

# Cecelia Boswell, Ed.D.

Founder, Austin Creek Education Systems

## Education

Ed.D.*	Curriculum and Instruction	2001, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX
M.Ed.	Education Administration	1984, Tarleton State University, Stephenville, TX
B.A.	Spanish/English, Secondary	1971, Tarleton State University, Stephenville, TX
B.A.	Elementary Education	1987, McMurry University, Abilene, TX

\*Received Edward Chance Rural Dissertation of the Year Award, National Rural Education Association, Albuquerque, NM.

### Current and Recent Projects:

Research for Texas International Baccalaureate Schools: Analysis of impact of IB, Diploma Programme on TAKS achievement (2008-present)  
Immediate Past President/Chair of Elections Committee. Texas Association for Gifted/Talented  
Audit of Advanced Academic Services. Texas Independent School Districts  
Texas Education Agency. Development of on-line curriculum courses  
Education Service Centers, Texas: Professional development.  
Local Education Agencies.: A variety of projects related to revamping of identification processes and curriculum development; On-site professional development 2005-2008

## Professional Experience

April 2005-Present

### Contract/Independent Consultant

As an independent consultant I have provided services for Texas International Baccalaureate Schools, Florida Department of Education (WOGI- Working with Gifted Issues), Colorado Department of Education: North Central Region, Texas Education Agency (TEA), national conferences, Independent School Districts, and the twenty regional Education Service Centers across Texas.

Book: *Response to Intervention for the Gifted*, April, 2010, Educational Impressions: NJ.

### Immediate Past President, Chair of Elections Committee, Texas Association for Gifted and Talented

President, TAGT, 2009-2010

Elected Board member for West Texas region 2004-2008

President-Elect, 2008

### International Baccalaureate

International Baccalaureate of Texas has funded my research for the past two years and is funding further research for 2010 and 2011. Research presentations have been made in Texas, California, and Quebec, Canada.

### Colorado

I presented Rtl book at conference with Colorado Department of Education: North Central Region.

## Florida

My work as a program analyst offered expertise developed from similar projects in Texas\* in Florida's efforts to revamp their *Curriculum Development for the Gifted*. In addition, I was an invited keynote speaker for their summer *Working with Gifted Issues* conference. In this keynote I addressed my work with projects completed as Director of AP/IB Projects for TEA, Advanced Academic Services, with relevance and insight for Florida educators. Currently, I am co-authoring a book with colleagues in Florida's Department of Education and the University of North Florida.

## Texas

My work with TEA, Advanced Academic Services, offered the opportunity to develop content and oversee six (6) on-line courses for teachers of the gifted across the state. In this work, I authored each course, worked with technicians to produce the courses on-line, recruited and trained Education Service Center (ESC) consultants at pilot sites to field-test sample courses, and trained all ESC consultants for full implementation of the courses.

Another project developed for TEA, Advanced Academic Services, is the *Teacher Toolkit II* which will provide a curriculum evaluation tool for Advanced Placement® educators. The toolkit is based on a curriculum evaluation process I developed while working with the AP® Task Force project.\* I have written the content for the toolkit, worked with technical development, created the training module, and provided professional development to the twenty Education Service Center consultants who will furnish the toolkit to their regional educators.

As *ex officio* member of the TEA/ESC Leadership Team, I have provided professional development as requested and co-developed a goal setting project with and for the ESC Advanced Academics consultants.

## Independent School Districts

Program evaluation for gifted education and on-site Professional Development are the services I have provided to a variety of school districts across Texas. Program Evaluations include document reviews, interviews, observations, and final formal reports on the state of gifted services in their districts.

Professional Development opportunities have ranged from one day, six-hour update sessions on numerous topics\*\* to week-long thirty-hour basic training in gifted education for local educational district faculties.

## National Conferences

I was an invited speaker at the California, Georgia, Texas, and National Associations for the Gifted conferences during the past ten years. These presentations centered on my work with curriculum development for the gifted and AP curriculum analysis.

## Education Service Centers (ESC)

Conference keynote addresses and an array of Professional Development sessions are the bulk of the work with the twenty ESCs. I provide previously- and newly-developed six-hour sessions\*\*\* to meet the needs of regional educators.

\* see *Director, AP/IB Projects, 2001-2005*

\*\* see *Selected Presentations*

\*\*\* see personal website: [www.austin-creek.com](http://www.austin-creek.com)

September 2004-April 2005

**Program Specialist**

As a program specialist for special projects at Tarleton State University, I created, developed, wrote, and facilitated advanced curriculum as a part of a Texas A & M system special project.

2001-2005

**Director, Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate (AP/IB) Projects**

Texas Education Agency, Advanced Academics Services, provided me the opportunity to develop and direct AP/IB projects with the regional Education Service Centers (ESC) across Texas.

AP/IB Project

As director of AP/IB projects, I wrote the RFA for the twenty ESCs, directed all projects, developed and monitored all budgets, provided on-site technical assistance for each, and worked with Texas Education Agency personnel to complete the project. My responsibilities also included development of a final report and compendium of each project that defined their work, evaluation of their strengths and areas for improvement, and produced an analysis of each project.

All projects with the Education Service Centers focused on Advanced Placement. In order to offer insight with International Baccalaureate, I worked with Luther Burbank High School, San Antonio ISD, to develop an IB project. Luther Burbank is a Title I school with a majority of their IB Diploma Programme students from homes of low socioeconomic status. I was able to visit on-site with all students in grades 9-12 who were preparing for or completing their IB Diploma Programme. Their insights, issues, concerns, accomplishments, and joys added to my knowledge of the IB Diploma Programme. During this time, I also had the opportunity to attend an overview session provided by Ann Wink concerning the PYP and MYP programs. These foundational pieces added to my knowledge of the value of IB for students from all walks of life.

AP Task Force

Another project that stemmed from the original AP/IB work was the *AP Task Force* project. This work included creation of and budgetary responsibility for a task force to evaluate Advanced Placement® materials for their inclusion or exclusion of differentiation for the gifted learner. The final work developed by the team has been disseminated across the state, been presented at administrator's conferences throughout Texas, has formed the basis for the *Teacher Toolkit II*, and has been shared with Florida as they work to develop new curriculum standards for their state.

Scope & Sequence Project

*Teacher Toolkit I*, developed for educators in Texas to facilitate research required through the *Texas Performance Standards Project* (TPSP) for gifted students, was created from a scope and sequence project I initiated as a part of the initial AP/IB Project. The product we, two ESC consultants and I, developed became the basis for the *Teacher Toolkit I*.

Small Schools Guide for Gifted Education

This guide was developed according to a need determined from the original AP/IB Projects. All ESCs discovered that the majority of their districts were either small or rural or both. Most were Title I schools. For this state-wide project I developed the

format for the collection of information, held focus-group sessions across the state, and produced the final product. Working with two contracted consultants, the final product was developed and disseminated across the state through the twenty ESCs and at a variety of administrator and teacher conferences.

1989-2001

**Consultant**

In this position I was the consultant for Language Arts (1989-1990) and Gifted/Talented (later Advanced Academics) from 1990-2001 at Region 14 Education Service Center in Abilene, Texas.

In this position, I was the regional contact for forty-three (43) independent school districts (ISD) within a ninety mile range of Abilene. I developed and maintained my budget for a cooperative that included ISDs in the region. As consultant for the cooperative, my responsibilities included providing technical assistance, professional development, and other services requested by the ISD or individual educators. I also participated in Texas Education Agency/Education Service Center Leadership Team meetings as determined by the TEA Advanced Academics office.

It was also my job to determine best practices for each district based on their nature and need. As a part of the best practice, I suggested program delivery systems, means of identification for gifted students, wrote and disseminated appropriate curriculum, and provided on-site student seminars for gifted students, K-12, throughout the region.

**Since the majority of the districts in this region were small and rural, I focused my doctoral work and dissertation topic on their needs. I also co-founded the Small and Rural Schools Conference. The conference included, and still includes, six regional ESCs who serve a large number of rural districts. I was the keynote speaker for the 2007 conference.**

1971-2000

**Teacher/Instructor/Coordinator**

As an educator in public schools, I have taught students K-12, coached academic teams, taught GED, Junior College and graduate classes, and coordinated gifted, bilingual/ESL, and Title I Migrant Programs.

Teacher

My teaching career began as a Title I migrant teacher in a **small school district**. I was responsible for children of migratory farm workers in Kindergarten through grade 12. With the freedom to design the services I provided, I held pull-out classes and team-taught in the regular classroom as dictated by the needs of the students. I was also responsible for the direction of teacher aides who helped with the students. In this position, I not only taught the students, but also made home visits, provided parent meetings and seminars, and worked with a local migrant clinic to provide medical and social services to the children and their parents. It was also my responsibility to maintain a budget for all program services.

**As a part of a small school district**, I was offered the opportunity to work with all students as they prepared for academic competitions. I was the coach for University Interscholastic League (Texas) Number Sense and Ready Writing competitions, leading the children to win district competitions for five years running.

I was also offered the opportunity to teach the gifted children in our elementary school. This position expanded to include grades K-8. I taught the classes for the

gifted, while also working with the academic competition teams, and maintained my work with the migrant students and their families.

### Coordinator

A part of my work with Title I migrant children also focused on coordinating all their services. This included testing and placement, paperwork associated with the national migrant reporting system, reports to the Education Service Center, budgeting, and solving social and medical issues as they arose.

During this time, I also coordinated, but did not teach, in the bilingual and ESL program services. Many of the duties in this position overlapped with those of the Title I Migrant Program coordination.

When I began teaching gifted children, I also became the coordinator for the program services. I tested and identified students, determined and wrote curriculum, worked with the parents of the gifted students, developed and maintained a small budget, and coordinated the services for the gifted with their regular classroom teachers.

### Instructor

I have had an assortment of opportunities as an instructor. The first was as a GED instructor for the local school district. As a part of these evening classes, a request was made to offer two high school courses that were all the students lacked for a high school diploma. It was my assignment to teach the two courses so that the students could earn a diploma instead of GED.

The second came as an instructor of night classes for an area junior college. Over the course of two years, I taught courses in beginning Spanish and English 101.

The next instructor's job was for two courses in gifted education in an Oklahoma University. For two consecutive summers, I taught a wide range of topics in gifted education for the university,

The last instructor's position was as an adjunct graduate instructor in gifted education for an Abilene, Texas University. This course was directed toward curriculum construction and evaluation as a part of a Master's Degree in Gifted Education.

1982-present

### **Business Owner**

Since 1982 my husband and I have owned Austin Creek, Inc. **The business, an environmental and agricultural company**, has grown to include our son as a partner.

### Austin Creek, Inc.

I have been president and vice-president in the corporation. While not a part of the day to day operations, I have participated in corporate meetings, planning, and goal setting for the organization.

### Austin Creek Education Systems

When I left the public education system, I developed my own business as a dba under the Austin Creek, Inc. umbrella. Austin Creek Education Systems (ACES) is an educational services business that provides professional development, curriculum development, and program/curriculum evaluation. I currently have one book published, two books at publishers for consideration, and a third book is ready for publishers' considerations.

## **Selected Presentations**

- 2010
- “Meet Them Where They Are”  
Texas Regional Education Service Centers: San Antonio,  
Lubbock, Abilene
- “Response to Intervention for the Gifted”  
Colorado Department of Education: North Central Region.
- 2009
- “Relevance, Rigor, and Eureka!”  
Texas Regional Education Service Centers: Lubbock,  
Kilgore, Wichita Falls, Abilene, Corpus Christi, Midland,  
Edinburg, Laredo  
National Association for Gifted Children, St. Louis, MO
- 2007-2006
- National Association for Gifted Children  
“Is It Gifted Enough? Differentiation for Secondary  
Students”  
Charlotte, NC
- Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented  
Pre Conference Presentation, “AP and the Gifted”  
Session Presentation, “On-Line Courses”  
Session Presentation, “Raising Expectations and  
Academic Rigor” Austin, TX
- Small Schools Conference for Gifted/Talented  
Keynote, “Rigor & Relevance for Gifted Learners,”  
Abilene, TX
- S.M.A.R.T. Conference, Region 1 ESC  
“Performance Standards Overview”  
“Gifted Education and Advanced Placement®”  
Laredo, TX
- Florida Working with Gifted Issues Conference  
“Advanced Placement and Differentiation with the Gifted”  
St. Augustine, FL
- California Gifted Education Conference  
“Is It Gifted Enough?”  
Palm Springs, California
- Georgia Gifted Education Association Conference  
“Is It Gifted Enough?”  
Athens, Georgia
- 2006-2005**
- Regions 1, 2, 3, 8 Education Service Centers  
Six-Hour Update training  
“Is It Gifted Enough?”  
“Rigor & Relevance”

“Models of Learning”  
Laredo, Corpus Christi, Mt. Pleasant, Texas

Region 9 Education Service Center  
“Tiered Assignments” and “Rigor & Relevance”  
Wichita Falls, Texas

Tarleton State University  
“Models of Learning,”  
Stephenville, Texas

Florida Department of Education  
“Rewriting a State Plan for Gifted Education, Curriculum”  
University of North Florida, Jacksonville, Florida

World conference for Gifted Education  
“AP Task Force”  
New Orleans, LA

Regions 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 ESC  
Six-Hour Update training  
“Is It Gifted Enough? And “Rigor & Relevance”  
Huntsville, Kilgore, Mt. Pleasant, Richardson, Austin,  
Abilene, San Angelo, Amarillo, Lubbock, Midland, Texas

Regions 8 and 17, Stephenville ISD and Belton ISD  
30 hour Basic Training in Gifted Education  
Mt. Pleasant, Lubbock, Stephenville, and Belton, TX

Region 9 Education Service Center  
Keynote Speaker, Conference for Technology and Gifted  
Educators  
Wichita Falls, Texas

**Mid Winter Conference**  
**“Small School Document for Gifted Education”**  
**Austin, Texas**

**2003-2004**

Belin-Blank Center for Gifted Education Conference  
Research Conference  
Presentation, “AP Task Force for the Gifted Learner”  
University of Iowa  
Iowa City, Iowa

Mid Winter Conference  
“AP Task Force Document”  
Austin, Texas

Texas Association of Secondary School Principals  
2004 Winter Conference

"AP Task Force Document"  
Austin, Texas

Texas Association for Gifted & Talented  
"AP/IB Task Force"  
Dallas, Texas

Texas Association for Secondary School Principals  
2004 Winter Conference  
"AP/IB Task Force"  
Austin, Texas

Wisconsin Association for Gifted and Talented  
"Texas AP/IB Initiative"  
Appleton, Wisconsin

2001 **National Rural Education Association**  
**"Rural Students' Perceptions of Leadership"**  
**Albuquerque, New Mexico**

1999 **Iowa Rural Research Conference for Gifted**  
**"Leadership for Rural High School Gifted Students"**  
**University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa**

1997 **National Association for Gifted Children**  
**"Leadership for Rural High School Gifted Students"**  
**Indianapolis, Indiana**

1996 American Educational Research Association  
"Leadership"  
Chicago, Illinois

1987-1989 Regions 11 and 15 Education Service Centers  
"Guiding the Gifted"  
Fort Worth, Texas and San Angelo, Texas

**Publications**  
2010 – 1985

*Response to Intervention for the Gifted*  
Educational Impressions, NJ

*President's Remarks*  
*TEMPO Magazine*  
4 issues, January 2009- December 2009

*Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin*  
Article, "Adult Learners"  
Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

*TEMPO*  
Article, "AP Task Force"  
Texas Association for Gifted and Talented

*Small School Guide for Gifted and Talented Services*  
Region 14 ESC and Texas Education Agency  
Abilene, Texas

*AP Task Force, AP Differentiation*  
Region 14 ESC and Texas Education Agency  
Abilene, Texas

*The Monitor*  
Local newspaper  
Book Reviews for Young Adult Literature  
De Leon, TX

*The Messenger*  
Regional Magazine  
Variety of Personal Interest articles  
Central Texas

Hendrick-Long Publishing  
Teacher's Guide and Student Activities  
Companions for Young Adult Literature by Judy Alter and  
Martha Tannery Jones  
Dallas, Texas

Gulf Publishing  
Teacher's Guide and Student Activities  
Companions for John Erickson's *Hank the Cowdog* Series  
Houston, Texas

Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin  
Article, "Are We Underutilizing Testing?"  
Austin, TX

*TEMPO*  
Article, "A How-To for Small Schools"  
Texas Association for Gifted and Talented

I have also written thirty-five (35) children's books for each of our grandchildren on the occasion of each one's birthday. I am working with a publisher to offer selected books for a wider market.

### **Community Service**

2006-2007

Chair, Research Division  
Texas Association for Gifted and Talented

2006-2008

Scholarship Chairman  
Gamma Zeta Chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma Society  
International

2004-2008	Elected Executive Board member Regional Director, Region 14 Texas Association for Gifted and Talented
1986-1989	Treasurer Iota Upsilon Chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
1980-1985	Den Mother Cub Scouts of America De Leon, Texas
1980-1986	Troop Leader Camp Fire Girls Organization De Leon, Texas

### **Professional Growth and Special Training**

1991- Present	Council for Exceptional Children 2008-2010 National Association for Gifted Children 2005-2010 Belin-Blank Center for Gifted Education Conference Research Conference Participant University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa  <i>2015 Conference</i> Looking Forward to Gifted Education, Texas Education Agency Invited Member Dallas, TX  Task Force <i>Poverty and Giftedness: The Equity Project</i> , Texas Education Agency Invited Member Austin, TX  Module Development Standardization of 30 hour training for Gifted Team Member Midland, TX  <i>Quality of Gifted Services</i> : Development of Standards for Excellence in Gifted Education, Texas Education Agency Team Member for development of evaluation document and on-site evaluation Austin, TX  <i>Seven Habits of Highly Effective People</i> Trainer of Trainers Abilene, TX
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Institute of Reality Therapy  
Basic Intensive Week  
Tarleton State University  
Stephenville, TX

TACTICS for Thinking  
Trainer of Trainers  
McREL Associates  
Corpus Christi, Texas

*Structure of Intellect*<sup>®</sup>  
Advanced Training  
Vida, Oregon

### **Professional Organizations**

1991-Current

Council for Exceptional Children  
Council for Exceptional Children-TAG  
National Association for Gifted Children  
National Rural Education Association  
Texas Association for the Gifted and Talented  
California Association for the Gifted and Talented  
Georgia Association for the Gifted and Talented  
Florida Association for the Gifted and Talented  
World Council for Gifted and Talented Children  
Delta Kappa Gamma  
Phi Delta Kappa  
Texas State Teachers' Association  
Texas Folklore Society