies

*2011-2012 school year*

**Master Teacher, Maryland State Department of Education**, Baltimore, Maryland

* Master Teacher positions were created by the state as a vehicle for implementing professional development related to Race to the Top policy and curriculum changes
* Presented on behalf of MSDE to summer Educator Effectiveness Academies (EEAs) in Baltimore City and Anne Arundel County for implementation of the Common Core Standards (CCSS)
* Worked with Cecil County leadership on modifications to the EEA presentations for county-wide presentations on the CCSS
* Facilitated, writes, and coordinates professional development on CCSS for all content areas at Elkton High School

*October 2009*

**Instructional Coaches Training Participant, Kansas Coaching Project, Instructional Coaching Institute,** Lawrence, Kansas

* Completed instructional coach training with Jim Knight
* Began implementation of KU coaching partnership principles in Elkton High School professional development and mentoring
* Supported CCPS instructional coaches at EHS in enlisting teachers to participate in the new coaching model

***Selected Conference Presentations***

Thomas, S. (2017, March). The future of school reform: From Common Core and PARCC to Trump and DeVos. Presented at the Cecil County Teaching & Learning Spring Conference, Rising Sun, Maryland.

Thomas, S. (2016, March and November). Teacher-Led PD: The How and Why. Presented at the Cecil County Teaching & Learning Spring Conference, Elkton, Maryland.

Thomas, S. (2016, March). Engaging Students with TeachRock.org. Presented at county-wide professional development session. Cecil County Public Schools. Perryville, Maryland.

Thomas, S. (2014, summer). Changing the Game: The Evolution of Lesson Planning in Implementing the Common Core State Standards. Presented at the Kent County, Baltimore County, Wicomico County, and Montgomery County Educator Effectiveness Academies for the Maryland State Department of Education. Chestertown, Towson, Salisbury, and Rockville, Maryland.

Thomas, S. (2014, March). Changing the Game: The Evolution of Lesson Planning in Implementing the Common Core State Standards. Presented at the Maryland Assessment Group (Mini-MAG) conference. Chesapeake College, Wye Mills, Maryland.

Thomas, S. (2013, summer). The CCPS Writing Program: Changing the Game in the Secondary Schools. Presented to county administrators at their summer leadership academy to foster understanding of our writing initiatives geared toward implementing the Common Core State Standards. Cecil County Public Schools. Elkton, Maryland.

Thomas, S. (2013, April). Generalization in the Sentence Writing Program. Presented at county-wide middle and high school language arts professional development session. Cecil County Public Schools. Rising Sun, Maryland.

Thomas S., Bitel, S., & Chuch, K. (2013, April). Sentence Fundamentals: Scoring and Lessons Training. Presented at county-wide high school language arts professional development session. Cecil County Public Schools. Rising Sun, Maryland.

Thomas, S. (2011, November). Close Reading: The Coleman Approach. Presented at county-wide middle and high school language arts professional development session. Cecil County Public Schools, Rising Sun, Maryland.

Thomas, S. (2011, November). Depth and Complexity Icons in the High School English Classroom. Presented at county-wide middle and high school language arts professional development breakout session. Cecil County Public Schools, Rising Sun, Maryland.

Thomas, S. (2009, July). Nuts and Bolts: Creating a High School Literacy Program in the Real World. Presented at the Annual Conference of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, Atlanta, Georgia.

Thomas, S., O’Hara, K., & Luber, W. (2008, April). Beyond Strategies: Using Literacy to Guide High School Professional Development. Presented at the Annual Conference of the State of Maryland International Reading Association Council (SoMIRAC Literacy Initiative Award Winner Presentation), Hunt Valley, Maryland.

Thomas, S., & Spence, M. (November 2007/February 2008). So You Wanna Take Honors? Differentiating Instruction for High Achievers. Cecil County Public Schools, Rising Sun, Maryland.

Thomas, S. (2007, May). Nuts and Bolts: Creating a High School Literacy Program in the Real World. Presented at the Annual International Conference of the International Reading Association, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Thomas, S. (2007, March). Nuts and Bolts: Creating a High School Literacy Program in the Real World. Presented at the Annual Conference of the State of Maryland International Reading Association Council (SoMIRAC), Hunt Valley, Maryland.

Thomas, S. (2006, October). Nuts and Bolts: Creating a High School Literacy Program in the Real World. Presented at the Invitational Leadership Conference of the Council of Educational Administrative & Supervisory Organizations of Maryland (CEASOM), Hunt

Morrison, V., Spence, M., & Thomas, S. (2006, August). New English Teacher Orientation. Cecil County Public Schools, Perryville, Maryland.

Haberl, M., Thomas, S., & North, M. (2005, November). Implementing a Strategic Reading and Writing Course for Struggling Ninth Graders. Presented at the Invitational Leadership Conference of the Council of Educational Administrative & Supervisory Organizations of Maryland (CEASOM), Hunt Valley, Maryland.

Morrison, V., Thomas, S., & Hudson, E. (2005, July). Vertical Teams Workshop for Middle and High School English Language Arts Teachers. Cecil County Public Schools, Rising Sun, Maryland.

Morrison, V., Thomas, S., & Spence, M. (2005, September). Vertical Teams Workshop for High School English Language Arts Teacher. Cecil County Public Schools, Rising Sun, Maryland.

Haberl, M., Thomas, S., & Sindorf, J. (2005, March). Implementing a Strategic Reading and Writing Course for Struggling Ninth Graders. Presented at the State of Maryland International Reading Association (SoMIRAC) 33rd Annual Conference, Hunt Valley, Maryland.

***Public Education Advocacy Experience***

*February 2015-2018*

**Founder and Coordinator, Cecil County Teacher Leadership Network,** Cecil County, Maryland.

* Developed an independent, nonprofit organization to foster strong public schools by providing free, high-quality, professional development for teachers in the areas of instructional capacity, teacher leadership, and public education advocacy
* Sought and obtained partnerships with the local school system, teachers’ association, local businesses, higher education agencies, and the public library
* Oversaw the organization and implementation of two Teaching & Learning Conferences each school year from logistics to content
* Oversaw the development and implementation of the strategic planning process and implementation of that plan
* Solicited feedback from all stakeholders twice a year to improve the organization
* Mentored future TLN leaders and developed a structure for transfer of organization leadership

*22 January 2015*

**Representative, Maryland State Department of Education contingent to the U.S. Department of Education,** Washington, DC

Met with representatives of USDE (including Secretary of Education John King), MSDE, and Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) to provide feedback on the first year of PARCC assessments and to provide guidance on the future of standardized assessment

**Selected Public Speaking Engagements**

* Featured speaker at Southern Regional Education Board College- and Career-Readiness Standards Networking Conference (upcoming: July 2018), presentation titled “Instructional Coaching: Partnership and Praxis”
* Featured speaker at the State of Maryland International Reading Association (SoMIRAC) Annual Conference (upcoming: April 2018) presentation titled “Teacher Leadership in Literacy: Partners in Practice” Speaking engagement at CCPS Administrative Professionals Annual Meeting (August 2012), speech titled, “Staying Positive in a Negative World”
* Speaking engagement at CCPS Education Leadership Retreat (August 2009), speech titled “To Dream More, To Learn More, To Do More, To Become More”
* Speaking engagement at Bohemia Manor Middle School back-to-school celebration (August 2009), speech titled “Help Me Help You”
* Speaking engagement at 5th Grade Student Commencement Exercises, Gilpin Manor Elementary School (June 2009), speech titled “Go Forth and Dream”
* Speaking engagement at CCPS 2009 Teacher of the Year gala (April 2009), speech titled “I’m Not Worthy”
* Participation in a group panel discussion with fellow Teachers of the Year and Student Education Association members at Frostburg State University (March 2009)
* Participation in a group panel discussion with fellow NBCTs and Student Education Association members at Towson University (November 2008)
* Speaking engagement at CCPS 25-, 30-, and 40-Year Employee Recognition Dinner (November 2008), speech titled “The Legacy of Service”
* Speaking engagement at CCPS New Teacher Orientation Luncheon (August 2008), speech titled “If You Want My Advice…”
* Speaking engagement at Cecil County Retired School Personnel Association luncheon (May 2008), speech titled “Well Deserved”
* Speaking engagement at CCPS Board of Education Meeting (April 2008), speech titled “Serving Our Nation”
* Speaking engagements at Elkton High School National Honor Society Inductions by request of students (May 2008, May 2009, and May 2010)

***Selected Published Works***

Knight, J., Hoffman, A., Harris, M., & Thomas, S. (2020). *The Instructional Playbook: The Missing Link for Translating Research Into Practice.* Lawrence, KS: One Fine Bird Press.

Thomas, S. (2014, December) What teachers need: Support in a time of reform. *Principal Leadership, 15*(4), 46-50.

Thomas, S. (2003, Summer). Professors you love: Picky writing rules: Ralph Cohen made me a better teacher. *Montpelier*, 26(3), 12–13.

Thomas, S., Knight, J., Hoffman, A., & Harris, M. (2022). *Evaluating Instructional Coaching: People, Programs, and Partnership.* Alexandria, VA: ASCD/One Fine Bird Press.

***Professional Associations***

* Cecil County Council of the International Literacy Association (Vice President, 2008; President, 2009-2011, Past President, 2011-2012)
* International Literacy Association
* Learning Forward
* National Council of Teachers of English
* ASCD

***Honors and Awards***

* Finalist, 2008 Maryland State Teacher of the Year, Maryland State Department of Education
* 2008-2009 Cecil County Teacher of the Year, Cecil County Public Schools
* SoMIRAC Literacy Initiative Award, awarded by the State of Maryland International Reading Association Council, November 2007
* Golden Book Award recipient, awarded by the Cecil County Council of the International Reading Association, May 2006
* Excellence in Education Award recipient, awarded by the College of Education, Towson University, May 2006
* Excellence in Feature Writing recipient, awarded by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), for Montpelier article, 2003

***Publishing House Experience***

*1993–2000*

**Freelance Editor and Production Manager, North East, Maryland**

* Managed the production of medical, legal, and business publications (journals, books, newsletters, and manuals from manuscript to blueline)
* Served as a liaison among editorial board members, authors, and publications personnel
* Organized and facilitated the use of other freelance professionals at various stages of production

*1991–1993*

**Associate Editor, Aspen Publishers, Inc.**, Journals Division, Gaithersburg, Maryland

* Oversaw the production process of six quarterly medical and legal journals from manuscript to blueline
* Managed the freelance copyeditor network, revised the copyeditor guide, and streamlined freelance contractor procedures
* Served as a liaison among editorial board members, authors, and publications personnel
* Promoted from assistant editor to associate editor within one year of hire

*1989–1991*

**Assistant Editor, American Diabetes Association**, Professional Publications Division, Alexandria, Virginia

* Copyedited, proofread, and oversaw production of highly technical medical journals and clinician publications
* Assisted in design and layout of monthly and bimonthly clinician newsletters and journals