

**Dr. Dustin S. Whitlock**

VIRGIL ORR JUNIOR FACULTY AWARD 2023 NOMINATION PACKET

It is a tremendous honor to be nominated by the College of Education as a finalist for the Virgil Orr Junior Faculty Award. I am humbled to be recognized among such accomplished peers across the university and it is a privilege to represent the amazing work being done at our institution. I am truly grateful for the support and belief in my work. Thank you for your consideration for this award.

**Statement of beliefs concerning the significance of teaching, research, and service within the overall mission of LA Tech.**

When I joined the faculty at Louisiana Tech in the Fall of 2021, as all faculty members are, I was given a tenet medallion. The tenets of Confidence, Excellence, Commitment, Knowledge, Integrity, Respect, Leadership, Loyalty, Enthusiasm, Caring, Hope, and Pride are all represented on the coin as principles that we hope all graduates will embody as they depart from our institution. Upon receiving it, I placed this coin on my desk and look at it daily as a reminder to remain focused on the importance of the work being done. But also, the coin serves as a reminder that though my work can feel siloed at times, I am connected to faculty that are all striving towards these principles. As a **teacher**, I believe students learn best when they have a teacher who displays characteristics such as these and I strive to exhibit them as often as I can. As an Assistant Professor of Secondary Education in the department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Leadership (CIL), I have worked to encourage students in their growth and to become educators after whom students desire to model themselves.

A feature of great teaching includes being a **researcher**. My areas of research interest focus on learning science, teacher preparation, teacher attrition, and utilizing technology in classroom activities. It is my goal as a researcher to understand the ways that we can recruit and train teachers who can impact students in the future. In the last two years I have worked to establish our annual recruiting event "Engage Education" where high school juniors and seniors from across North Louisiana are welcomed to campus to learn more about what it means to be a teacher. In 2023, we welcomed over 150 future teachers and bulldogs to Woodard Hall. Through research and recruitment efforts, the CIL program is working to engage a diverse population of future teachers. Further, remaining up to date on new developments within the field of education has never been more pertinent than in the last two years. The COVID-19 pandemic created seismic changes in the field and now more than ever it is critical that teachers understand the research concerning how pedagogy and content instruction has changed. It is my goal to support, via research, the best teaching practices not just for Louisiana, but across the United States. These areas are reflected in the research I am currently conducting with CIL faculty and local K-12<sup>th</sup> grade school districts. Also, as a researcher I believe it is necessary to develop relationships that support the development of labs and programs at Louisiana Tech. To that end, I have developed partnerships with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and have been invited as a visiting scholar for research in the Scheller Teacher Education program taking place during the summers of 2023-2025.

However, great teaching and research cannot overshadow the role that **service** takes in participating in the community of academia. Working with students as an academic advisor, clinical observation faculty member, and mentor provides me with an opportunity to invest in them as future professionals. Further, being given opportunities to serve in various leadership roles within my department, college, and across the university allows me to use my teaching and research in serving and connecting with the highest priority of the university's mission statement "the education and development of its students in a challenging, yet safe and supportive, diverse community of learners."

## Courses Taught/ Overall Student Evaluation Scores

### Teaching Philosophy & Practice

As a teacher I believe that can have a profound and transformative impact on students who I encounter in the Curriculum, Instruction, and Leadership program. Teaching that is positive, fosters intellectual growth, cultivates critical thinking, and nurtures the habits of becoming a lifelong learner is the goal within my classes each quarter. My philosophy of teaching focuses on empowering students to become active participants in the construction of their learning, creating and fostering an inclusive learning environment, and promoting critical thinking skills that will support future development. The foundation of my teaching practice rests on the ability that I have to both care about my students as learners and as human beings, (a sentiment that I challenge my students to incorporate as they move into the field of teaching in the future). First, I must care that they learn the content, that they are able to retain information, and that they are prepared to be clinicians that maintain the integrity and excellence of the teaching profession upon graduation. This means that I must be prepared with engaging content, be up to date on new teaching practices and research, and provide expedient feedback through the learning process to my students. But, more importantly, I must care about my students as individuals. If I do not understand their experiences, their struggles, and their concerns then I have failed to be the teacher that they need. My challenge to every prospective teacher that I encounter each course is to challenge them to care about their students both as human beings and as learners.

### Courses Instructed

<u>Fall 2021</u>	<u>Winter 2022</u>	<u>Spring 2022</u>	<u>Summer 2022</u>
EDCI 207 3.4 28 100% EDCI 457* * 16 100% EDCI 459* * 16 100%	EDCI 207 4.0 30 93% EDCI 420 4.0 9 100%	EDCI 207 4.0 30 100% EDCI 420 * * 6 100% EDCI 494c* * 6 100%	EDCI 571 * * 6 100%
<u>Fall 2022</u>	<u>Winter 2023</u>	<u>Spring 2023</u>	<u>Summer 2023</u>
EDCI 207 4.0 27 96% EDCI 456 * EDCI 457* 4.0 7 100% EDCI 459* 4.0 9 100% EDCI 464 * EDCI 563 * 4.0 2 100%	EDCI 207 4.0 30 100% EDCI 420 3.5 18 100%	EDCI 207 * 27 100% EDCI 420 * EDCI 509 * * 2 100% EDCI 515 * * EDCI 556 * * 3 100% EDCI 557 * * 2 100% EDCI 559 * * EDCI 564 * * 2 100%	EDCI 207 EDCI 571 *

◆ Graduate Level

⊕ Co-Taught Course

\* Indicates No Evaluation/Field Based

Rating Based on a 4-point scale, class name, overall course instructor rating, number of students enrolled, and retention rate included, respectively. I was unable to collect data that differentiates between the categories of students withdrawn (F, L, N) so reported figures indicate all dropped students.

### Student Comments

“Dr. Whitlock is a phenomenal professor! He is clearly passionate about what he teaches and it is shown through his lectures. He is always eager to answer any and all questions in a very timely manner. His enthusiasm for his class is so evident and is one of the reasons why I was able to enjoy the class, even with it being an 8 am. He is consistently reminding the class of the overall goal and purpose of the class, being preparation for the PLT. Overall, I love Dr. Whitlock and this class, and I would take another class with him in a heartbeat if I could.”

“He makes the content interesting and engages the class very well. He is also very relatable and approachable. He made a point to learn all of our names the first week and that meant a lot. Overall, a great teacher who makes the class great!”

“I think Dr. Whitlock is probably the best professor I have had at Tech. I learned so much and it stuck. He is an amazing professor who connects with students and creates an engaging environment that promotes discussion.”

“I very much enjoyed this class. Although this class is at 8 AM, Dr. Whitlock is a very interactive and patient teacher who is very obviously passionate about what he teaches. I enjoyed him as a person and as an instructor.”

“Dr. Whitlock was an amazing instructor and obviously cares about his students. He presented all material in multiple ways so learners of every kind would be able to understand the material and answered any questions we had.”

### **Publications, Grants, Presentations**

#### **Publications**

**Whitlock, D.**, Allen, T., and Hood, J., (Manuscript Pending) *Teaching in the Post-COVID Classroom, a qualitative study on teaching in today's classrooms.*

Hood, J., Allen, T., and **Whitlock, D.**, (Under Development) *Creating Virtual Training Courses for Faculty: A Case Study of Facilitators*

**Whitlock, D.**, Hood, J., and Allen, T., (Manuscript Pending, Data collection in progress) *Understanding University and Program Choices Among Teacher Preparation Candidates*

**Whitlock, D.**, Turner, G.E., Corriel, J., (Manuscript Pending) *Understanding Programmatic Enrollment Choices for Students in Network and Security Computer Science Courses.*

#### **Grants**

(Submitted for Review): NSF EPSCoR - Track 4 RII: A learning and replication partnership with Louisiana Tech College of Education and MIT Scheller Teacher Education Program and The Education Arcade (\$128,338)

(In Review): LINK Louisiana EPSCoR: Strategic Partnerships in Mixed Reality Learning in Collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (\$6,000)

#### **Presentations**

**Whitlock, Dustin S.**, (November, 2017), Civil Discourse: Students, Engagement, and the

Internet. Presented at the Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators Annual Conference, New Orleans, La., USA.

**Whitlock, Dustin S.**, Henriques, J. (November, 2017), Computer Science Principles Unplugged. Presented at the Louisiana Association of Co

**Whitlock, Dustin S.**, (December, 2018), Digital Fluency for Authentic Products. Presented at the Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, USA

**Whitlock, Dustin S.**, Lord. A., (December, 2018), Implementing the ISTE Innovative Design Standard in Secondary Schools. Presented at the Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, USA

**Whitlock, Dustin S.** (November, 2019), Supporting the Needs of Students in Career Technical Education Pathways. Presented at the Propel America National Conference, New Orleans LA, USA

**Whitlock, Dustin S.** (June 2023, *Presentation Accepted*) Using Artificial Intelligence as a Means of Evaluation for Student Writing. Presented at LACUE Empower EdTech Conference, Ruston, LA, USA

**Whitlock, Dustin S.** (June 2023, *Presentation Accepted*) Utilizing Augmented, Virtual, and Mixed Reality in Tomorrow's Classroom. Presented at LACUE Empower EdTech Conference, Ruston, LA, USA

### **Additional Service Activities**

#### **University Service/Professional Service**

##### University

- Faculty Senate Member (2022 - Present)
- Faculty/Staff Giving Campaign Committee (2022 - present)

##### College of Education

- Administrative Council, Faculty Representative (2022 - Present)

##### Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Leadership

- CIL Clinical Experiences Committee (2020 - Present)
- Doctoral Committees (6 Students)
- Personnel Search Committees
- Graduate Faculty
- Engage Education Coordinator
- CIL Social Media Manager
- Secondary Teaching Curriculum Revision Team
- Undergraduate Student Advisor
- Professors in the Plaza, CIL Representative
- Meet Your Major, CIL Representative

##### Professional Service/Affiliations

- International Science and Technology in Education, Member
- International Technology and Engineering Education Association, Member
- Mid-South Educational Research Association, Member
- Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators, Member
- Journal of Literary Education -Manuscript Reviewer

# "Preparing professional educators to positively influence learning outcomes and transform educational experiences for a better world."

Louisiana Tech - Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Leadership



Meet Your Major



MidYear Recruitment



District Partner Guests



EDCI 207



MSERA Conference



Engage Education