

2020 MSHA Conference “Virtual Visions” Presenter Bios:

WEDNESDAY:

Jessica Reynolds

Jessica Reynolds is a speech language pathologist from Helena, Montana. She graduated from the University of Montana with a M.S. in Speech Language Pathology in 2014 and currently works as an SLP for the Helena School District. She has served as chair of the Public Policy Committee for MSHA since 2014 and the ASHA Advisory Council since 2015.

Abigail St. Lawrence

Ms. St. Lawrence practices primarily in water rights, natural resources and environmental and administrative law, serving business, development, agricultural, and nonprofit clients in regulatory and litigation matters before state administrative agencies and federal and state courts of all levels. In addition to transactional and trial work, Ms. St. Lawrence is well-versed in appellate practice, having handled multiple appeals on both the state and federal level on a variety of property and natural resource issues, including oral argument before the Montana Supreme Court. Ms. St. Lawrence is a frequent lecturer at continuing legal education courses, presenting on topics of easements, land use, and water law.

Ms. St. Lawrence also has significant experience in government relations work, representing both business organizations and nonprofit interests for nearly 15 years. Ms. St. Lawrence represents government affairs clients before administrative agencies and local governing authorities as well as legislative bodies. Her broad range of governmental affairs clients and commitment to advocacy has enabled her to build working relationships across the aisle and with a number of allied industry and interest groups that serve her clients well in successfully pursuing their policy goals.

THURSDAY:

Rachel Madorskiy

Rachel Madorskiy is an Assistant Professor at The University of Montana.

Yvonne Field

Yvonne Field has a background in music and special education. She has taught post-secondary special education at Berkshire Hills Music Academy in South Hadley, MA. She was the music instruction coordinator; integrating functional, academic, social, work, and independent living skills in the context of music performance and music related work settings. Yvonne also taught in a comprehensive school setting in Charlotte Mecklenberg School in North Carolina as a mild to moderate disabilities special educator in grades 3-5 in a school where co-teaching was used at the primary model for serving students with disabilities. Yvonne has been with the OPI for 8 years. The first 6 years, Yvonne worked in the assessment division with special population assessments including managing the English language proficiency assessment and the Multi-State Alternate Assessment. Currently Yvonne works in the

student support services division as a monitor and specialist in the areas of accessibility and inclusion of students with disabilities in statewide assessments and instruction.

Dana Fitzgale and Jennifer Closson

Jennifer Schoffer Closson and Dana Fitz Gale are Assistant Clinical Professors in the department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences at the University of Montana, where they collaborate on two programs to serve people with autism throughout the lifespan. MOSSAIC is a peer-mentoring and community support program for young adults with autism, while YETI (Youth Engagement Through Intervention) is a framework for cultivating social skills in school-aged children with autism and other social communication needs. Schoffer Closson and Fitz Gale are both doctoral candidates in Teaching and Learning; their shared interest in neurodiversity, positive behavior supports, and universal design form the foundations of their teaching and clinical supervision philosophies. In both the clinical and educational realms, they strive to build a more ethical, equitable, and inclusive community for people of all abilities.

Sally Klatt

Sally is the SEALS representative for MSHA and works as a telepractice speech language pathologist.

FRIDAY:

Julie Wolter

Julie A. Wolter, PhD, CCC-SLP is Professor and Chair of the School of Speech, Language, Hearing and Occupational Sciences at the University of Montana and a recognized Fellow of the American Speech Language and Hearing Association. Dr. Wolter directs the [Language Literacy Essentials in Academic Development \(LLEAD\) Lab](#). Dr. Wolter's past role as a certified speech-language pathologist fuels her teaching and research interests in the areas of preschool and school-age language-literacy development. Additionally, she is interested in evidence-based practice, implementation science, and interprofessional collaborations focused on improved services for children with language and literacy deficits and increasing SLP training and clinical service accessibility in rural areas. Dr. Wolter has [authored multiple clinical and research papers, presented at state, national, and international levels](#), and has published in a variety of venues such as [peer-reviewed journals and edited books](#) and is an internationally recognized expert in language and literacy including the area of dyslexia. Dr. Wolter's research and scholarship is and has been supported through the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders of the National Institutes of Health, United States Department of Education, Utah and Montana Offices of Public Instruction, and the American Speech Language Hearing Association.

Danielle Thompson

Danielle M. Thompson, PhD CCC-SLP, is an educational consultant, teacher of teachers and, insatiably curious about all things that make children's and teachers' lives better. She is truly an inspired human and an agent of positive change working to revolutionize the way teachers think and apply their knowledge for the benefit of all children in their classrooms. As a Speech Language Pathologist and teacher, she taught and assessed PreK, elementary and middle school students for 10 years in at-risk environments from Alaska to Mississippi in public schools, Head Starts, and private practice.

In efforts to get better, Dr. Thompson also went on to study and research in the areas of reading development and morphological awareness, early identification, and teacher knowledge and training, even going on to serve as a national *LETRS* trainer. She most recently supported a validation study addressing early identification with Dr. Gaab's Lab at Boston Children's Hospital and studied teacher knowledge of student teachers and in-service teachers before, during, and after implementation of structured literacy with a mixed media model implementation. With vision to be of service in her home state, Dr. Thompson created the Montana Structured Literacy Institute in 2019, the Montana Writing Intensive in 2020, contributed to the Montana Dyslexia Guidance Document and Assessment List, serves as a Reading League Journal editor and has opened Montana teachers up to Reading League opportunities. She serves the Montana Speech and Hearing board and on ASHA special interest groups for language and literacy. Her favorite work is in supporting her home community, where bridges between teacher training programs and school districts are being built and shifts towards the science of reading are happening in K-3 classrooms daily.

While many may call her a nerd with a happiness problem, it is safe to say, she cares most about maximizing educational potential at every level in schools, clarifying what this looks like, and inspiring leaders, teachers, students and families into new layers of change and transformational practices. If Danielle isn't working in classrooms with teachers and students, she is pondering and studying, translating research into practice, doing small research projects, and building useful tools that support teachers as they transform instruction through personal change, focus, and deliberate practice.

Donna Bohler

Donna has been with Computers Unlimited, developers of TIMS Audiology & SLP Software, for over two years. During that time, Donna did what she loves best, helping customers in TIMS Application's Support Department. Donna's passion for assisting customers by solving their issues led her to move into the role of Audiology & SLP Systems Consultant, helping customers find software to meet their specific clinical needs. Prior to her career at Computers Unlimited, Donna received her Bachelor of Science-Management of Information Systems, Master of Business Administration, along with a certificate in Event Management at the University of Montana-Missoula.

Crystal Dvorak

Crystal is the AUD Member at Large with MSHA and works as an Audiologist in Montana.