



DEBORA SCHEFFEL, Ph.D.

Education Leadership · Literacy Policy · Teacher Preparation · School Reform

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EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Senior education leader, elected policymaker, professor, literacy scholar, and school-reform consultant with 30+ years advancing educator preparation, evidence-based reading instruction, special education, assessment, and statewide reform. Dean of Colorado Christian University's School of Education; former dean at one private and one state university; former Colorado Department of Education literacy leader and Assistant to the Commissioner; two-term elected member of the Colorado State Board of Education. Work spans six states and integrates policy, research, cognitive science, literacy, and teacher preparation.

EDUCATION & CREDENTIALS

PH.D., COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND COMMUNICATIVE DISORDERS

Northwestern University, School of Speech

M.A., SPECIAL EDUCATION

University of Denver

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW IN COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

University of California

VISITING SCHOLAR

U.S. Air Force Academy

CORE STRENGTHS

- Education Policy + Governance
- Higher Education Leadership
- School Reform Consulting
- Science of Reading & Literacy Reform
- Special Education & Learning Disabilities
- Research, Publications, & Presentations
- Teacher Preparation & Accreditation
- Assessment & Program Evaluation
- Neuropsychology & Cognitive Science

SELECTED LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

DEAN, SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

2013 – PRESENT

Colorado Christian University

- Lead educator preparation, faculty, curriculum, assessment, and strategic initiatives across undergraduate education and special education programs.
- Teach and shape courses in education research, assessment, pedagogy, special education, differentiation, IEPs, transition, and classical education.

ELECTED MEMBER

2011–2017; 2019–2025

Colorado State Board of Education

- Served two six-year terms representing Colorado's 6th and 4th Congressional Districts; concluded service in January 2025.
- Advanced statewide education policy work tied to standards, literacy, accountability, special education, and reform; served on state literacy, legislative, standards, and advisory committees.

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSIONER; DIRECTOR OF LITERACY GRANTS & INITIATIVES

2005–2010

Colorado Reading First | Colorado State Board of Education

- Led statewide literacy grants and initiatives, including Colorado Reading First, Read to Achieve, Rural Secondary Literacy Project, and Colorado Literacy Council.
- Directed the Colorado Reading First grant and facilitated development of a statewide literacy framework.

DEAN OF RESEARCH

2011–2013

University of the Rockies

- Provided leadership for hybrid graduate research programs in two schools: education, psychology, and organizational leadership.

DEAN, SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

2008–2011

Jones International University

- Provided dean-level leadership for online graduate research, educator preparation, assessment, accreditation, and governance.

REFERENCES

Dr. Katy Anthes

Former CO Commissioner of Education & Consultant

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Linda Diamond M.Ed.

Educator, Author, & Consultant

📧 lindadiamond.core@gmail.com

Dr. Donald Sweeting

Former President & Chancellor of Colorado Christian University

📧 dsweeting@ccu.edu

Mary Spencer M.Ed.

Educator

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