

Samantha Mrstik

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Academic Background

Professional Experience

- Ph.D. 2017 University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL
Exceptional Education: Emphasis in Secondary Specific Learning Disabilities, English, and International Education.
- M. Ed. 2006 University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL
Exceptional Education: Varying Exceptionalities.
- B.S. 1999 University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL
Exceptional Education: Specific Learning Disabilities.
- 2024- Present **Assistant Professor of Special Education**, *University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA*. Teaching and supervise special education students in the MAT program in an online, asynchronous environment.
- 2017- 2024 **Associate Professor of Curriculum and Development** *Georgia Gwinnett College, Lawrenceville, GA*. Supervise preservice special education student teachers and teacher candidates, design and teach in a synchronous and asynchronous environment, LMS management and course design, teach undergraduate-level courses for preservice special education candidates, School of Education, Simulation Specialist.
- Summer 2016 **Internship** *Council for Exceptional Children Headquarters, Washington, DC* Support Dr. Deborah Ziegler, Director of Policy and Advocacy, in representing CEC at various hearings, briefings, and meetings on Capitol Hill and the United Nations in New York, writing articles for the *CEC Policy Insider*, and assisted in creating material for the website.
- 2014- 2017 **Graduate Research Associate** *Department of Child, Family, and Community Sciences, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL*. Support Dr. Lisa Dieker in research, development, and implementation of a national research study of a \$1.5 million grant funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on TeachLivE™, a virtual teacher education simulation. Led analysis of student learning data of over 24,000 concept maps.
- 2014- 2017 **Graduate Research Associate** *Department of Children, Family, and Community Sciences, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL*. Assist Dr.

Cynthia Pearl in managing the an office of Special Education Program: Autism Spectrum Disorder Certification Program Mentor Demonstration Classrooms (MDC) by conducting observations of perspective candidates, creating videos of teacher best practice, interviewing project participants, creating and managing YouTube and website, and processing payments to participants. Additional duties include the management of student travel and data collection, assistance in grant writing, report writing, and entry of final student portfolios.

- 2012- 2014 **English/ Drama Teacher/ Disciplinary Dean**, *Lake Howell High School, Winter Park, FL* Taught English II, standard, for students scoring below grade level on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) and Drama I. Worked in the discipline office processing disciplinary referrals. Coordinator for Challenge Day, a nationwide anti-bullying program, and Seminole Education Associate Representative for Lake Howell High School.
- 2001- 2012 **Exceptional Education English Teacher**, *Oviedo High School, Oviedo, FL* English teacher for students with Specific Learning Disabilities, Emotional Behavioral Disorders, Autism, and Severe Emotional Disabilities following the grade-aligned general education curriculum. Developed Individual Education Programs for an annual case load of approximately 30 students, facilitated study team meetings regarding issues such as placement, testing, and disciplinary manifestation meetings, and served as the ESE Co-Department Head (5 years).
- 1999-2001 **Exceptional Education Teacher**, *Winter Springs High School, Winter Springs, FL* Taught Earth Space Science, World History, Marine Science, and Biology to students with Specific Learning Disabilities, Emotional Behavioral Disorders, and Severe Emotional Disabilities following the grade-aligned general education curriculum. Created Individual Education Programs for an annual caseload of approximately 30 students.

International Teaching Experience

- 2013 **Special Education Teacher Fellowship** *Christian Bible School, Ottery, Cape Town, South Africa*. Students (PreK-8) at this school were diagnosed with fetal alcohol syndrome. The school is in a township. Planned, executed lessons for students with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome including all subject areas and extracurricular activities such as gym, computer, field trips, and knitting. Assisted in writing reports, like IEPs.
- 2012 **English Teacher** *La Montana, Volunteer English Teacher, Bariloche, Argentina*. La Montana is a rural community center for all levels of student (grades 1-5). Responsibilities at La Montana included planning and executing after-school activities focused on English acquisition and offering English homework assistance.

- 2011 **English Teacher** *Volunterio Global, Buenos Aires, Argentina.* Los Pibes is a community center in the impoverished neighborhood of La Boca, in Buenos Aires, provides a number of services to locals such as computer classes, English classes, homework help, procurement of food, and medical care. Duties include adult education in English specifically grammar, pronunciation, and punctuation usage.
- 2010 **English Teacher** *Supporting Kids in Peru (SKIP), Trujillo, Peru.* While working for SKIP, I was stationed to work in the neighborhood of El Porvenir, located outside of Trujillo. I worked in two elementary schools, rotating from school to school throughout the week. In the afternoons, I maintained the library in the SKIP community center in El Porvenir.
- 2009 **English Teacher** *English Opens Doors Program - Chilean Ministry of Education/ United Nations Development Program-La Serena, Chile,* stationed as a full-emersion English teacher at secondary school, Colegio Jorge Alessandri Rodriguez, responsibilities included planning and execution of full-emersion English including grammar, punctuation, pronunciation, written, and conversational skills.

University Teaching

University of West Georgia

Summer 2025

Course Number	Course Name
SPED 7722 S. 1, 2, 3	Collaboration in Special Education- Online
SPED 6705 S. 1	Comprehensive Examination for MAT in Special Education
Instructional Support	Technology for Special Education- Online
Mentor (Cobb Co.) - SPED 7702	

Spring 2025

Course Number	Course Name
SPED 6766 S. 3, 4	General Curriculum Methods I with Practicum- Online
SPED 6793 S. 1, 2, 3	Internship Special Education

Fall 2024

Course Number	Course Name
SPED 6766 S. 1, 2	General Curriculum Methods I with Practicum- Online
SPED 6776 S. 1, 2	Adapted Curriculum Methods I with Practicum- Online

Summer 2024

Course Number	Course Name
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SPED 7722

Collaboration in Special Education- Online

Georgia Gwinnett College

Spring 2024

Course Number	Course Name
EDUC 4825 A	Special Education Practicum- Online
EDUC 4825 B	Special Education Practicum- Online
SPED 3700 C	Special Education Field II- Online
SPED 4900	Characteristics of Autism- Online
EDUC4800	Leadership Seminar- Online
School of Education Simulation Specialist	

Fall 2023

Course Number	Course Name
SPED 4600 A	Instructional Adaptations for Students with Disabilities- Online
EDUC 3600	Technology for Special Education- Online
SPED 4600 C	Special Education Practicum- Online
SPED 3200B	Special Education Field 1- Online

Summer 2023

Course Number	Course Name
EDUC 4900	Characteristics of Autism- Online

Spring 2023

Course Number	Course Name
EDUC 4825 A	Special Education Practicum- Online
EDUC 4825 B	Special Education Practicum- Online
SPED 3700 C	Special Education Field II- Online
SPED 4900 (2 sections)	Characteristics of Autism- Online
School of Education Simulation Specialist	

Fall 2022

Course Number	Course Name
SPED 4600 A	Instructional Adaptations for Students with Disabilities- Online
EDUC 3700	Digital Age Teaching Seminar- Online
SPED 4600 C	Special Education Practicum- Online
SPED 3100 Section 04	Characteristics of Special Needs- Online
SPED 3200 B	Special Education Field- Online
School of Education Simulation Specialist	

Spring 2022

Course Number	Course Name
EDUC 4825 A	Special Education Practicum- Online
EDUC 4825 B	Special Education Practicum- Online
SPED 3700 C	Special Education Field II- Online
School of Education Simulation Specialist	

Fall 2021

Course Number	Course Name
SPED 4600 A Sections 01, 02	Instructional Adaptations for Students with Disabilities- Online
EDUC 3700	Digital Age Teaching Seminar- Online
SPED 4600 C	Special Education Practicum- Online
School of Education Simulation Specialist	

Spring 2021

Course Number	Course Name
SPED 3500.01/02	Instructional Design- Online
SPED 3500.02	Instructional Design- Online
EDUC 4825 A	Special Education Practicum- Online
EDUC 4825 B	Special Education Practicum- Online
School of Education Simulation Specialist	

Fall 2020

Course Number	Course Name
SPED 3300.01/.02	Instructional Foundations- Field
SPED 4600 A	Instructional Adaptations for Students with Disabilities- Hybrid
SPED 4600 B	Educational Assessment of Students with Disabilities- Online
SPED 4600 C	Special Education Practicum
School of Education Simulation Specialist	

Summer 2020

Simulation Program Coordination for Fall 2020

Spring 2020

Course Number	Course Name
SPED 3500.01/02	Instructional Design- Field
SPED 3500.02	Instructional Design- Hybrid
EDUC 4825 A	Special Education Practicum
EDUC 4825 B	Special Education Practicum

Fall 2019

Course Number	Course Name
SPED 3300	Instructional Foundations- Field
SPED 4600 A	Instructional Adaptations for Students with Disabilities- Hybrid
SPED 4600 C	Special Education Practicum

Spring 2019

Course Number	Course Name
SPED 3500	Instructional Adaptions for Students with Disabilities- Field
SPED 3500	Instructional Adaptations for Students with Disabilities- Hybrid

Fall 2018

Course Number	Course Name
SPED 3300	Instructional Foundations for Special Education- Field
SPED 4600 A	Instructional Adaptations for Students with Disabilities- Hybrid

Summer 2018

Course Number	Course Name
EDUC 2120	Exp. Socio.-Cult. Persp.-Hybrid

Spring 2018

Course Number	Course Name
SPED 3500	Instructional Design and Delivery- Field
SPED 3500	Instructional Design and Delivery- Hybrid
SPED 3300	Instructional Foundations for Special Education- Field

Fall 2017

Course Number	Course Name
EDUC 2120	Exp. Socio.-Cult. Persp.-Hybrid
EDUC 2130	Teaching and Learning
EDUC 2130	Teaching and Learning- Hybrid
SPED 3300	Instructional Foundations for Special Education- Field

University of Central Florida

Summer, 2015, Fall 2015, Spring 2016	Co-Taught with Dr. Martha Lue- Stewart, (2 sections per semester, mixed mode, online) EEX 4070: Teaching Exceptional Students. Co-taught lessons in a bachelor's level course (online) and assisted in grading. Course topics included: behavior management, collaborating with other professionals, response to intervention (RTI) and multi-tiered support system (MTSS).
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Adjunct Courses

Course Number	Course Name	Institution	Dates
EDS-585	Legal Issues and Trends in Special Education	Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT	July 7, 2022- Aug. 12, 2022

Guest Lecturer

Mrstik, S. (2020, Oct.). *International Education*, Education in the US, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, Conn.

Mrstik, S. (2020, Sept.). *Special Education Expert*, ELED 3100, Georgia Gwinnett College, Lawrenceville, GA.

Mrstik, S. (2020, Sept.). *Special Education Expert*, ELED 3100, Georgia Gwinnett College, Lawrenceville, GA.

Mrstik, S. (2020, Sept.). *Special Education Expert*, ELED 3100, Georgia Gwinnett College, Lawrenceville, GA.

Mrstik, S. (2019, Oct.). *Mursion*, School of Education Advisory Board, Georgia Gwinnett College, Lawrenceville, GA.

Mrstik, S. (2019, Sept.). *Special Education Expert*, ELED 3100, Georgia Gwinnett College, Lawrenceville, GA.

Mrstik, S. (2018, Oct.). *Tech. Talk*, EDUC 3000, Context for Learning, Georgia Gwinnett College, Lawrenceville, GA.

Mrstik, S. (2018, Oct.). *Tech. Talk*, EDUC 3000, Context for Learning, Georgia Gwinnett College, Lawrenceville, GA.

Mrstik, S. (2018, Oct.). *Special Education in Botswana*, ELAN 3000, Language, Literacy and Culture, Georgia Gwinnett College, Lawrenceville, GA.

Mrstik, S. (2018, Sept.). *Special Education Expert*, ELED 3100, Georgia Gwinnett College, Lawrenceville, GA.

Mrstik, S. (2017, Feb.). *From SLD to Ph.D.: Growing up SLD*, 2130 Teaching and Learning, Georgia Gwinnett College, Lawrenceville, GA.

Mrstik, S. (2017, March). *From SLD to Ph.D.: Growing up SLD*, EEX 4070 Teaching Students with Exceptional Needs, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.

Mrstik, S. (2016, May). *From SLD to Ph.D.: Growing up SLD*, EEX 4070 Exceptional Education for Elementary Educators, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.

- Mrstik, S.** (2016, April). *From SLD to Ph.D.: Growing up SLD*, EDF 2085 Diversity for Educators, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.
- Mrstik, (Stone) S.** (2016, March). *From SLD to Ph.D.: A perception of adults and children with learning disabilities for counselors*. SDS 6411 Counseling with Children and Adolescents, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.
- Mrstik, (Stone) S.** (2016, February). *From SLD to Ph.D.: Growing up SLD*. EEX 3241 Methods for Academic Skills of Students with Exceptionalities, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.
- Stone, S.** (2015, November). *From SLD to Ph.D.: Growing up SLD*, EEX 4070 Exceptional Education for Elementary Educators, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.
- Stone, S.** (2015, November). *From SLD to Ph.D.: Growing up SLD*, EDF 2085 Diversity for Educators, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.
- Stone, S.** (2015, October). *From SLD to Ph.D.: Growing up SLD*. EEX 3241 Methods for Academic Skills of Students with Exceptionalities, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.

Honors and Awards

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| 2025 | Winner of UWG College of Education Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award |
| 2023-2024 | Mrstik, S. (2024). <i>Making the most of my courses</i> , Georgia Gwinnett College, Center for Teaching Excellence Badge 2024, Lawrenceville, Georgia. USA. |
| 2024 | Winner of GGC Teaching and Learning Day Best Online Poster/Presentation:
Mrstik., S., & Cooper, R. (2024, April 12) <i>Teaching online in higher education: Accreditation, laws, and best practices</i> [Poster presentation]. Georgia Gwinnett College 2024 Teaching and Learning Day, Lawrenceville, Georgia. USA. |
| 2024 | Honorable Mention of GGC Teaching and Learning Day
Cauthen, J., Mrstik., S., & Cooper, R. (2024, April 12) <i>Preservice teachers becoming leaders in online teaching</i> . [Poster presentation]. Georgia Gwinnett College 2024 Teaching and Learning Day, Lawrenceville, Georgia. USA. |
| 2024 | Nominated for GGC Outstanding Scholarship and Creative Activities Award |

2024	Nominated for Georgia Association of Teacher Educators Scholarship Award
2023	Nominated for GGC Outstanding Scholarship and Creative Activities Award
2023	Winner of 2023 D2L Excellence Award
2022	Nominated for Faculty Mentor Award: Georgia Gwinnett College
2022	Nominated for the Pearls of Wisdom Award: Special Education Early Career Award, University of Central Florida
2022	Winner: Georgia Gwinnett College's Representative for Erasmus Teaching Week, at partner university Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania.
2018	Winner: <i>CEC: DISES international student research award</i> . Council for Exceptional Children: Division of International Special Education and Services. Awarded at Council for Exceptional Children Conference, Tampa, FL.
2017	Nomination: <i>Wayne James outstanding dissertation award- Global education</i> . Association of North America Higher Education International
2017	Winner: Kaleidoscope best qualitative study: <i>An examination of inclusive practices for junior secondary students with learning disabilities in Gaborone, Botswana</i> . Presented at Council for Exceptional Children, Boston, MA.
2017	Honorable Mention, College of Education and Human Performance Research Showcase, <i>University of Central Florida</i> .
2016	Winner: Jack D. Holloway Scholarship, <i>University of Central Florida</i>
2016	Winner: H. Timothy Hendrix Exceptional Education Scholarship, <i>University of Central Florida</i>
2016	Winner: Rotary Club of Winter Springs Scholarship, <i>University of Central Florida</i>
2016	Winner: Kaleidoscope best literature review: <i>An international perspective on special education</i> . Presented at Council for Exceptional Children, St. Louis, MO.
2016	Panel of Rising Stars, Happy Hour Show Case, <i>University of Central Florida</i>

- 2017 Winner: LEAD Scholar, *University of Central Florida* - Full-time doctoral scholarship
- 2014 University of Central Florida Minority Fellowship
- 2013 Lake Howell High School Teacher of the Year Nominee
- 2012-2013 Winner: Lake Howell High School Principal's Award
- 2009- 2010 Winner: Teacher of the Year, Oviedo High School
- 2006 Winner: English Speaking Union of Central Florida Drey Scholar
Studied British Literature at Oxford University's Exeter College
- 2004 Winner: Office Special Education Grant Graduate Scholar University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.

Curriculum Writing

- Boggan, M., Kelly, M. E., & **Mrstik, S.** (2022) *Autism Endorsement*. Georgia Gwinnett College.
- Cooper, R. & **Mrstik, S.** (2022) *Online Teaching Endorsement*. Georgia Gwinnett College.

Special Projects

- Mrstik, S.** (2022-2023) Editor. *Georgia Gwinnett College SACSOC Accreditation*.

Publications

- Cooper, R., Howse, T., **Mrstik, S.**, & Cauthen, J. (2024). Friend or foe: Pre-service teachers' perceptions of AI. [Manuscript submitted for publication].
- Mrstik, S.**, Cooper, R., & Cauthen, J. (2025). An evolution of research on online teaching and learning: Preparing preservice teachers for the new digital classroom. *Journal of Advances in Education*, 1(1), 5-30. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15777524>
- Mrstik, S.** & Peterson-Ahmad, M. (2025) A systematic literature review of mixed-reality use in special education preparation programs. *GATEways*, 34(1), 95-116.
https://issuu.com/gaate/docs/georgia_association_of_teacher_educators_vol.34?fr=sMTE1Mjg0OTgxMjQ
- Mrstik, S.**, & Cooper, R. (2024). An evolution of preparing preservice teacher to teach students with disabilities online In Ferguson, B. T. & Napier, A. F. (Eds.), *Proceedings*

International Association of Special Education (pp. 13-18). Pilsen, Czech Republic: International Association of Special Education (IASE). Retrieved July 29, 2024, from https://www.iase.org/_files/ugd/6cc07a_294eefef378a49acbfcabd0cf086dd17.pdf#page=13

Cooper, R., **Mrstik, S.**, Cauthen, J., & Schreffler, J., (2024). Preservice teachers learning to teach online: Developing teacher leaders. *International Journal for Leadership in Learning*, 24(1), 36–58. <https://doi.org/10.29173/ijll44>

Peterson-Ahmad, M.B. & **Mrstik, S.** (2023). Simulation package for high leverage practice #5: Interpreting and communicating assessment information with stakeholders to collaboratively design and implement educational program. *CEEDAR Center*.

Note: This work was funded by the CEEDAR Center under the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Award No. H325A120003.

Mrstik, S., Cooper, R. & Schreffler, J. (2021). Leadership in technology: One educational preparation program's journey for teaching educational technology to teacher candidates. In E. Langran & D. Rutledge (Eds.), *Proceedings of SITE Interactive Conference* (pp. 205-211). Online, United States: Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE). Retrieved November 10, 2021, from <https://www.learntechlib.org/primary/p/220248/>.

Cooper, R. & **Mrstik, S.** (2021). Preparing preservice teachers for the online classroom. In E. Langran & L. Archambault (Eds.), *Proceedings of Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education International Conference* (pp. 1553-1557). Online, United States: Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE). Retrieved from <https://www.learntechlib.org/primary/p/219315/>.

Mrstik, S., Dieker, L., & Abosi, C. (2021) An examination of inclusive practices for students with learning disabilities in Botswana: A literature review. *Exceptionality Education International*, 30(3), 124-143, <https://doi.org/10.5206/eei.v30i3.13510>.

Cooper, R., Farah, A. & **Mrstik, S.** (2020). Preparing teacher candidates to teach online: A case study of one college's design and implementation plan. *International Journal on E-Learning*, 19(2), 125-137. Waynesville, NC USA: Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE). Retrieved May 25, 2021. from <https://www.learntechlib.org/primary/p/209810/>

Cooper, R., **Mrstik, S.**, Glenn-White, V. (2019). What the tech? 2.0: Continuing to prepare pre-service teachers for the 21st century learners. *GATEway*, 30(1) 53-59, https://issuu.com/gaate/docs/gateways_fall_2019

Straub, C., Dieker, L., Hynes, M., Hughes, C., Bukaty, C., Bousfield, T., & **Mrstik, S.** (2019). Using virtual rehearsal in a simulator to impact performance of science Teachers. *International Journal of Gaming and Computer-Mediated Simulations*, 11(4) <https://www.igi-global.com/gateway/article/252170>

- Mrstik, S.,** Pearl, C., Hopkins, R., Vasquez III, E., & Marino, M. (2019). Combating special educator attrition: Mentor teachers' perceptions of job satisfaction, resiliency, and retention. *Australasian Journal of Special and Inclusive Education*, 1-14.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/jsi.2018.20>
- Mrstik, S.,** Vasquez, E. & Pearl C. (2018). The effects of mentor teacher instruction on teaching visual supports to novice secondary teachers in self-contained classes. *International Journal of Instruction*. 11 (1), 411-424.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.12973/iji.2018.11128a>
- Mrstik, S.,** "An Examination of Inclusive Practices for Junior Secondary Students with Learning Disabilities in Gaborone, Botswana" (2017).Electronic Theses and Dissertations. 5562.<http://stars.library.ucf.edu/etd/5562>
- Mrstik, S.** (2016). International special education. *The International Society for the Social Studies Annual Conference Proceedings*. Orlando, Fl.: The International Society for the Social Studies (ISSS).
- Taylor, M. & **Stone, S.** (2015, June) Microcredential: 4:1 positive praise strategy. In Bousfield, T., Hynes, M., Hughes, C., Straub, C., Dieker, L. & Ingrahm, K. Proceedings from *Dissecting Education: The Third National TLE TeachLivE™ Conference*. Orlando, FL: University of Central Florida.
- Stone, S.,** Taylor, M., Straub, C., & Dieker, L. (2015). Microcredential: Using the 4:1 technique to decrease off-task behavior. *Digital Promise*. Retrieved from <https://app.achievery.com/digitalpromise>.
- Taylor, M., **Stone, S.,** Dieker, L., & Straub, C. (2015). Microcredential: Co-Planning. *Digital Promise*. Retrieved from <https://app.achievery.com/digitalpromise>.
- Dieker, L. A., **Stone, S.,** & Gallegos, B. (2015). Instructional practice, professional development, and microcredentials. *United States Department of Education: Office of Special Education Programs, Virtual Conference Personnel Preparation Breakout Session Feature Video*.

Presentations

Podcast

- Mrstik, S.** (Dieker, L. & Hines, R.). (2020, September, 17) Practical Assess [Audio Podcast] Retrieved from: https://www.buzzsprout.com/938683/6615718-s3-e15-international-experiences-with-dr-sam-mrstik.mp3?blob_id=27718966&download=true

International

- Mrstik, S., & Cooper, R.** (2024, June 28-July 1). *An evolution of preparing preservice teachers to teach students with disabilities online*. [Conference Presentation]. International Association of Special Education. Prague, Czech Republic.
- Boggan, M.K., Kelly, M.E., & **Mrstik, S.** (2023, March 13-17). *The planning and the prep: Switching to online course delivery for a BSED in special education program*. [Conference Presentation]. Society of Information Technology and Teacher Education. New Orleans, LA, United States.
- Mrstik S.** Cooper, R., & Schreffler, J. (2021, October 26-28). *Leadership in technology: One educational preparation program's journey for teaching educational technology to teacher candidates*. [Conference Presentation]. Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education. Online, United States.
- Cooper, R. & **Mrstik, S.** (2021, March 31). *Preparing preservice teachers for the online classroom* [Conference presentation]. Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education, Online, United States.
- Mrstik, S.** (2019, July). An examination of inclusive practices for junior secondary students with learning disabilities in Gaborone, Botswana. *International Association of Special Education*. Magamba, Tanzania.
- Mrstik, S.** (2017, January). *Special Education: What can we do to better serve our students*, Presented at Bonnington Junior Community Secondary School, Gaborone, Botswana.
- Mrstik, S.** (2016, February). *An international perspective on special education*. Presented at International Society of Social Studies Conference at University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.
- National**
- Cooper, R. & **Mrstik, S.** (2021, February 26). *Teaching future teachers the technology skills for today's student*. [Conference presentation]. Center for Scholastic Inquiry, 2021 Mini Conference Series, Online, United States.
- Pearl, C. & **Mrstik, S.** (2016, August). *Project SPD: Mentor demonstration classrooms*. Presented at OSEP Project Directors' Meeting Conference, Washington, DC.
- Mrstik, S.** & Williamson, Pamela (2016, July). *Higher education act*. Presented at Special Education Legislative Summit, Council for Exceptional Children, Alexandria, VA.
- Mrstik, S.** (2016, April). *An international perspective on special education*. Presented at Council for Exceptional Children, St. Louis, MO.

- Pearl, C. & **Mrstik, S.** (2016, April). *Implementing the 27 evidence-based practices for working with students with ASD*. Presented at Council for Exceptional Children Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO.
- Mrstik, S.,** & Fulchini, A., (2016, March). *Living in the inclusive classroom*. Presented at Delta Teacher Efficacy Campaign Post-Institute Conference at University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.
- Mrstik, S.** (2016, March). *Social justice for underrepresented groups: A panel discussion*. Presented at Delta Teacher Efficacy Campaign Post-Institute Conference at University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.
- Mrstik, S.** (2016, February). *Learning from families and individuals affected by a disability: A panel discussion*. Presented at Counselor Education Conference at University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.
- Mrstik, S.** (2016, February). *From SLD to Ph.D.: A perception of adults and children with learning disabilities for counselors*. Presented at Counselor Education Conference at University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.
- Bukaty, C., **Mrstik, S.** & Dieker, L., (2015, November). *Expanding the virtual classroom emerging TeachLivE research initiatives*. Presented at Council for Exceptional Children Teacher Education Division Conference, Tempe, AZ.
- Mrstik, S.** (2015, November). *Special education practices in Botswana*. Presented at Council for Exceptional Children Teacher Education Division Conference, Tempe, AZ.
- Pearl, C., Massengale, L., & **Mrstik, (Stone) S.** (2015, November). *Teacher preparation to implement EDBs for autism spectrum disorders*. Presented at Council for Exceptional Children Teacher Education Division Conference, Tempe, AZ.
- Stone, S.,** & Taylor, M. (2015, June). *The 4:1 microcredential*. Presented at TeachLivE™ Conference, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.
- Pearl, C. **Stone, S.,** & Gourwitz, J. (2015, April). *Teacher evaluation: Special educators' perspectives*. Single Paper Session presented at Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo, San Diego, CA.
- Taylor, M., & **Stone, S.** (2015, April). *Microcredentialing using TeachLivE™: 4:1 praise strategy to decrease off-task behavior*. Poster presentation at Kaleidoscope, Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo, San Diego, CA.

Local

- Cauthen, J., Cooper, R. & **Mrstik, S.,** (2025, September 18-19). *Preparing preservice teachers for the new digital classroom: [Tools of the trade](#)*. [Conference presentation] Kennesaw

State University: Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Summit, Kennesaw, GA., United States.

Mrstik, S. & Cooper, R. (2025, March 4-5). *Teaching students with disabilities in the online forum: Preparing preservice teachers to teach online*. [Conference Presentation]. USG Conference of Teaching and Learning. Columbus, GA, United States.

Cooper, R., **Mrstik, S.** & Howse, T. (2025, January 9-10). *Preservice teacher's perspective on AI: A pilot study* [Conference Presentation]. Georgia Gwinnett College Teaching, Learning, and Research Symposium. Lawrenceville, GA., United States

Mrstik, S. & Cooper, R. (2025, January 9-10). *Accommodations for students with disabilities in the online classroom: Preparing preservice teachers to teach online* [Conference Presentation]. Georgia Gwinnett College Teaching, Learning, and Research Symposium. Lawrenceville, GA., United States

Cauthen, J., **Mrstik, S.**, & Cooper, R. (2024, September 19-20). *Becoming the Technology Leaders of Tomorrow with Teacher Candidate Training* [Conference presentation] Kennesaw State University: Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Summit, Kennesaw, GA., United States.

Mrstik, S. (2024, May 13-14). *Universal design for learning*. [Invited Speaker]. Georgia Gwinnett College, Center for Teaching and Learning, Summer Institute. Lawrenceville, GA., United States.

Perell-Gerson, K., **Mrstik, S.**, Arrocena, J., Ruiz Burgos, C., Abraham, S., Cottrell-Yongye, A., Curry Savage, J., Ding, Y., Shao, Q., Villanueva, O., D'Costa, A., Hammonds-Odie., L. & Runck, C. (2024, April 12) *Inclusive teaching workshop series* [Poster presentation]. Georgia Gwinnett College 2024 Teaching and Learning Day, Lawrenceville, Georgia. USA.

Mrstik., S., & Cooper, R. (2024, April 12) *Teaching online in higher education: Accreditation, laws, and best practices* [Poster presentation]. Georgia Gwinnett College 2024 Teaching and Learning Day, Lawrenceville, Georgia. USA.

Cauthen, J., **Mrstik., S.**, & Cooper, R. (2024, April 12) *Preservice teachers becoming leaders in online teaching*. [Poster presentation]. Georgia Gwinnett College 2024 Teaching and Learning Day, Lawrenceville, Georgia. USA.

Mrstik, S. (2024, February 8). *Hidden disabilities: What is neurodiversity?* [Invited Speaker]. Georgia Gwinnett College Center for Teaching Excellence. Lawrenceville, GA., United States.

Mrstik, S. & Cooper, R. (2024, January 11-12). *Teaching in a simulated classroom*. [Conference Presentation]. Georgia Gwinnett College Teaching, Learning, and Research Symposium. Lawrenceville, GA., United States.

- Mrstik, S.** & Cooper, R. (2023, October 12-13). *Preservice teachers learning to teach online: Developing teacher leaders*. [Conference Presentation]. Georgia Association of Teacher Educators Conference. Jekyll Island, GA, United States.
- Mrstik, S.** (2023, May 17). *Hidden disabilities: What is neurodiversity?* [Invited Speaker]. Georgia Gwinnett College Center for Teaching Excellence Summer Institute. Lawrenceville, GA., United States.
- Farah, A., Cooper, R., Mungur, A. & **Mrstik, S.** (2022, October 13-14). *Using problems of practice to foster agency in student teacher*. [Conference Presentation]. Georgia Association of Teacher Educators Conference. Helen, GA, United States.
- Farah, A., Cooper, R., & **Mrstik, S.** (2022, March 18-31). *Post-pandemic opportunities and lesson learned about online teaching* [Conference Presentation]. USG Teaching and Learning Conference. Atlanta, GA., United States.
- Blalock, K., Cooper, R., & **Mrstik, S.** (2022, January 12-13). *The development of computer simulation for educator preparation programs and the benefits for teacher candidates*. [Conference Presentation]. Georgia Gwinnett College Teaching, Learning, and Research Symposium. Lawrenceville, GA., United States.
- Farah, A., Cooper, R., & **Mrstik, S.** (2021, October 14-15). *Digital age teaching: What the pandemic taught us about distance learning*. [Conference Presentation]. Georgia Association of Teacher Educators Conference. Jekyll Island, GA, United States.
- Mrstik, S.** & Hefner, Y. (2021, January 13-14). *Simulations in teacher education*. [Conference presentation]. Georgia Gwinnett College, Learning and Research Symposium 2021, Lawrenceville, GA, United States.
- Cooper, R. & **Mrstik, S.** (2021, January 13-14). *Preservice teacher learning to teach online: The new normal*. [Conference presentation]. Georgia Gwinnett College, Learning and Research Symposium 2021, Lawrenceville, GA, United States.
- Mrstik, S.** (2017, June). *From SLD to Ph.D.: Growing up SLD*, Presented for the University of Central Florida's Summer Teacher Institute, Orlando, FL.
- Mrstik, S.**, (2017, April). *An Examination of Inclusive Practices for Secondary Students with Learning Disabilities in Gaborone, Botswana*. Presented at the Graduate Research Forum, University of Central Florida. Orlando, FL.
- Mrstik, S.**, Pearl, C., Hopkins, R., Vasquez, E., & Marino, M. (2017, March) *Combating special educator attrition: Mentor teachers' perceptions of job satisfaction, resiliency and retention*. Presented at the College of Education and Human Performance Research Showcase, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.

- Mrstik, S.** (2016, May). *From SLD to Ph.D.: Growing up SLD*. Presented for the University of Central Florida's Summer Teacher Institute, Orlando, FL.
- Mrstik, S.,** (2016, March). *Technology: Using remind*. Presented at River Springs Middle School UDL Conference at River Springs Middle School, Volusia County, FL.
- Mrstik, S., & Gallegos, B.,** (2016, March). *Diversity in today's inclusive classrooms: Culturally responsive teaching*. Presented at University of Central Florida's Happy Hour, Orlando, FL.
- Mrstik, S.** (2016, February). *Special education practices in Botswana*. Presented at University of Central Florida College of Education Graduate Research Showcase, Orlando, FL.
- Pearl, C., **Mrstik, (Stone) S.,** Massengale, L., & Hopkins, R. (2015, October). *Implementing the 27 evidence-based practices for working with students with ASD*. Presented at Florida Council for Exceptional Children Annual Conference, Orlando, FL.
- Stone, S., & Massengale, L.** (2015, June). *Growing up SLD: What's it like to be Sam Stone?* Presented at University of Central Florida's Summer Teacher Institute, Orlando, FL.
- Stone, S.** (2015, April). *Growing up SLD: What's it like to be Sam Stone?* Presented at University of Central Florida's Having Active Participation Prepares You (HAPPY) Hour, Orlando, FL.
- Stone, S., & Gallegos, B.,** (2015, April). *Diversity in today's inclusive classrooms: Culturally responsive teaching*. Presented at University of Central Florida's Urban Special Interest Group, Orlando, FL.
- Holbrook, J., & **Stone, S.** (2015, March). *Intern seminar: Special education*, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.
- Stone, S., & Gallegos, B.,** (2015, March). *Diversity in today's inclusive classrooms: Culturally responsive teaching*. Presented at University of Central Florida's Happy Hour, Orlando, FL.
- Dillenseger, D., & **Stone, S.** (2014, November). *Close reading unraveled*. Presented at University of Central Florida's Happy Hour, Orlando, FL.
- Dillenseger, D., & **Stone, S.** (2014, October). *Close reading unraveled*. Presented at Florida Council for Exceptional Children Annual Conference, Orlando, FL.

Grant Writing

- Mrstik, S.** (2021). CEEDAR Subaward, Georgia State University, Subaward Number SP00014675-0, 5,000. (funded).

Stone, S. (2015). Fulbright Academic Grant for Research to Botswana. *Fulbright U.S. Student Program* (not funded).

Hines, R., & Dieker, L. (2015, In Review). (**Mrstik, S.** – Member of Grant Writing Team) Preparing Foundational and Innovative Special Education Leadership Scholars, (*CFDA 84.325D*), U.S. Department of Education, \$1.25 million (funded).

Dieker, L., & Vasquez, E. (2015, In Review). (**Mrstik, S.** – Member of Grant Writing Team) Preparing Foundational and Innovative Special Education Leadership Scholars, (*CFDA 84.325D*), U.S. Department of Education, \$1.25 million (not funded).

Dieker, L. A., Hynes, M., Straub, C., **Stone, S.**, & Taylor, M. (2015). Micro-credentialing Project. Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, \$5,000 funded.

Vasquez, E., Pearl, C., & Marino, M. (2014). (**Stone, S.** – Member of Grant Writing Team) Preparing Special Educators in Autism Spectrum Disorders, (*CFDA 84.325K*), U.S. Department of Education, \$1.25 million (Funded).

Professional Service

2025	Planned and implemented IASE September 2025 Virtual Dialogue: Growing up with a Disability: Challenges and Accomplishments
2025	MAT Student Support Specialist
2025	Comprehensive Exam Course SPED 6705
2025	Faculty Support Mentor- SPED 6793; SPED 6705; SPED 6776
2025	CEEDAR Georgia Mentor for incoming Georgia Educator Preparation Programs
2025	Planned and implemented IASE March 2025 Virtual Dialogue: Canada, Nigeria, and India.
2025	International Association of Special Education (IASE) National Chair Coordinator
2023- Present	International Journal of E-Learning (IJEL)- Editorial Review Boards

2022	Office of Special Education, Washington, DC, Grant Reviewer
2021-2024	Georgia Gwinnett College, School of Education, Special Education Team Lead-Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability, and Reform (CEEDAR) Center
2020-2021	Georgia Gwinnett College, School of Education, Standard Three Accreditation Team Member
2020-2021	Georgia Gwinnett College, College-wide Scholarship Committee Member
2020-2021	Georgia Gwinnett College, School of Education, Hiring committee Member
Summer 2020	Georgia Gwinnett College, School of Education, Simulation workgroup Chair
2017-2019	Georgia Gwinnett College, School of Education, Faculty Senate Representative (alternate)
2018	Mrstik, S. Member of the International Membership Committee of Council of Exceptional Children- Division of Special Education and Service (CEC-DISES)
2017	Mrstik, S. (9/12/2017 & 9/14/2017) Guest Special Education Expert, Learner and Learning Environments, Georgia Gwinnett College, Lawrenceville, GA.
2016-2017	Mrstik, S., (2017). (Report to the region and ministry of education) <i>The State of Special Education at Bonnington Community Junior Secondary School</i> , Gaborone, Botswana.
2016- 2017	Bonnington Community Junior Secondary School, Gaborone, Botswana. Volunteer Special Educator.
2016- Present	Division of International Special Education (DISES). <i>Journal of International Special Needs Education</i> . Manuscript review.
2016	Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) presentation reviewer for CEC National Conference 2017
2015	Facilitator- Town Hall Forum on at-risk students in the Central Florida Area, hosted by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundations, University of Central Florida, Panelists included: Executive Director of Seminole County Public Schools, Orange County

Sherriff, Representation from the Orange County Mayor's office, representation from the Orange County Branch of the NAACP, Asst. superintendent of Orange County Public Schools

- 2015 Down Syndrome Foundation Conference, Nemours Children's Hospital, Orlando, FL. Self-Advocate Conference Co-chair
- 2014- 2015 Secretary - Association for Doctoral Students in Exceptional Education (ADSEE), University of Central Florida.
- 2014 Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) presentation reviewer for CEC National Conference 2014
- 2012-2014 Inaugural Challenge Day Coordinator, Lake Howell High School - Challenge Day is an organization that promotes anti-bullying
- 2009-2012 Committee to plan and implement PBIS at Oviedo High School
- 2005- 2014 Internship Supervising Teacher for UCF (Special Education and English)
- 2005-2014 Mentor teacher for new teachers seeking alternative certification in Seminole County Public Schools (Special Education and English)

Peer Review

- 2025 **Mrstik. S.** *Teacher and Teacher Education*. Manuscript Review.
- 2025 **Mrstik. S.** *Teacher and Teacher Education*. Manuscript Review.
- 2025 **Mrstik. S.** *Teacher and Teacher Education*. Manuscript Review.
- 2024 **Mrstik. S.** *USG Teaching and Learning Conference*. Conference Presentation Review.
- 2024 **Mrstik. S.** *Teacher and Teacher Education*. Manuscript Review.
- 2024 **Mrstik. S.** *SAGE Open*. Manuscript Review.
- 2024 **Mrstik.** *Georgia Association of Teacher Educators*. Gateways. Manuscript Review.

2024	Mrstik. <i>Georgia Association of Teacher Educators Conference.</i> Presentation Review.
2024	Mrstik. <i>Journal of International Special Needs Education.</i> Manuscript Review
2023	Mrstik. <i>SAGE Open.</i> Manuscript Review
2023	Mrstik. S. <i>GATEways.</i> Manuscript Review.
2023	Mrstik. S. <i>SAGE Open.</i> Manuscript Review.
2023	Mrstik. S. <i>SAGE Open.</i> Manuscript Review.
2023	Mrstik. S. <i>Teacher and Teacher Education.</i> Manuscript Review.
2023	Mrstik. S. <i>GATEways.</i> Manuscript Review.
2022	Mrstik, S. <i>OSEP Grant Peer Review and Panel Member.</i> Grant Review.
2022	Mrstik. S. <i>International Journal of Educational Research.</i> Manuscript Review.
2022	Mrstik. S. <i>IGI Global Publications.</i> Manuscript Review.
2022	Mrstik. S. <i>IGI Global Publications.</i> Manuscript Review.
2021	Mrstik. S. <i>SAGE Open.</i> Manuscript Review.
2020	Mrstik, S. <i>International Journal of Instruction.</i> Manuscript review.
2020	Mrstik. S. <i>International Journal of Educational Research.</i> Manuscript review.
2020	Mrstik, S. <i>Academic Journals.</i> Manuscript review.
2019	Mrstik, S. <i>International Journal of Instruction.</i> Manuscript review.
2018	Mrstik, S. <i>African Educational Research Journal.</i> Manuscript review.
2018	Mrstik, S. <i>International Journal of Instruction</i> Manuscript review.
2018	Mrstik, S. <i>Sage Open</i> Manuscript review.
2017	Mrstik, S. <i>SAGE Open.</i> Manuscript review.

2017 Mrstik, S. *International Journal of Instruction*. Manuscript review.

Professional Development

Date	Professional Development
2025	UWG Course Alerts for Student Success Webinar
2025	CEEDAR Cross-State Convening (Virtual)
2025	CEEDAR NIC Training
2025	CEC TED Advocacy in Action- Webinar
2025	GoReact- Integrating AI
2025	Higher Ed- Tips and Tricks
2025	GoReact- How to Use AI Features
2024	TurnItIn QuickMarks: University of West Georgia Tech. Talks
2024	Institute for Fall Faculty Kickoff: Syllabus Clinic, Authentic Assessment, UWG QEP
2024	CEC HLP Palooza
	Transform Teacher Prep: Using the Faculty Guides to Incorporate High Leverage Practices Training
2024	CEC HLP Palooza
	Instructional and Assistive Technology
2024	CEC HLP Palooza
	Preparing Rigorous Instruction: Aligning and Applying HLPs in Teacher Preparation Programs
2024	GGC CTE: Summer Learning Institute: Challenges Faced in the Classroom by Students with Disabilities
2024	GGC CTE: Summer Learning Institute: Universal Design for Learning: Syllabus Design Considerations
2023	GGC- Teaching with AI
2023	GGC Webinar: Online Proctoring Best Practices
2023	Chat GPT: What is it and why should I (and should I not) be worried
2023	GGC- Lunch & Learn: Learning to Teach Practice-Based Preparation in Teacher Education in Virtual Learning Environments (webinar)
2023	CEEDAR Cross-State Convening, San Francisco, California. CEEDAR Representative Meeting
2023	GAPSC Webinar: Teaching Online
2023	Intro to the PSC
2022	GAPSC Webinar: Paraprofessional to Teacher Programs
2022	DegreeWorks Responsive Dashboard Training
2022	Quality Matter Online Course Reviewer Course
2022	GGC- Webinar on Wellness
2022	GGC- Webinar Activities on Social Emotional Learning
2022	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Online Learning- HigherEd.com
2022	GGC- VIA training
2022	GGC CTE- Momentum Learning Commminutes
2022	GGC CTE Winter Institute- Flowers Darby

2021	GGC- Via Training
2021	GGC Banner Training
2021	PSC Online Conference
	USG Chancellor's Faculty Scholars at GGC facilitating a Faculty Learning Community in the School of Education
2021	GAPSC- Using Intern Keys
2021	Completing edTPA in a VLE - Lessons from the Field: You've Got This! Supporting Candidates for Success in the VLE"
2021	GGC CTE: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (Part 2)
2021	PSC- INTASC Standards- Webinar
2021	CTE Winter Institute 2020: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
2020	GoReact Webinar- New Approaches to EdTPA
2020	Webinar: Empowering Learner with Dyslexia to Acquire and Utilize their Voices
2020	Webinar: EdTPA in a Virtual Environment
2020	GACE PAA EPP Workshop Webinar
2020	Facilitating Online Discussions- USG Webinar
2020	EdTPA Support Meeting
2020	Support from the Start for the Induction Phase Educator- Webinar GA DOE
2020	GGC- Transparency in Teaching and Learning
2019	CEC Conference- Indianapolis
2019	EdTPA Conference- Macon
2019	HLP 18 Culturally Responsive Teaching- High-Leverage Practices through MTSS- Webinar through CEEDAR Center/ GDOE
2018	CEC/TED Policy Update with Jane West- Webinar
2018	Feedback HLP 8 and 22- High-Leverage Practices through MTSS- Webinar through CEEDAR Center/ GDOE
2018	Collaboration HLP1 and 4 High-Leverage Practices through MTSS- Webinar through CEEDAR Center/ GDOE
	GATE Conference- New Professor Induction- Helen, GA
2018	Reimagining Classroom Experiences to Maximize Student Engagement High-Leverage Practices through MTSS- Webinar through CEEDAR Center/ GDOE
2018	Spreading out and scaling up: Georgia's strategic approach to implementing High-Leverage Practices through MTSS- Webinar through CEEDAR Center/ GDOE
2018	Introduction to High Leverage Practices through a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support- Webinar through CEEDAR Center/ GDOE (Webinar)

Advisory Board

2014- 2017	Collaborative learning online for virtual environments in reading (CLOVER): Evaluating the impact of TeachLivE and Bookshare on reading comprehension.
2016	Graduate Certificate in Urban Education Planning Committee, <i>University of Central Florida</i>

Committee Membership

Date	Activity
2025	UWG COE Hiring Committee
2024	UWG COE Hiring Committee
2024-2025	UWG COE MEDT 3401/3402 Integrating Technology into the Curriculum Work Group
2023- 2024	GGC Technology Advisory Committee
2022- 2024	SOE Accreditation and Assessment Committee
2022- 2024	Educator Preparation Advisory Committee
2021- 2022	DISES Events Committee
2020-2021	GGC Standards Evaluation Committee- member
2020-2024	SOE Standard 3 Accreditation Team- member
2020-2021	SOE Hiring Committee- member
2019- 2024	SOE Simulation Specialist- chair

Professional Memberships

2018- Present	Georgia Association of Teacher Educators (GATE)
2018- Present	American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)
2018- Present	Kappa Delta Pi- International Honor Society in Education
2014 - Present	Member - Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teacher Education Division• Division of Learning Disabilities• Division of International Special Education and Services• Caucus of Educators with Disabilities
	Division of International Special Education and Services (DISES) Event Committee
2016 - Present	International Board Member- International Association of Special Education (IASE)

Professional Certifications

Florida Teaching Certificate in Specific Learning Disabilities Grades K-12, English grades 6-12

ADL 5000- University of Central Florida Online Teaching Certification