

## Curriculum Vitae

### **DR. DIANA J. LAROCCO**

**Address:** University of Hartford  
Department of Educational Leadership  
College of Education, Nursing, and Health Professions  
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200 Bloomfield Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06117

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### **PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT**

<b>Assistant Professor</b>	<b>University of Hartford</b> Department of Educational Leadership College of Education, Nursing, and Health Professions West Hartford, CT	<b>2003 - Present</b>
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#### Representative responsibilities:

- Teach doctoral level courses on research design, leadership, planning, and collaborative approaches to working with communities, schools, and families.
- Organize and supervise field-based school administrator internships, professional portfolio development, and related seminar.
- Serve as major advisor for dissertation research of six doctoral candidates.
- Received a Vincent Coffin Grant for the academic year 2005 - 2006 to conduct a study of Suburban Middle School Faculty Perceptions of their School as a Professional Learning Community.
- Serve as co-facilitator and developer of the Leadership and Policy Partnership, a consortium of higher education, public school, and non-profit entities dedicated to understanding policy and leadership issues that influence practice (With J. Houle).

<b>Director of Research and Grants</b>	<b>State of Connecticut</b> <b>Department of Mental Retardation</b> Central Office Hartford, CT	<b>2000 - 2003</b>
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#### Representative responsibilities:

- Developed policies and procedures for and established the State Department of Mental Retardation's first Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects (IRB).
- Conducted a national survey about staff development practices in state agencies with responsibility for serving persons with developmental disabilities.
- Gathered data on national best practices for providing services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities.

**Director of Research and Grants - continued**

- Served as lead staff and researcher for the Advisory Commission on Services and Supports for Persons with Developmental Disabilities, a legislatively mandated body that analyzed state-level services and supports and national trends.
- Promoted collaborative relationships with a variety of organizations including institutions of higher education, public and private agencies, and professional organizations.
- Served as the State Department of Mental Retardation Commissioner's appointed representative to the following state interagency grant advisory bodies:
  - Nursing Facilities Transition Grant Steering Committee
  - Real Choice Systems Change Grant Steering Committee
  - Early Childhood Data CONNections Grant Steering Committee
- Served as the State Department of Mental Retardation Commissioner's appointed representative to the Consumer Advisory Board for the University of Connecticut A.J. Papanikou Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities.
- Coordinated the work of the state-level Interagency Developmental Disabilities Workgroup.

**Adjunct Faculty****University of Hartford****1999 - 2003**

College of Education, Nursing, and Health  
Professions  
West Hartford, CT

Taught the following courses:

- EDD 830 (Doctoral Course) Advanced Planning - Summer, 2002
- EDD 851 (Doctoral Course) Doctoral Internship, Supervisor - Spring, 2002
- EDD 850 (Doctoral Course) Doctoral Internship, Supervisor - Fall, 2002
- EDA 610 (Graduate Course) Administrative Behavior - Spring, 2002
- EDD 830 (Doctoral Course) Advanced Planning - Summer, 2001
- EDD 833 (Doctoral Course) Integrating Services for Children and Families, Co-Instructor - Spring, 2001
- EDA 670 (Graduate Course) Field Experiences in Educational Administration and Supervision - Fall, 2000
- EDD 830 (Doctoral Course) Advanced Planning - Summer, 2000
- EDY 435 (Undergraduate Course) Programs and Curriculum Normal and Special Needs Infants and Toddlers - Spring 2000
- EDY 432 (Undergraduate Course) Infants and Toddlers: Development and Assessment - Fall, 1999

**Supervisor, Special Education**                      **Unified School District #3**                      **1996 - 2000**  
**North West Early Connections**  
**State of Connecticut**  
**Department of Mental Retardation**  
North West Region  
Waterbury, CT

Representative responsibilities:

- Administered comprehensive Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part C Birth to Three program for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.
- Supervised and evaluated special education teachers and related instructional staff.
- Developed and provided on-going staff training and development.
- Managed program budget and secured insurance reimbursement.
- Monitored program for compliance with state and federal mandates.
- Conducted ongoing staff development activities.

**Special Education Teacher**                      **Unified School District #3**                      **1990 - 1996**  
**North West Early Connections**  
**State of Connecticut**  
**Department of Mental Retardation**  
North West Region  
Waterbury, CT

- Birth to Three Program - Provided home- and community-based early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families as part of a transdisciplinary team.

**Project Coordinator**                      **Division of Child and Family Studies**                      **1987 - 1990**  
Department of Pediatrics  
University of Connecticut School of  
Medicine  
Farmington, CT

Representative responsibilities:

- Implemented a federally funded Multidisciplinary Training Model Demonstration Project and an Integrated Preschool Model Demonstration Project and a state funded Day Care Training Project.
- Developed curricula and project products.
- Implemented professional development.
- Collected and analyzed data and evaluated project goals.
- Supervised project staff.

**Special Education Teacher**                      **Unified School District #3**                      **1978 - 1987**  
**State of Connecticut**  
**Department of Mental Retardation**  
 Region I Northwest Center  
 Torrington, CT

- Birth to Three Program- Provided home- and community-based early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families as part of a transdisciplinary team.
- School Age Program - Provided functional education and community-based integrated educational services as part of a transdisciplinary team for children and youth ages three to twenty-one with severe disabilities.

**Mental Retardation Aide**                      **State of Connecticut**                      **1976 - 1978**  
**Department of Mental Retardation**  
 Region I Northwest Center  
 Torrington, CT

- Functional Education Program - Provided vocational and functional education programming for students with severe disabilities ages twelve to twenty-one.
- Community Living Program - Supervised adults with mental retardation, living in a group home, in all aspects of community living.

**Mental Retardation Aide**                      **State of Connecticut**                      **1973 - 1975**  
**Department of Mental Retardation**  
 Southbury Training School  
 Southbury, CT

- Residential Program - Provided direct care for children and adults with mental retardation and instructed them in activities of daily living.

## **REFEREED PUBLICATIONS**

LaRocco, D. J., & Bruns, D. A. (2005). Advocacy is only a phone call away: Strategies to make a difference on behalf of children and their families. *Young Exceptional Children*, 8(4), 11-18.

LaRocco, D. J., & Bruns, D. A. (2006). Practitioner to professor: An examination of second career academics' entry into academia. *Education*, 126, 626-639.

King, F. B., & LaRocco, D. J. (2006). E-journaling: A strategy to support student reflection and understanding. *Current Issues in Education*, 9(4).

## REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

### National and International Conferences

- Wheeler, D. S., & LaRocco, D. J. (2006, November). *Special education administrators: Avoiding job-related stress by collaborating with colleagues*. Research based presentation at the 17th Annual Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) Conference, a Division of the Council for Exceptional Children, Savannah, GA.
- LaRocco, D. J., & Bruns, D. A. (2006, October). *Nurturing early childhood special education professionals: Making the academy a second career*. Research based presentation at the 22nd Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families, Division for Early Childhood, a Division of the Council for Exceptional Children, Little Rock, AK.
- LaRocco, D. J., & Bruns, D. A. (2006, April). *So you want to be a professor: Reflections of experienced educational professionals who have transitioned to second careers in higher education*. Research paper presented at the American Educational Research Association's 2006 Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- LaRocco, D. J., & Bruns, D. A. (2006, April). *Practitioner to professor: Second career academics' perceptions of entry into the academy*. Research based presentation at the 2006 Council for Exceptional Children Annual Convention and Expo, Salt Lake City, UT.
- LaRocco, D. J., & Bruns, D. A. (2005, June). *Finding a balance: Junior university faculty reflect on their entry into academia*. Research based presentation at NAEYC's 14th National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development, Miami Beach, FL.
- Walsh, S., & LaRocco, D. J. (2005, June). *IDEA*. Presentation at NAEYC's 14th National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development, Miami Beach, FL.
- LaRocco, D. J., & Bruns, D. A. (2004, December). *Another prep?: New university faculty reflect on their entry to academia*. Research based presentation at the 20th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families, Division for Early Childhood, a Division of the Council for Exceptional Children, Chicago, IL.
- Bruder, M. B., Goodman, L., & LaRocco, D. J. (1988, December). A statewide system to support the integration of young children (age 1-5) with disabilities in community early childhood programs. Presentation at TASH Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

### Regional Conferences

- Calabrò, M., & LaRocco, D. J. (2006, October). *A qualitative investigation of primary teachers' intentional strategies for promoting development in early childhood*. Research paper presented at the 37th annual Northeast Educational Research Association Conference, Kerhonkson, NY.
- Gejda, L. M., & LaRocco, D. J. (2006, October). *Inquiry-based instruction in secondary science classrooms: A survey of teacher practice*. Research paper presented at the 37th annual Northeast Educational Research Association Conference, Kerhonkson, NY.
- Wheeler, D. S., & LaRocco, D. J. (2006, October). *Special education administrators tell us who supports them and what helps relieve their job-related stress*. Research paper presented at the 37th annual Northeast Educational Research Association Conference, Kerhonkson, NY.

- King, F. B., & LaRocco, D. J. (2004, October). *E-Journaling: A student and teacher aid to knowledge and understanding?* Paper presented at the 35th annual Northeast Educational Research Association Conference, Kerhonkson, NY.
- Bruder, M. B., LaRocco, D. J., Daguio, C., & Steadman, K. (1989, October). *Innovations in early intervention: Supporting preschoolers with special needs in community early childhood programs.* Presentation at TASH/NE Conference, Hartford, CT.
- LaRocco, D. J., & Sachs, S. (1989, April). *Caring for families together: Collaboration of day care and early intervention programs.* Presentation at 10th Annual Symposium of the Massachusetts Early Intervention Consortium, Marlborough, MA.

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

### National and International Conferences

- LaRocco, D. J., (2005, October). *Advocacy and you: The Basics.* Presentation at the 21st Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families, Division for Early Childhood, a Division of the Council for Exceptional Children, Portland, OR.
- LaRocco, D. J., Walsh, S., & Zeigler, D. (2005, October). *What's happening in Washington?* Presentation at the 21st Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families, Division for Early Childhood, a Division of the Council for Exceptional Children, Portland, OR.
- LaRocco, D. J., Walsh, S., & Zeigler, D. (2004, December). *Reauthorization of IDEA.* Presentation at the 20th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families, Division for Early Childhood, a Division of the Council for Exceptional Children, Chicago, IL.
- LaRocco, D. J., Walsh, S., & Zeigler, D. (2004, December). *What's happening in Washington?* Presentation at the 20th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families, Division for Early Childhood, a Division of the Council for Exceptional Children, Chicago, IL.
- LaRocco, D. J. (2003, October). *DEC's Federal policy panel.* Session Leader for Presentation at the 19th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families, Division for Early Childhood, a Division of the Council for Exceptional Children, Washington, DC.
- LaRocco, D. J., & Walsh, S. (2003, October). *DEC Capitol hill day.* Presentation at the 19th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families, Division for Early Childhood, a Division of the Council for Exceptional Children, Washington, DC.
- LaRocco, D. J., & Walsh, S. (2003, October). *Reauthorization of IDEA.* Presentation at the 19th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families, Division for Early Childhood, a Division of the Council for Exceptional Children, Washington, DC.
- LaRocco, D. J., & Walsh, S. (2003, October). *What's happening in Washington?* Presentation at the 19th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and Their Families, Division for Early Childhood, a Division of the Council for Exceptional Children, Washington, DC.

- Walsh, S., Zeigler, D., & LaRocco, D. J. (2002, December). *Reauthorization: IDEA*. Presentation at the International Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference: Recommended Practices for Changing Times, San Diego, CA.
- Walsh, S., Zeigler, D., & LaRocco, D. J. (2002, December). *What's Happening in Washington DC?* Presentation at the International Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference: Recommended Practices for Changing Times, San Diego, CA.
- Walsh, S., Zeigler, D., & LaRocco, D. J. (2001, December). *Reauthorization: IDEA*. Presentation at the International Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Early Childhood in the Millennium: Recommended Practices for the Future, Boston, MA.
- Walsh, S., Zeigler, D., & LaRocco, D. J. (2001, December). *What's Happening in Washington DC?* Presentation at the International Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Early Childhood in the Millennium: Recommended Practices for the Future, Boston, MA.

### **Regional, State, and Local Conferences and Meetings**

- LaRocco, D. J. (2005, February). *CT collaborative efforts: Autism and related developmental disabilities*. Presentation for the Yale Child Study Center, New Haven, CT.
- LaRocco, D. J. (2004, July). *Public awareness and advocacy strategies in support of early intervention*. Presentation for the Connecticut Subdivision of the, Division for Early Childhood, a Division of the Council for Exceptional Children, Middletown, CT.
- LaRocco, D. J. (2002, June). *Establishing a CAN Network*. Presentation at the Council for Exceptional Children and Youth Action Network Meeting, Arlington, VA.
- LaRocco, D. J. (2002, April). *Building collaborative teams*. Keynote address at CT State Department of Education: TEAM - Together Education About Movement, Cromwell, CT.
- LaRocco, D. J., & Staugaitis, D. (2002, May). *Advisory Commission on Services and Supports for Persons with Developmental Disabilities*. Presentation at Family Support Conference, Farmington, CT.
- LaRocco, D. J. (1997, September). *Building confidence and enhancing competence in the adult learner*. Presentation for Unified School District # 3, Early Connections, Waterbury, CT.
- LaRocco, D. J. (1989, August). Innovative programs for preschool children with special needs: Supported education in community early childhood programs. Presentation at Project SUNRISE Institute, Wrightsville Beach, NC.
- LaRocco, D. J. (1989, July). *Issues and factors to consider when developing community-based programs*. Presentation at "Trainer of Trainers" Summer Institute, Connecticut State Department of Education, EAST CONN, Mansfield, CT.
- LaRocco, D. J., Schonberg, C. K., & Vance, G. (1989, March). *Administrative issues in early childhood Special Education*. Presentation at Pediatric Research and Training Center 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Early Intervention Conference, Cromwell, CT.
- LaRocco, D. J., Sullivan, C., & Washington, P. (1989, March). *Families and the integration of their young children with special needs*. Presentation at Pediatric Research and Training Center 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Early Intervention Conference, Cromwell, CT.
- Bruder, M. B., & LaRocco, D. J. (1989, February). *Integration of preschoolers with disabilities into community settings: A service delivery option*. Presentation at Statewide Preschool Conference, Richmond, VA.

- LaRocco, D. J. (1989, January). Integrating young children with special needs into community early childhood settings. Presentation at EAST CONN, Mansfield, CT.
- LaRocco, D. J. (1988, September). *Integrating young children with special needs into community early childhood settings*. Presentation at DMR Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Meeting, Meriden, CT.
- Bruder, M. B., Cole, M., Rocchio, R., & LaRocco, D. J. (1988, June). *Pediatric Research and Training Center Activities*. Presentation at Partners for Progress II, Washington, DC.
- LaRocco, D. J. (1988, May). *Integrating young children with special needs into community early childhood settings*. 18th Annual Early Childhood Conference, New Hartford, CT.
- Bruder, M. B., & LaRocco, D. J. (1988, May). *Integrating children with special needs into community early childhood programs: Family Issues*. Presentation at Connecticut Down Syndrome Congress Conference, Glastonbury, CT.
- LaRocco, D. J. (1987, April). *Planning and adjusting the classroom situation for children with special needs*. Presentation at Waterbury Association for Retarded Citizens, Inc., Waterbury, CT.
- Bruder, M. B., & LaRocco, D. J. (1987, October). *Supports for successful integration of young handicapped children 0-3 into typical community settings: Focus on training*. Presentation at Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center Conference, Meriden, CT.
- LaRocco, D. J. (1980, December). Infant stimulation: Active stimulation programming devices. Presentation at Project Interact, RESCUE, Bridgewater, CT.

## **SERVICE**

### **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

#### **University**

- Member, the University Human Subjects Committee (IRB) 2004 - Present

#### **College**

- Member, Ad Hoc Committee to Review College Faculty Committee Structure 2004 - 2005
- Member, Ad Hoc Committee to Design a College Public Relations Plan 2004 - 2005
- Member, Search Committee College for Special Education Faculty Position 2004

#### **Department**

- Co-Chair, Program Committee 2004 - Present
- Co-Founder of the Leadership Policy Partnership with J. Houle 2004 - Present

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

### Professional Associations

- Member, DEC Governmental Relations Committee, The International Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children 2006 - Present
- Governmental Relations Chairperson, The International Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children 2000 - 2006
- Member, Joint Research Task Force on Educational Leadership Preparation, The American Educational Research Association, Division A 2006
- Proposal Reviewer, 2007 CEC Annual Convention and Expo, the Council for Exceptional Children 2006
- Proposal Reviewer, 2006 Annual International Conference, The Division for Early Childhood Division for Early Childhood, a Division of the Council for Exceptional Children 2006
- Proposal Reviewer, 2006 Annual International Conference, The Division for Early Childhood Division for Early Childhood, a Division of the Council for Exceptional Children 2006
- Reviewer, Journal of Research on Leadership Education 2006
- Proposal Reviewer, 2006 Annual Meeting of The American Educational Research Association, Division J 2005
- Reviewer, Education and Treatment of Children 2005
- Proposal Reviewer, 2006 Annual Conference, New England Educational Research Organization 2005
- Program Chair for Policy Strand, 2005 Annual International Conference, The Division for Early Childhood Division for Early Childhood, a Division of the Council for Exceptional Children 2004
- Proposal Reviewer, 2005 Annual Conference, New England Educational Research Organization 2004
- Program Chair for Policy Strand, 2004 Annual International Conference, The Division for Early Childhood Division for Early Childhood, a Division of the Council for Exceptional Children 2003
- Regional Coordinator, The International Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children 1997 - 1998
- Secretary, The International Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children 1993 - 1995

### Community Outreach

- Member, Steering Committee for "My Community Choices", CT-Department of Social Services Interagency Nursing Facilities Transition Project 2006 - Present
- Member Board of Directors for Litchfield County Autism Spectrum Association, Inc. 2006 - Present
- Member, Professional Advisory Board for CT-Autism Spectrum Resource Center, Inc. 2003 - Present
- Member Board of Directors for Independence Unlimited, Inc. 2003 - Present
- Co-Chair of the Steering Committee for "My Community Choices", CT-Department of Social Services Interagency Project (Formerly a Three 2003 - 2006

### Community Outreach

- Year Grant from the Federal Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services)
- President, Litchfield County Autism Spectrum Association, Inc. 2002 - 2006
- Member of Real Choice Systems Change Grant Steering Committee, a Three Year Grant from the Federal Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services, CT-Department of Social Services Interagency Project 2002 - 2004
- Member, Professional Advisory Board for Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut 2002 - 2003
- Chairperson, Department of Mental Retardation Office of the Commissioner Institutional Review Board 2001 - 2003
- Member, Board of Directors for Kangaroo's Corner Child Care Center 2000 - 2004
- Chairperson, Connecticut Birth to Three System North West Local Interagency Coordinating Council 1999 - 2000
- Member, Personnel Preparation Committee, Connecticut Birth to Three System Interagency Coordinating Council 1998 - 1999
- Member, Public Awareness Committee, Connecticut Birth to Three System Interagency Coordinating Council 1998 - 2000
- Children and Youth Action Network Coordinator, Connecticut Sub-Division, The International Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children 1995 - 1996
- President, Connecticut Sub-Division, The International Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children 1993 - 1994
- Member, Governor's Task Force on Sexual Violence 1992 - 1993
- Treasurer, Northwest Connecticut Association for the Education of Young Children 1992 - 1993
- Treasurer, Connecticut Sub-Division, The International Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children 1991 - 1992
- Member, Connecticut Part H of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, Interagency Coordinating Council - Individual Family Service Plan Committee 1990 - 1991
- Member, Connecticut Part H of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, Interagency Coordinating Council - Personnel Preparation Committee 1987 - 1990

**EDUCATION**

Ed.D.	University of Hartford, West Hartford, CT Major: Educational Leadership <u>Dissertation</u> : An Analysis of the Collaborative Nature of State and Local Part H Interagency Efforts and the Consequent Relationship Between these Levels of Part H Governance	1997
Sixth-Year	University of Hartford, West Hartford, CT Major: Administration and Supervision	1987
M.S.	Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT Major: Elementary Special Education <u>Thesis</u> : A Programming Manual for the Severely and Profoundly Handicapped	1981
B.A.	Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT Major: Psychology	1973

**CERTIFICATIONS**

Connecticut Intermediate Administrator and Supervisor (092)  
Connecticut Comprehensive Special Education Grades Pre-K - 12 (065)

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Educational Research Association (AERA)  
Kappa Delta Pi (KDP)  
National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)  
The Council for Exceptional Children, Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE),  
Division for Early Childhood (DEC), Division for Research (CEC-DR)