Susanna Latham Benko

Department of English • Ball State University
Robert Bell Building, #2111 • Muncie IN 47036
765.285.8682 • slbenko@bsu.edu

Current Appointment

Associate Professor of English, Ball State University, 2017—present
Director, Indiana Writing Project, 2016-present
Director, English Education program, 2015-2017; 2018-present

Education

PhD. Language Literacy and Culture, University of Pittsburgh, 2012
M.Ed. Secondary Education, Indiana Wesleyan University, 2008
B.S. English and Secondary Education (double major), Butler University, 2004

Research Interests

Writing instruction in secondary English classrooms; English/Language Arts curriculum and professional development resources; task design and relationships between curriculum and classroom instruction; educational policy as it relates to curricular materials and classroom practice; teacher education and new teacher learning; technology in teacher education.

Publications

JOURNAL ARTICLES * indicates undergraduate student

Benko, S. L. (2020). Looking forward, looking back: Reflections on values and pedagogical choices during COVID-19. *Teaching/Writing: The Journal of Writing Teacher Education,* 9(1). https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/wte/vol9/iss1/19/

Benko, S. L., Hodge, E., & Salloum, S. (2020) Policy into practice: Understanding state writing resources. *Journal of Literacy Research*, 52(2). https://doi.org/10.1177/1086296X20915538

Hodge, E., **Benko, S. L.**., & Salloum, S. (2020). Tracing states' messages about Common Core instruction: An analysis of English/language arts and close reading resources. *Teachers College Record.* 122(3), https://www.tcrecord.org/Content.asp?ContentId=23019.

Salloum, S., Hodge, E., & **Benko, S. L.** (2020). State educational agencies in an uncertain environment: Understanding state-provided networks of English language arts curricular resources. *Educational Policy Analysis Archives*, 28. In E. Hodge, J. Childs & W. Au (Eds.) special issue, *Researching 21st Century Education Policy Through Social Network Analysis.*

Hodge, E., Salloum, S., & **Benko, S. L.** (2019). The changing ecology of the curriculum marketplace in the era of the Common Core. *Journal of Educational Change*, *20*(4), 425–466.

Salloum, S., J, **Benko, S. L.** & Hodge, E. M (2017). Getting Connected: Finding Literacy Resources in the Era of Common Core. *Kappa Delta Pi Record* 43(3), 120-125. DOI: 10.1080/00228958.2017.1334476.

Hodge, E. M., Salloum, S. J., & **Benko, S. L.**. (2016) (Un)Commonly connected: A social network analysis of state standards resources for English/Language Arts. *AERA Open* 2(4), 1-19 DOI: 10.1177/2332858416674901 http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/2332858416674901

Benko, S. L. (2016). Instruction Matters: Examining preservice teachers' instruction for cognitively demanding writing tasks. *English Education* 48(3), 201-236.

Benko, S. L. Guise, M. E., Earl, C*., & Martin, W* (2016). More than social media: Using twitter with pre-service teachers as a means of reflection and engagement in communities of practice. *CITE: Contemporary Issues in Teacher Education* 16(1). http://www.citejournal.org/vol16/iss1/languagearts/article1.cfm

Hodge, E. M., & **Benko, S. L.**. (2014). A "common" vision of instruction? An analysis of English/Language Arts professional development materials related to the Common Core State Standards. *English Teaching: Practice and Critique* 13(1), 169-196.

Benko, S. L. (2012/2013). Scaffolding: An on-going process to support student writers. *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy,* 56(4), 291-300.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Cuenca, A., & **Benko, S. L.** (2017). Turning clinical practice upside-down from the bottom up. R. Flessner & D. Lecklider (Eds.), *The Power of Clinical Preparation in Teacher Education*

Guise, M., & **Benko, S. L.** (2014). "Scaffolding Beginning English Teachers to Teach Secondary Students How to Utilize Digital Tools When Composing." In Rebecca S. Anderson and Clif Mims (Eds.), *Digital Tools for Writing Instruction in K-12 Settings: Student Perception and Experience* (pp. 589-607). Hershey, PA: IGI Global.

IN PROGRESS

Hodge, E. M., **Benko, S. L.** Salloum, S. J., Using social network analysis to examine education policy networks. For M. S. Weber and I. Yanovitzky (Eds.), *Networks, Knowledge Brokers, and the Public Policymaking Process.* Manuscript in progress.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Benko, S. L.. (2020, May 4). Our literary lives in lockdown: It doesn't need to be elaborate. Teachers, Profs, Parents: Writers Who Care Blog. *(Peer-reviewed blog post)* https://writerswhocare.wordpress.com/2020/05/04/our-literary-lives-in-lockdown-it-doesnt-need-to-be-elaborate/

Benko, S. L.. (2019, November 12). Teaching is a way to make a living. It's also a way to make a life. Ball State English Department Blog. *(Invited blog post.)* https://blogs.bsu.edu/english/blog/2019/11/12/susanna-benko-teaching-is-a-way-to-make-a-living-its-also-a-way-to-make-a-life/

Hodge, E., **Benko, S. L.,** & Salloum, S. (2018). Instructional Resources and Teacher Professionalism: The Changing Landscape of Curricular Material Providers in the Digital Age. *Teachers College Record*. *(Commentary).* http://www.tcrecord.org/Content.asp?ContentID=22539

Benko, S. L., Hodge, E., & Salloum, S. (2018). Focus area 1: District and state policies that support open educational resources. Creating systems of sustainability: Four focus areas for the future of open educational resources. Washington, D.C.: New America and International Society for Technology in Education. *(Section of report).*

Benko, S. L.., Hodge, E. M., Mardis, M.A., Morales, R., Salloum, S., & Torphy, K. T. (2018). Focus area 3: Extending the research base on open educational resources. Creating systems of sustainability: Four focus areas for the future of open educational resources. Washington, D.C.: New America and International Society for Technology in Education. *(Section of report).*

Hodge, E., Salloum, S., & **Benko, S. L.** (2017, June). How state education agencies can support college and career ready standards. (PB 17-3). Philadelphia, PA: Consortium for Policy Research in Education. *(Policy brief).*

Hodge, E., Salloum, S., & **Benko, S. L.** (2017, May 19). How 'common' are state-provided standards resources? What state-provided resources can tell us about college-and-career-ready standards implementation. C-SAIL: The Center on Standards, Alignment, Instruction, and Learning Blog, *(Blog post).* http://c-sail.org/resources/blog/how-common-are-state-provided-standards

Grants & Awards

FUNDED EXTERNAL GRANTS

Co-Principal Investigator (2017-2018) *Supporting Common Core Implementation in English/Language Arts: Investigating the Resource Selection and Dissemination Strategies of State Coordinators.* With Emily Hodge (Co-PI) & Serena Salloum (Co-PI) Spencer Foundation Small Research Grant. Spencer Foundation Small Research Grant, ($50,000)

Principal Investigator (2017-2018) *College Ready Writers Program.* National Writing Project ($20,000)

Principal Investigator (2017-2018) *Invitational Leadership Institute for Developing New Teacher-Leaders*, National Writing Project ($15,000)

Principal Investigator (2013-2014). Composition Camps as Opportunities for Literacy Development for Teachers and Students. With Co-PIs Paul Ranieri & Barb Miller. National Writing Project, Professional Development in High Needs Schools ($20,000)

FUNDED INTERNAL GRANTS

Interactive Learning Space Teaching & Learning Grant (2012-2013). Ball State Univ., $1,500

Council for Graduate Students in Education Research Grant (2012). Univ. of Pittsburgh, $500

Alumni Doctoral Fellowship Award Applicant (2011). Univ. of Pittsburgh, $1,500

School of Education Faculty and Student Research Grant (2011). Univ. of Pittsburgh, $1,500

School of Education Faculty and Student Research Grant (2009). Univ. of Pittsburgh, $1,500

AWARDS

Excellence in Teaching Award, Ball State University, 2013
This university-wide award recognized faculty dedication and talent in the classroom.

Outstanding Dissertation Award, School of Education, University of Pittsburgh, 2012
This award recognizes excellent research completed by a graduate student.

Outstanding Secondary Education Major Award, Butler University, 2004
This college-wide award recognized the top student in secondary education.

Conference Presentations

Benko, S. L., Hodge, E. & Salloum, S. J. (2020, Apr 17 - 21) From Common Core to Instructional Recommendations for Writing: Studying State-Sponsored Writing-Focused Resources [Roundtable Session]. AERA Annual Meeting San Francisco, CA http://tinyurl.com/qwda6o7 (Conference Canceled)

Hodge, E., Salloum, S. J. & **Benko, S. L.** (2020, Apr 17 - 21) "It's Just an Option": State Coordinators Negotiate the Politics of Local Control During Standards Implementation [Roundtable Session]. AERA Annual Meeting San Francisco, CA http://tinyurl.com/qpq5gaa (Conference Canceled)

Salloum, S., Hodge, E., & **Benko, S. L.**. (2019, November). Curricular coherence and local control: Understanding state policy networks of instructional resources in the wake of common standards. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the University Council for Educational Administration, New Orleans, LA.

Hodge, E., Salloum, S. & **Benko, S. L.** (2019 April). Understanding Education Politics and Policy Networks with Social Analysis. Roundtable presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Ontario, Canada.

Hodge, E., **Benko, S. L.** & Salloum, S. (2018, October). Common standards and open educational resources: How state education agency coordinators support teachers. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Open Education Conference, Buffalo, NY.

Salloum, S., **Benko, S. L.** & Hodge, E. (2018, April). Supporting teachers in an era of common standards: Understanding state coordinators' decisions about curricular resources. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New York, NY.

Benko, S. L. and Gibson, K. (2017, November). If we build it, will they come?: Examining recruitment strategies at a writing project site. Roundtable presented at Annual Meeting of National Writing Project, St. Lois, MO, November, 2017.

Hodge, E., Salloum, S., & **Benko, S. L.**. (2017, November). Common, but coherent? Exploring messages about literacy instruction in Common Core resources. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the University Council for Educational Administration, Denver, CO.

Hodge, E., Salloum, S., & **Benko, S. L.** (2017, April). Tracing messages about Common Core instruction: An analysis of state-provided resources for English/Language Arts. A paper presented in a symposium titled Theories and Analysis in Relational Governance: Shaping Policy Through Research, Ideas, and Networks. A paper presented at the Annual Conference of the American Educational Research Association, April 2017.

Benko, S. L., Hodge, E. M. & Salloum, S. (2016, November). Common Messages about Instruction? An Analysis of State-Provided Common Core Resources for English/Language Arts A paper presented at the International Literacy Association National Conference, Nashville, TN.

Hodge E. M., Salloum, S., & **Benko, S. L.,** (2016, November). Organizing for instruction: An analysis of the organizations sponsoring state standards resources. A paper presented at the University Council for Education Administration annual convention, Detroit, MI.

Benko, S. L., Salloum, S., & Hodge, E. (2016, April). Policy into practice: Investigating state-endorsed writing resources for the Common Core State Standards. A paper presented at the Writing and Literacies Special Interest group at the American Educational Research Association National Conference, Washington DC.

Hodge, E. H., **Benko, S. L.**, and Salloum, S. (2016, April). Common Core connections: A social network analysis of state-level instructional resources for English/language arts. A paper presented at the American Educational Research Association National Conference Division L, Section 3 Washington DC.

Salloum, S., Hodge E. M. & **Benko, S. L.** (2015, November). Testing state capacity for standards-based reform: A social network analysis of state-level Common Core resources. A paper presented at the University Council for Education Administration annual convention, San Diego, CA.

Hodge, E. M., & **Benko, S. L.** (2015, July). Whose voices count in defining "Common Core instruction"? A national analysis of state-level professional resources. A paper presented at the annual convention for the Conference of English Education, New York, NY.

Benko, S. L. & Hodge, E. M. (2015, April). Tracing messages about common core instruction: A qualitative and social network analysis of state-level resources. A paper presented at American Educational Research Association National Conference, Chicago, IL.

Miller, B. & **Benko, S. L.** (2014, November). Raising the Grade: Challenges and lessons learned from providing professional development in an "F rated" school. A roundtable presented at the National Writing Project Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

Benko, S. L. (2014, November). Zooming In: Using video cases of teaching to help pre-service teachers see writing instruction in new ways. A paper presented at the National Council for Teachers of English Annual Convention, Washington, DC.

Benko, S. L., Guise, M. E., Earl, C., & Martin, W. (2014, November) Using twitter as a reflective tool in teacher education. A roundtable presented at the National Council for Teachers of English Annual Convention, Washington, DC.

Benko, S. L. (2013, April). Teaching to the Task: Pre-service teachers' enactments of cognitively demanding writing tasks. A paper presented at the American Educational Research Association National Conference, San Francisco, CA.

Kane-Mainer, S.S., & **Benko, S. L.** (2010, December). The importance of practice: Impacting pre-service teachers' beliefs about the teaching of writing through a practice-based approach. Paper presented at the Literacy Research Association Annual Convention, Fort Worth, TX.

Benko, S. L. (2010, November). Redesigning teacher education to focus on "practice": Challenges and lessons learned in a writing methods course. Paper presented at the National Council for Teachers of English Annual Convention. Orlando, FL.

Scott, S. E., & **Benko, S. L.** (2010 April). Coached Rehearsals in Pre-service Teacher Education: What's Coachable?. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association National Conference, Denver, CO.

Benko, S. L. & Kane-Mainier, S., (2010 February) Negotiating the unexpected: Re-visioning a study on pre-service teacher beliefs. Paper presented at the National Council for Teachers of English Association for Research Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.

Wilson, L. M., and **Latham, S.** (2004, October). The effects of community building on students' attitudes towards learning in the middle school classroom. Paper presented at the Association for Constructivist Teaching Conference, St. Louis, MO.

Invited Presentations

Benko, S. L.., Hodge, E., & Salloum, S. (2018, June). State and district policies supporting open educational resources. Presentation at PreK–12 OER Learning Network Convening, New America and International Society for Technology in Education, Chicago, IL.

Benko, S. L., Hodge, E., & Salloum, S (2018, March). State educational agencies and curricular resources: Lessons learned for open educational resources from state-provided standards resources. Research presentation at PreK–12 OER Learning Network Convening, New America, Washington, D.C.

Teaching Experience

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY

ENG 150 – Introduction to English Education
ENG 350 – Teaching Writing in Secondary Schools
ENG 414 – Young Adult Literature
EDSE 460/465 – Supervision of Student Teaching
ENG 609 – Independent Study for Indiana Writing Project Summer Institute (Graduate level)

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH*

IL 2233 – Teaching Writing
IL 2725 – Teaching Lab
IL 2720 – Teaching Seminar
IL 2281 – Teaching Practicum
IL 1230/2230 – Introduction to Inquiry in English Education

*courses at the 2000 level are graduate; 1000 level are undergraduate

Supervisory Experience

Ball State University, 2014-present *(counts towards teaching load)*
I have supervised BSU student teachers in a variety of placements (urban and suburban). I observe lessons, provide feedback, and give suggestions for future teaching. I respond to weekly journals, and support student teachers to complete required assignments for student teaching.

University of Pittsburgh, 2008-2011
I supervised a total of 16 students in a wide variety of placements (urban, suburban, rural) during their internship and student teaching experiences in middle/high schools. I visited students at teaching placement, observed and evaluated teaching, held conferences with students to provide constructive feedback to assist in the growth and development of student teachers' skills.

Past Appointments

Ball State University

Associate Professor of English, 2017-present
Director, Indiana Writing Project, 2016-present
Director, English Education, Ball State University, 2015-2017, 2018-present
Assistant Professor of English, Ball State University, 2012-2017

University of Pittsburgh, Teaching Fellow & Graduate Student Researcher 2008-2012.

Various Middle/High Schools: Secondary English/Language Arts Teacher

Quaker Valley Middle School, Sewickley PA; 8th grade English, 2008.
Mater Dei High School, Evansville, IN; 9th – 11th grade English, drama, 2005-2007.
Fulton Junior High School, Indianapolis, IN; 7th and 9th grade English, 2004-2005.

Professional Activity & Service

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member

American Educational Research Association (AERA), 2008-present
Conference on English Education (CEE), 2011-present
Literacy Research Association (LRA) 2009-present
National Council for Teachers of English (NCTE), 2006-present
Indiana Council for Teachers of English (ICTE) 2017-present

SERVICE

National Service: Reviewer

Journal of Teacher Education, 2011-present
English Teaching Practice and Critique, 2014-present
Voices from the Middle, , 2018-present
Teachers, Profs, Parents: Writers Who Care Blog, 2020-present
Teaching/Writing: A Journal of Writing Teacher Education, 2020-present

University

Professional Education Committee

- College of Sciences & Humanities representative, 2020-present
- English Education area representative, 2015-2017, 2018-2020

CAEP Leadership Committee, 2014-2015

CAEP Standard 2 (Clinical Practices): Co-Chair, 2014-2015

College

NEH Internal Review Committee, 2018

Search Committee for Dean of College of Sciences & Humanities, 2016-2017

Interactive Learning Space Classroom Mentor, Cohort 5, 2016-2017

Excellence in Teaching Award committee, 2015, 2016

Teacher Education Committee, 2012-present (secretary, 2012-2013)

Interactive Learning Space Classroom Advisory Group, 2014-2015

English Department

Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2018-2019; 2019-2020

Salary Committee, member, 2017

New Faculty Mentor, 2016-present

English Education Search Committee, chair, 2015-2016

Rhetoric & Composition Search Committee, member 2014-2015

Programs Committee, 2012-2013

English Education Area Committee, 2012-present

DP2 & DP3 Portfolio Committee, 2012-2017

Consulting & Professional Development

Odell Education

English Language Arts Consultant, 2018-present

Provided feedback on units for English Language Arts focusing on curricular design for educative curriculum. Providing pedagogical and content expertise in literacy to assist in the design and development of secondary ELA units through providing suggestions, feedback, and research pertinent to literacy development, especially writing instruction.

Institute for Learning (IFL) at the University of Pittsburgh

English Language Arts Consultant, 2012 - 2013

Contributed to English Language Arts team at the Institute for Learning by designing performance based assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards,

providing feedback on professional development modules, and facilitating professional development for teachers and instructional coaches.

Common Core State Standards Assessment and Task Design Team, 2011-2012

Conducted cognitive analyses of prototype instructional tasks, assessments, and student work for assessments and tasks written for the Common Core State Standards; wrote reports on analyses. This work was completed for the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC).

Western Pennsylvania Writing Project (WPWP)

Professional development facilitator, 2011

Designed and implemented cross-curricular professional development for 80 middle/high school teachers focusing on a) best practices in writing instruction and b) designing academically rigorous writing tasks

Research and Development Corporation (RAND)

Consultant for Measuring Effective Teaching Foundation Project, 2010

Aligned standards and assessment items from five states to elements of National Assessment of Educational Process' (NAEP) framework for reading/language arts.

Consultant for Cognitive Rigor of Literacy Assessments Project, 2011

Assessed cognitive rigor of state assessment items.

Advanced Training/Workshops

- *Interactive Teaching & Learning Space* Cohort 2, member, 2014-2015
- *Active Learning Academy* Professional Learning Communities, member, 2015-present
- Teaching Online Bootcamp, Division of Online & Strategic Learning, 2020
- Faculty Learning Community (FLC) on Remote Synchronous Learning, Division of Online & Strategic Learning,
    - Member, 2020-present
    - Faculty Lead, Cohort 1, 2020-present