

## Rehabilitation Counseling Program – Year in Review for Academic Year 2023-2024

### Faculty and Staff, Brief Bios:

**Dr. Michael Gerald, Ph.D., CRC., LMHC-Iowa, CMHC-Utah** is an assistant professor in rehabilitation counseling and began his appointment in the Fall 2020 semester and has been a key player in helping finalize efforts related to counselor licensure. He is the director of the Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling Clinic in the Sorenson Legacy Foundation Center for Clinical Excellence and currently serves as the president of the Utah Mental Health Counselors Association.

**Jennifer Hunsaker, MRC, CRC, A-CMHC, Professional Practice Assistant Professor**, officially begins her role in July of 2024. Professor Hunsaker has been hired to teach a variety of courses in the MRC program. After completing her Master's in HR in 2000, she spent the better part of 20 years in organizational development consulting in the small business healthcare space before deciding to pivot into clinical rehabilitation counseling. Together with her husband, she purchased a fledgling mental health practice in 2022 that quickly quadrupled its number of providers and expanded to a third location. Now she has turned her focus to serving clients in the Sorenson Center's Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling (CRC) clinic and training the next generation of rehabilitation counselors.

**Dr. Trenton Landon, Ph.D., CRC., A-CMHC(Utah)**, has been with Utah State since the Fall 2016 semester. Dr. Landon presently serves as the program chair for the Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling. Dr. Landon has authored/coauthored over **30 peer reviewed publications** and **7 book chapters**. He presently serves on the Board of Directors for the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification and chairs the CRCC Ethics Committee.

**Dr. Michelle McKnight, Ph.D., CRC, LPC-Idaho**, was recently promoted to associate professor and has been with Utah State since the Fall 2018 semester. Since that time, Dr. McKnight-Lizotte has authored/co-authored over **20 peer reviewed publications** and **multiple book chapters**. In partnership with the Institute for Disability Research Policy and Practice, Dr. McKnight presently serves as the PI on a research project examining mental health needs of persons with neurodevelopmental disabilities.

**Dr. Kathleen (Kat) Oertle, Ph.D., CRC**, began her employment at USU in Fall 2013 as an assistant research professor. Since arriving, Dr. Oertle has secured external funding of nearly \$6 million of which is a **\$600,000 3-year grant for her latest project, called "Collaborate for Change (C2)"** (one of five funded out of 134 total projects). Dr. Oertle has authored/co-authored **24 peer-reviewed publications** and **3 book chapters** and given **numerous presentations** at the national, state, and local levels.

**Dr. Brian Phillips, Ph.D., CRC**, joined the Rehabilitation Counseling faculty at USU in Fall of 2019. His research focuses on two primary strands, namely (a) understanding and predicting workplace social effectiveness and its outcomes and (b) measuring the influence of individual strengths on adjustment, well-being, and employment outcomes of people with disabilities. He has worked on multiple federally funded research projects and serves as an editorial board member for several journals. Dr. Phillips has **over 60 publications**.

**Kris Wengreen, Graduate Program Coordinator**, is a full-time departmental employee. Her degree in Business Information Systems has served the USU RCM program well because she is able to develop databases which record and monitor many aspects of the program including RSA Scholar Payback, Student Progress, Graduates, and much more. Mrs. Wengreen has been with USU for more than 17 years.

**Tracy Woolstenhulme, MRC., CRC, Practicum/Internship Coordinator and Supervisor**, is a professional practice assistant professor and the practicum/internship coordinator in the Special Education and Rehabilitation Counseling Department at Utah State University. Her work with practicum/internship students

is invaluable to the core faculty as her work with practicum internship students allows core faculty to focus on research and grant writing.

## General Program Information

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

### Number of Students

Current Doctoral Students: 3

Newly Admitted Doctoral Students: 4 – but only 2 likely for a Fall 2024 start date.

Current Master’s Degree Students: 46

Current Alternative Certification Students: 12 (15 admitted for Fall 2024)

Newly Admitted MRC Students, Fall 2023: 17 admitted, two deferred to Spring 2025

Projected Spring 2024 MRC Graduates: 18

Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Long Term Training Grants: The current grant we have will be entering the sixth and final year of the grant beginning in the Fall 2024 semester. To date, no RFP has been distributed for the Federal Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2024. We remain hopeful that we’ll be able to pursue another RSA long-term training grant in the summer of 2025.

### Students Supported with Scholarship Funds

Semester	Number of Students	Scholarship Money Dispersed
Fall 23	16	\$60,600
Spring 24	18	\$63,995
Summer 24	14	\$41,945
Fall 24 (projected)	14	\$42,292
Total Scholarship Money Dispersed: \$209,032		

## Faculty Scholarly Works from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

The following are the scholarly products and grant applications/managed grants produced from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Products are listed in alphabetical order.

Published/In press	# of Publications with or by Student Co-Authors	Book Chapters	Manuscripts Under Review
9	6***	4	3

### Published/In Press

An asterisk (\*) denotes authorship with a graduate student.

A double asterisk (\*\*) denotes authorship with an undergraduate student.

### Journal Articles:

1. Beckert, T. E., Maxey, M.\*, Meter, D., & Landon, T. (2024). Psychosocial development measures modification for adolescents with intellectual and developmental disabilities. *Journal of Adolescence*, 96, 136-151. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jad.12262>

2. Brehmer, C. E., Strauser, D. R., Shen, S., **Phillips, B. N.**, Kosciulek, J. F., & Austin, B. S. (2023). Differential effects of functioning on the career development of individuals with disabilities. *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin*, 66(3). <https://doi.org/10.1177/0034355222113031>
3. Fleming, A. R., **Phillips, B. N.**, Riesen, T., & Langone, A. (2024). Enhancing transition outcomes: A toolkit to facilitate data-driven pre-employment transition services. *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*, 60(2), 197-209. <https://doi.org/10.3233/JVR-240006>
4. McCall, C., & **Oertle, K. M.** (2023). The Transition Engineering Collaborative (TEC): Promoting people with disabilities in engineering through interdisciplinary transition and education [Special issue]. *Journal of Rehabilitation*, 89(3), 30-41
5. **Oertle, K. M.** (2023). Interdisciplinary foci on the transition of youth and students with disabilities [Special issue]. *Journal of Rehabilitation*, 89(3), 4-5.
6. **Oertle, K. M.**, Sax, C. L., \*Cohn-Geltner, H. & Bobroff, S. (2023). Developing essential transition-specific collaboration competencies to collaborate for change [Special issue]. *Journal of Rehabilitation*, 89(3), 18-29.
7. **Phillips, B. N.**, Granger, T. A., Ochrach, C., Thomas, K., Reyes, A., Friefeld Kesselmayer, R. Anderson, C. A., Chan, F., Strauser, D. R., Wehman, P., McDonough, J., Lee, D., Lee, B., Mpofo, N., Castillo, S., Chen, X., Brinck, E., Baumunk, M. J., Kim, J., Friedman, K. B., & Tansey, T. N., (2024). Effect of company-driven disability employment initiatives: A multi-case study across diverse industries. *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*, 60(1), 141-154. <https://doi.org/10.3233/JVR-230061>
8. Sabella, S. A., **Landon, T. J.**, & Schultz, J. C. (In press). Supervision impact on rehabilitation counselor job satisfaction and intent-to-quit. *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin*.
9. Yoho, L. M., VanderPyl, T., **Oertle, K. M.**, & Osmani, K. J., & Hawley, C. E. (2023). Fostering growth in muddy waters: Leading Opportunities for Transition Under Supervision for the employment of youth with disabilities [Special issue]. *Journal of Rehabilitation*, 89(3), 67-76.

## Book Chapters

Of note here is Dr. Trenton Landon and Dr. Michael Gerald's work with the Clinical Supervision Specialty Group in Rehabilitation Counseling. This group was revised and updated the *Clinical Supervision Handbook: A Guide for Practitioner's*. This handbook was originally published in 2003. Our work group obtained permission to update this book and we have secured agreements from 10 different doctoral programs (e.g., Univ of Iowa, Penn State, Michigan State, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, etc.) to use this book as part of their doctoral training. It is also intended to be a useful tool for site supervisors working with internship students and agency trainers.

1. **Landon, T. J.**, Gerald, M. E., Baumunk, M. J.\*, Chun, J., Khan, U., & Van Patten-Freeman, A.\* (In press). The process of clinical supervision. In C. Bernacchio, E. Boland, and J. C. Schultz (eds.), *Clinical Supervision Handbook: A Guide for Practitioner's* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Innovative Ink Publishing.
2. **Landon, T. J.**, James, K. H., Koltz, J. L., Schultz, J. C., Soldner, J., & Taylor, A. (In press). The role of the supervisor in ensuring ethical service delivery. In C. Bernacchio,

E. Boland, and J. C. Schultz (eds.), *Clinical Supervision Handbook: A Guide for Practitioner's* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Innovative Ink Publishing.

3. Koltz, J., James, K. H., Gerald, M. E., **Landon, T. J.**, & Taylor, A. (In press). Supervision – The working phase. In C. Bernacchio, E. Boland, and J. C. Schultz (eds.), *Clinical Supervision Handbook: A Guide for Practitioner's* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Innovative Ink Publishing.
4. McCarthy, A., **Landon, T. J.**, Bernacchio, C., & Schultz, J. C. (In press). Clinical reasoning in supervision. In C. Bernacchio, E. Boland, and J. C. Schultz (eds.), *Clinical Supervision Handbook: A Guide for Practitioners* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Innovative Ink Publishing.

### Manuscripts Under Review:

1. D'Agostino, S., **Landon, T. J.**, Roylance, A.\*, & Briggs, A.\* (Under review). Examining the social acceptability of naturalistic developmental behavioral intervention strategies implemented in preschool classrooms: A pilot study.
2. Stay, L. V.\*, **Landon, T. J.**, D'Agostino, S., Pinkelman, S. E., McKnight, M., & Southwick, J. (Under review). Autistic adults perspectives and experiences of ABA.
3. McCarthy, A., Baumunk, M. J., Bernacchio, C., **Landon, T. J.**, Matkin, K., Solner, J. A., and Taylor, A. (Under review). A content analysis of rehabilitation counseling supervision literature.

### Student Publications with Support from Faculty\*\*\*:

These student publications came from projects in Dr. Oertle's REH 6120 Psychosocial Aspects of Disability course. Dr. Oertle worked with these students to refine some writing projects from coursework and submit them for publication.

1. Hunsaker, J. J. (2023). Three lessons from Judy Heumann's Being Heumann: An unrepentant memoir of a disability rights activist. *Rehabilitation Research, Policy, and Education*, 37(4), 295–296. <https://doi.org/10.1891/re-23-07>
2. Kendall, K. (2024). Disability visibility, [Review of the book by A. Wong, Ed.]. *Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling*, 55, 1, 76. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1891/JARC-2023-0009>
3. Withers, E. (2023). Sitting pretty: The view from my ordinary resilient disabled body [Review of the book by R. Taussig, Ed.]. *Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling*, 54, 4, 329-330. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1891/JARC-2023-0008>

### Presentations

Refereed Presentations	Invited Presentations	Virtual Summit
10	3	1

### Refereed Presentations

1. **Hunsaker, J.**, & **Gerald, M. E.** (2024, May). *6 vital truths of clinical supervision*. American Rehabilitation Counseling Virtual Learning Institute.

2. **Hunsaker, J., Landon, T. J., & Gerald, M. E.** (2024, April). *The case for case conceptualization*. American Rehabilitation Counseling Association Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA.
3. **Hunsaker, J., Landon, T. J., & Gerald, M. E.** (2024, April). *Adjustment counseling for persons with chronic illness and disability*. American Rehabilitation Counseling Association Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA.
4. McCall, C., **Oertle, K. M.**, & Cohn-Geltner, H. (2024). *Transition engineered collaborative (TEC): Ecosystem for people with disabilities pursuing STEM careers*. Association of Rehabilitation Research, Policy, and Education, Concurrent session, Madison, WI.
5. **Oertle, K. M.** (2024). *Operationalizing seamless transitions: The power of collaboration - Collaborate for Change (C2) Model, underpinnings, competencies overview and examples*. The Capacity Building Institute (CBI) invited by NTACTION project as Expert Specialists, CBI led by the University of North Carolina Charlotte, NC.
6. **Phillips, B. N.**, & Fleming, A. R. (2024, May 22-23). ***Transition Readiness Toolkit: A Tool to Promote Data-Driven Pre-ETS*** [Conference presentation]. National Symposium on Quality Employment 2024, Madison, WI, United States.
7. **Phillips, B. N.**, & Langone, A. (2024, May 7-9). ***Transition Readiness Toolkit: A Data-Driven Approach to Pre-ETS*** [Conference presentation]. NTACTION Capacity Building Institute 2024, Charlotte, NC, United States.
8. **Phillips, B. N.**, & Fleming, A. R. (2024, April 10). ***Transition Readiness Toolkit: A Tool to Promote Data-Driven Pre-ETS*** [Conference presentation]. American Rehabilitation Counseling Association Pre-Conference 2024, New Orleans, LA, United States.
9. Fleming, A. R., **Phillips, B. N.**, & Langone, A. (2024, January). *Systematic Evaluation of Pre-ETS* [Recorded conference presentation]. Innovation Inspiration Expo 2024.
10. Fleming, A. R., **Phillips, B. N.**, & Baldwin, M. (2023, October). *Transition Readiness Toolkit: Measuring the Impact of Transition Services*[Conference presentation]. Division on Career Development and Transition Conference 2024, Reno, NV, United States.

## Invited Presentations

1. **Hunsaker, J.** (2023, December). *Starting and operating a private practice*. Utah Graduate Student and Emerging Professionals Seminar – Utah Mental Health Counselor’s Association.
2. **Landon, T. J.** (2024, June). *Serving persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities: Ethical considerations*. Cache Employment and Training Center. Logan, Utah.
3. **Phillips, B. N.**, Fleming, A. R., & Langone, A. (2023, December). *Transition Readiness Toolkit: Measuring the Impact of Transition Services* [Online presentation]. Transition subgroup of the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation.

**HTC2 Summit II** (11/20/2023): Reconnecting, Remember, and Rolling on.

- This summit is coordinated and hosted by Dr. Kathleen Oertle
- Invited Speakers & Topics included:

- “Three Lessons Learned from Being Heumann” *featuring our Guest – Ms. Jennifer Hunsaker*
- "Personal Development for Emerging Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities" *featuring Dr. Rebecca Smith-Hill*
- “Disability Movement: Glory of the Past, Power of the Present and Road to the Future” *featuring Ms. Janice Marrero Irizarry*
- "Disability, Rights, and Reentry" *featuring Mr. James (T.Y.G.A.R.) Corbin II*
- “An Unapologetic Existence: Developing my Identity as a Disabled Engineer and Scholar through Interactions with Judy” *featuring Dr. Cassandra (Cass) McCall*
- Rolling on *featuring Ms. Eleanor Parrish and her mom, Laura Parrish*

## Grants

Grants Submitted	Total Funding Requested
4	~\$2.5 million

## Grant Submissions

1. **Landon, T. J.** (Co-PI), & **D’Agostino.** (Co-PI). *A Family Based NDBI Intervention for Military Families with Children with Autism. Research Proposal.* Amount requested: **\$500,000.** Funding requested through the Department of Defense, Biomedical Research Application. Non-funded.
2. **McCall, C.** (PI), & **Oertle, K. M.** (Co-PI) (2024-2019). *Promoting STEM Workforce Participation among Students with Disabilities through Research-Identified Pivotal Points Leading to Engineering (RIPPLE).* Funding requested from the National Science Foundation (NSF). Workplace Equity for Persons with Disabilities in STEM and STEM Education ([NSF 23-593](#)). This new 5-year solicitation supports fundamental, applied, and translational research that advances knowledge and practice about diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible STEM and STEM education workplaces and postsecondary training environments for persons with disabilities. **Research Proposal. Amount Requested \$1,236,445.00; submitted on 09.19.2023.**
3. **Oertle, K. M.** (PI), & **McCall** (Co-PI) (2024-2027). *Collaborate for Change (C2) Transition Engineered Collaborative (TEC) Tools for Employment Proof of Concept Project. CFDA Number 93.433.* Funding requested from the Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Community Living, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) Field Initiated (FI) Projects Program. **Development,** Stage: Proof of Concept; Outcome; Domain: Employment. Amount Requested **\$599,597; submitted on 12.11.2023.**
4. **D’Agostino, S.** (Co-PI), and **Landon, T. J.** (Co-PI). *NDBI Dissemination and Implementation Toolkit for Young Children with Autism.* Amount requested: **\$750,000.** Funding requested through the Department of Defense, Biomedical Research Application. Under second review.

## Current Funded Grants and Contracts

As rehabilitation counseling faculty, 7 projects (representing \$3.8 million in funding) were managed from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. This funding helps supports a combination of research and teaching projects.

1. **Landon, T. J. (PI)**, McKnight-Lizotte, M. (Co-PI), Oertle, K. M. (Co-PI), and Riesen, T. (Co-PI). (2019-2024). *Rehabilitation Training: Rehabilitation Long-Term Training Program: Rehabilitation Counseling CFDA Number 84.129B*. Funded by U.S. Department of Education, The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS). **\$1 million**.
  - a. Granted a 6<sup>th</sup> year of funding by RSA for an additional \$130,000 (end of funding in Spring 2025).
2. **McKnight-Lizotte, M. (PI)**, & **Landon, T. J. (Co-PI)**. Improving Access to Mental Care Services for Autistic People in Utah. Interagency Outreach Training Initiative, (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025). *Amount Requested: \$150,000*. Current Status: **Funded**.
3. **Phillips, B. N. (Co-PI)**, Fleming, A. (Co-PI), and Riesen, T. (Co-I). Transition Readiness Toolkit: Filling a gap in assessing Pre-ETS. Sponsored by National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, Federal, (September 1, 2022 - September 30, 2025). Amount: \$600,000
4. Riesen, T., **Phillips, B. N. (Co-Investigator)** and others. *Partnerships for Progress in Colorado* (H421E230017). Sponsored by Rehabilitation Services Administration and awarded to the state of Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (September 1, 2023 - September 30, 2028). Total Funded: \$14,116,234.89 - Subaward to USU: \$5,467,582.00.