

Leigh Ann Gruen, EdD  
[lgruen@esu.edu](mailto:lgruen@esu.edu)  
484-547-7991

## **Education**

**Doctor of Educational Leadership and Administration (EdD), East Stroudsburg University (Spring 2025).** “Small Group Explicit Instruction Using the CRA Framework in a 2nd Grade Classroom: A Practical Action Research Study” a dissertation chaired by Dr. Diane Holben and committee members Dr. Amaal Awadalla and Dr. Isabel Resende. Manuscript is pending publication through Proquest.

**Doctoral Internship 1: United Way Greater Lehigh Valley (Spring 2024)** with Jill Pereira, Vice President, Strategic Partnerships. 180 hours of service including math kit program for incoming Kindergarteners at Community Schools, incorporation of math games at Transformation Spaces, math research for grant writing, research on attendance initiatives, and a presentation on family engagement to Community School Directors. [Portfolio](#)

**Doctoral Internship 2: Parkland School District (Summer 2024)** with Kelly Rosario, Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning. 180 of service, focused on the implementation of new STEELS curriculum and scenario-based assessments for all K-5 students in the district. Led presentation to K-5 teachers in Summer Professional Development August 2024. Grant awarded math games for grades K-5, a pilot program at Veterans Memorial Elementary. [Portfolio](#)

**Masters in the Art of Teaching (MEd), Cedar Crest College (August 2021).** “Closing the Gap: The Impact of Math Apps and e-Workbooks on At-Risk Students” a masters thesis proposal (chapters 1-3) completed under the supervision of Dr. Michele Kamyab.

**Pre-K to 4 Certification in Elementary Education, Muhlenberg College (2014).** Grades 5 and 6 were added to certification in 2015.

**B.A. Journalism, Minor in French, Second Concentration in International Relations, University of Kentucky (1995).** 1993-1994 academic exchange at University of Grenoble, France.

## **Employment**

**Adjunct Professor, East Stroudsburg University College of Education (2025 - present).** Instructor of ECED 331, Teacher as Researcher for second semester undergraduate student teachers for grades Pre-K to 4 during fall and spring semesters

on the ESU Stroudsburg Campus. Developed syllabus, readings, and assignments aligned with designated Course Outcomes, TASC Standards, and Culturally Relevant and Sustaining Education Competencies.

**Classroom Teacher, Parkland School District (2016-present).** Second Grade Teacher at Veterans Memorial Elementary since its opening in 2020. Prior to that, a first grade teacher at Schnecksville Elementary. As an elementary teacher, I am responsible for planning and instruction in Reading, Writing, Math, Social Studies, and Science. As part of this work, I have served as a mentor to new faculty and supervisor for multiple student teachers. In 2020, I was a nominee for the Superintendent's Parkland Pride Award for outstanding service as a teacher. In 2024 and 2025, I wrote school-wide grant applications that were awarded for math games and indoor recess materials.

**Curricular Committee Service at Parkland School District:** STEELS Implementation in Science (2024-present), Math in Focus Committee (2022-present), Social Studies Curricular Development (2021-present), ECRI Explicit Phonics Pilot Team Member (2021-2024).

**Regional Director of Revenue Development, Meyer Jabara Hotels (2004-2007).** Responsible for the transient revenue and market mix strategies for six hotels within the Mid-Atlantic region. The Sheraton University City Hotel was included in this portfolio.

**Director of Marketing and Revenue Management, Sheraton University City Hotel Philadelphia (1999-2004).** Responsibilities included the transient revenue, market mix strategy, and marketing efforts for a 375-room hotel. Role was expanded to regional responsibilities in 2004 within the Meyer Jabara management company.

## **Research**

My research focuses on the practical application of academic research in a school setting. Current research includes publishing my dissertation findings as an article in a teaching journal. Graduate research includes the following:

- Small Group Explicit Instruction Using the CRA Framework in a 2nd Grade Classroom: A Practical Action Research Study” a dissertation chaired by Dr. Diane Holben and committee members Dr. Amaal Awadalla and Dr. Isabel Resende. Manuscript is pending publication through Proquest (2025).
- Action Research Project: The Impact of CRA Framework and Multi-digit Subtraction on At-Risk Students in a Second Grade Classroom. PSED 703 Leadership Applied Practice, Dr. Liz Azukas. Unpublished manuscript (2023).
- Teacher Perceptions of a New Singapore Math Curriculum Implementation. Qualitative Analysis Research Poster (2022).

- Math Club: Application of Levels of Use and Change Theory to Analyze an After-School Math Tutoring Program. Presentation (2022).