
Jennifer Christian-Upia

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Curriculum design expert and teacher with 10+ years of experience.

EDUCATION

University at Buffalo, SUNY, Masters of Education

May 2013

Adolescent Social Studies 5-12 grade

University at Buffalo, SUNY, Bachelor of Arts

May 2011

History and American Studies

CERTIFICATION

New York State Professional Certification Social Studies 7-12 with 5-6 extension

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Inquired

July 2021-Present

Curriculum Designer

- Design inquiry based, social studies units for grades 4-8 aligned to the C3 Framework as well as individual state standards and the Common Core
- Provide feedback on more than 100 lessons in existing curriculum during the redesign process to ensure high quality, historical accuracy, and age appropriateness
- Create engaging and interactive inquiry-based learning experiences within lessons to promote student engagement
- Select and design sources to ensure learning targets, content coverage goals, and diversity of materials are achieved
- Create cohesive formative and summative assessments aligned to standards and learning targets
- Develop actionable teacher and learner supports within lessons and throughout each unit to support curriculum implementation
- Lead staff development on high quality social studies practices, content-age appropriateness, and alignment to team values and culture, based on adult learning theory

Science and Technology: A Mott Hall School

Sept. 2015 – June 2021

6th Grade History Teacher

- Taught Individuals and Societies to all 6th grade students, including SETTS, ICT, Self-Contained, and ELL
- Designed World History curriculum aligned to Common Core, New York State, and International Baccalaureate standards
- Collaborated with English teachers to develop and implement standard aligned informational text literacy strategies
- Modified curriculum to promote accessibility for all learners
- Created and piloted an independent reading program, which led to a 50% growth in reading comprehension and was implemented by several teachers in grades 6-8.

- Developed student understanding of historical concepts and critical thinking skills through project-based and discussion-based learning activities
- Evaluated formative and summative assessment data to drive instruction
- Led the school's Newsletter afterschool program for grades 6-8 from 2015-2019

Science and Technology: A Mott Hall School

Sept. 2016 – June 2021

International Baccalaureate Leadership Team

- Designed professional development which was implemented school wide on various topics including student inquiry, independent reading, facilitating discussions, real-world connections and multi-disciplinary planning, based on ADDIE principles and adult learning theory
- Presented at the IB World Conference in 2018 on best practices for developing interdisciplinary units which assisted IB schools across the country in creating and implementing interdisciplinary units
- Leader of the Interdisciplinary Teaching Core Team from 2016-2019, which resulted in the creation and implementation of 6 interdisciplinary units for grade 6-8.

New York City Department of Education

June 2017 - June 2019

New York City Showcase Schools Fellow

- Designed and facilitate professional learning around conceptual learning curriculum design for over 25 attendants, including principals and administrators, based on ADDIE principles and adult learning theory
- Developed artifacts around curriculum design and implementation for visiting schools throughout New York City

New York City Teaching Academy

Sept. 2017 - May 2020

Teacher Development Facilitator

- Modeled strong pedagogical practices and coached 3 pre-service teachers as they mastered foundational skills
- Observed and assessed 3-5 lessons a week using the Danielson Framework; provided actionable, constructive feedback on classroom management, unit planning, and lesson implementation.

Uncommon Schools North Star Academy Clinton Hill Middle School

August 2013 - June 2015

5th Grade History Teacher

- Created African American History, Latin American Immigration, History of New Jersey, and U.S. Government unit plans aligned to Common Core and New Jersey State Standards
- Partnered with Special Education Department to modify History curriculum to make accessible for scholars with special needs and English teachers to create interdisciplinary units of learning
- Evaluated formative and summative assessment data to drive instruction
- Motivated and supported students through various in-class competitions and tutoring
- Invested families in the school through strategic school-based social events

RELEVANT TRAINING

- Articulate Storyline Essential Training
- Adobe Captivate Essential Training
- How to Design and Deliver Training Programs