

# James A. Erekson, Ph.D.

1737 Seven Lakes Dr.  
Loveland, Colorado 80538  
(970) 351-1756  
james.erikson@unco.edu

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## Assistant Professor: Reading Education University of Northern Colorado

### Scholarly interests:

Learning and development as related to literacy, language, and literature. Children's folklore and verbal arts. Cultural aspects of learning and development.

### Subject matter areas:

Literacy and Language Arts. Children's Literature. Linguistic Diversity. Learning and Cognition. Educational Foundations (Psychological and Social).

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### Academic Preparation

Assistant Professor, University of Northern Colorado. August 2007.

Associate Professor. Western State College. July 2004.

Tenure. Western State College. July 2004.

Ph.D. Michigan State University. May 2001.

Major: Educational Psychology. Focus areas: Learning and Development, Language and Literacy.

Dissertation chair: P. David Pearson.

Dissertation (Web link): [Prosody and Performance: Children Talking the Text in Elementary School.](#)

B.A. Brigham Young University, April 1993.

Major: German Literature. Minor: Asian Studies

### Professional Experience

#### Professional Presentation and Publication

"Prosody and interpretation." (In review) *Journal of Literacy Research*. Timothy Rasinski, editor.

"I've taught skills and strategies, now how do I help them transfer to other settings?" Colorado Council of the International Reading Association (CCIRA): Denver, CO. Feb 1, 2007.

"There's no such thing as a 'Long A'" Colorado Council of the International Reading Association (CCIRA): Denver, CO. Feb 2, 2007.

"Implementing IP IVC in Rural K-16 Environments." Co-presenter with D. Massaro, W. Carroll, and C. Spendlove. National Educational Computing Conference (NECC): San Diego. 7 Jul, 2006.

"Tumbleweeds, Rattlesnakes, and Beautiful Vistas: Implementing IVC in Rural K-20." Co-presenter with V. Dahn, J. Lounge, W. Carroll, B. Barker. Keystone Conference: Indianapolis, IN. Oct 5, 2005

"Prosody: The problem of expression in fluency." In Institute 15-Reading Fluency: Theory, Research, and Instruction (Timothy Rasinski, chair). IRA (International Reading Association): Orlando, FL. May, 2003.

"Prosody and comprehension." In Symposium, Being Fast is Only Part of Being Fluent (Steven Stahl, chair). NRC (National Reading Conference): San Antonio, TX. Dec. 2001.

"Prosody in performance: Talking the text in elementary school." NRC (National Reading Conference): Orlando, FL. Dec. 1999.

"Sound meanings: The role of prosody in children's comprehension of text and developing sense of voice." Symposium title: Reconciling the cognitive and the social in conceptualizing literacy processes. NRC (National Reading Conference): Orlando, FL. Dec. 1999.

"When technology from one century meets text from another: Interpreting contemporary realistic fiction through historical children's literature." Children's Literature Association Conference: Calgary, Alberta. Jul. 1999.

"Reading the word, reading the world: Using historical children's literature to teach 'critical' reading." NRC (National Reading Conference): Austin, TX. Dec. 1998. Co-authored with Laura Apol and Duane Castanier, Michigan State University.

"Performance is performance, Voice is voice." Presented for the Literacy Colloquium: College of Education, Michigan State University. Nov. 17, 1998. Primary author.

"Mother Goose's Witness Protection Program: Illustration and the reality of text." Children's Literature Association: Paris, France. July, 1998. Co-author with Nancy Heckmann.

"Talking and reading: Recovering illocution in performance." NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English): Detroit, MI. Nov. 21, 1997. Paper session. Primary author.

"What the heck kind of name is Buhlaire? The role of setting in identity formation." Children's Literature Association: Omaha, NE. June, 1997. Primary author of paper in panel. Panel title: Literary criticism lenses on identity formation.

"Exploring opportunity to learn in context: Taking a look at classroom literacy practices for one Hmong student." NRC (National Reading Conference): Charleston, SC. Dec. 1996. Second author with Cynthia Brock, Texas Woman's Univ.

"Notes from the playground: The emerging countercultural literacy of children's antithetical play." Primary author. Different perspectives on this project were prepared under this title for three conferences:

Michigan College English Association: East Lansing, MI. Oct., 1996.

Crossroads in Cultural Studies: Tampere, Finland. July, 1996.

Pedagogy of the Oppressed: Omaha, NE. March, 1996.

## **Grants**

Read to Achieve. Sep 2004–Jul 2006. Grant author. \$132,000. Colorado grant for K–12 schools to improve reading achievement through professional development and student programs. Implementation of schoolwide assessment model, training and professional development for teachers. Ongoing liaison to coordinator hired under the grant. 2006 no–cost extension.

The Colorado Learning Network Partnership in Rural Teacher Education (2004–2009). Federal Teacher Quality Enhancement (TQE) Partnership Grant. \$4.7 million. Technology work: Development of video communication and feedback

protocols, WebEX online live-meeting development, professional development document sharing with wiki. Nella Anderson, grant coordinator.

Merit (Mentoring Emphasis for Rural Intern Teachers) (2003–2006). Federal PT3 grant program. \$1.4 million. Grant implementation for central Colorado area. Cody Spendlove, grant coordinator. Fall 2003–Fall 2006. Click title link or see technology section below for details.

Rural Mountain Organization for Technological Enhancement (RMOTE) TICG. Federal TICG grant \$3.5 million. Training and supervision of rural school district teachers. Janice Wellborn–Downing, grant coordinator.

### **College Teaching**

Language Development (EDRD 611), School of Teacher Education, University of Northern Colorado, Fall 2007. 1 on-campus section, 1 section in Longmont.

Content Area Literacy (EDRD 340). School of Teacher Education, University of Northern Colorado. Fall 2007, 2 sections.

Methods of Teaching Reading in the Secondary School (EDUC 465). Teacher Education Program, Western State College. Fall 1999–present, 2 semesters per year.

Methods of Teaching Reading in the Elementary School (EDUC 342). Teacher Education Program, Western State College. Fall 1999–present, 2 semesters per year.

Methods of Teaching Language Arts in the Elementary School (EDUC 348). Teacher Education Program, Western State College. Fall 1999–present, 2 semesters per year.

Linguistically Diverse Education: Literacy Pedagogy (EDUC 381–online). Teacher Education Program, Western State College. Fall 2005, Fall 2006.

Teaching ELL Students in the Mainstream Classroom. Summer Teachers Institute. Western State College, Gunnison Colorado. June 2004, June 2005.

Knowledge of Literacy (EDUC 486–online). TeachNow, online alternative licensure program, Western State College. Spring 2003, Spring 2004.

Children's Literature (ENG 352). English Department, Western State College. Fall 1999–Spring 2006, 2 semesters per year.

Introduction to Educational Psychology (EDUC 175–online). Western State College. Fall 2002, Spring 2003, Summer 2003, Fall 2003, Spring 2004.

Methods of Teaching Social Studies in the Elementary School (EDUC 349). Teacher Education Program, Western State College. Fall 1999, Spring 2000.

Language Arts: Human Diversity and the Learning of Subject Matter (Teacher Education 401). Michigan State University. Fall 1998, Spring 1999. Senior and Post B.A. methods in reading, writing, and oral language.

Learning and Learners in Context (Teacher Education 301). Michigan State University. Spring 1997. Junior level learning foundations, classroom design with respect to learning and development.

Human Diversity, Power, and Opportunity in Social Institutions (Teacher Education 250). Michigan State University. Spring 1996, Fall 1996. Social foundations, cultural diversity, schooling as a social institution.

Reflections on Learning (Educational Psychology/Teacher Education 150). Michigan State University. Spring 1994, Fall 1994, Spring 1995, Summer 1995, Fall 95 (2 sections). Foundations of learning and development.

German, Beginning (German 101). Brigham Young University. Fall 1992, Spring 1993.

Hmong, Beginning. Brigham Young University, Missionary Training Center. Jun. 1989–Aug. 1991. Program and curriculum design. Taught 12 two-month intensive language training cohorts.

### **Student Teaching Supervision**

Western State College. Fall 1999–Fall 2004. Supervised 4–6 student teachers per semester in the Gunnison, Montrose, Glenwood Springs, Grand Junction, Grand Valley, and Aspen areas. Spring 2007 in Gunnison.

### **Public Schools**

Gunnison Middle School. Gunnison, Colorado. September 1999–Present. Reading Workshop Co–Coordinator. Coordinating twice–weekly tutoring sessions for middle school students, with Mark High, Reading Workshop Teacher, Gunnison Middle School.

Gunnison Elementary School. Gunnison, Colorado. Fall 2003–present. Read to Achieve Grant. Training and professional development activity for Gunnison Community School faculty in methods of literacy assessment and instruction. Implementation of K–3 assessment plan.

Gunnison Elementary School. Gunnison, Colorado. Fall 2003. Read to Achieve Grant. Inservice presentation and professional development coordination. Bob Drexel, GES principal. Sandy O'Banion, Read to Achieve Grant Administrator.

Dimondale Elementary School. Dimondale, Michigan. January 1997–January 1999. 2nd–3rd grade Literacy and Language Arts instruction. Co–teacher with Marianne McWhirter.

Verlinden Elementary School. Lansing, Michigan. September 1997–August 1998. LEAP Project (Literacy Environments for Accelerated Progress). Professional development, literacy focus. Working with Lori Abbott–Smith (Special Education).

Elliott Elementary School. Holt, Michigan. September 1994–September 1996. Creating and implementing whole–building projects. Peer Mediation Coordinator. Multicultural presentations. Supervised by Marianne McWhirter and Karla Janning.

Flint Public Schools (PDS/Michigan State University). January 1994–June 1994. PDS Inclusion project. Organizing and implementing cross–school meetings and site visits with special education teachers to plan for inclusion.

## **Research**

MERIT (Mentoring Emphasis for Rural Intern Teachers). Federal grant program. Fall 2003–Spring 2006). See Technology section below.

CIERA (Center for Improvement of Early Reading Achievement). Sept. 1998–Present. Research Assistant. Project director: P. David Pearson.

Buffaloes and Butterflies: Critical reading through contemporary and historical fiction. 1997–1999. Research Assistant. College of Education, Michigan State Univ. East Lansing, MI. Sept. 1997–Dec. 1998. Project director: Laura Apol.

LEAP (Literacy Environments for Accelerated Progress). Sept. 1997–August 1998. Research Assistant. Project director: Carol Sue Englert.

Dissertation Research. Many possible pleasures: Children talking the text in elementary school. Sept. 1996–May 1999. Principal investigator. Project director, P. David Pearson.

Understanding Recess. Practicum research. Jan. 1996–Jun. 1996. Principal Investigator. Project director, James R. Gavelek.

Cross-age literacy project. Jan. 1994–May 1994. Research assistant. Project director: Fenice Boyd.

### **College Service**

Chair, Human Research Committee (2002–present). Western State College.

Faculty Senate (2005–present). Western State College. Clerk.

Curriculum Committee (2003–2005). Western State College. Member.

Human Research Committee (1999–2003). Western State College. Member.

Freshman Advisory Corps (2000–2003). Western State College. 4 groups.

Academic Policies Committee (2000–2003). Western State College. Member.

### **Technology**

WebEx Online Professional Development.

*Internet Video Conferencing, Instant Messaging, and Video File Transfer for Student Teaching. MERIT (Mentoring Emphasis for Rural Intern Teachers).* Federal grant program. Fall 2003–Fall 2006). Implementing low cost Internet based interactive video conferencing and web-based software for mentoring and supervision of student teachers in rural schools and pre-service programs at colleges of education and to develop an interactive learning community for these teachers. The grant brings technology resources and educational opportunities to Western State College at large as well as direct benefits to the student teachers with whom I work on the project.

*Technology Professional Development for K–12 Teachers. RMOTE II.* Part of a 3.5 million dollar grant, my role is Technology Facilitator for 28 teachers in Western Slope rural schools. My role involves helping teachers become familiar with new technology, and integrating technology into standards-based education. The

project is managed by frequent on-site visits as well as by distance communication (via WebCT).

*WebCT course development (and teaching).* As part of regular course load, I developed and implemented hybrid and online-only courses in WebCT for Western State College's Teacher Education Program. Teacher licensure courses: EDUC 465 Secondary Reading Methods (hybrid), EDUC 342 Elementary Reading Methods (hybrid), EDUC 175 Intro to Educational Psychology (online only). Alternative licensure program courses: EDUC 486 Knowledge of Literacy (online only). Linguistically Diverse Educator courses: EDUC 380 Oral Language Pedagogy (online only, course developer), EDUC 381 Literacy Pedagogy (online only, instructor and course developer).

## **Languages**

German (advanced-high in written language, advanced-low in spoken language)

Hmong (intermediate-strength in written and spoken language)

Lao (intermediate-strength in spoken language, moderate experience with written language)

Spanish (intermediate-strength in written and spoken language)

Thai (Novice-experience in spoken and written language)