**CARA D. WILLIAMS, Ph.D.**

**Curriculum Vitae**

**EDUCATION**

**2014 Ph.D. Texas A & M University, College Station** Educational Psychology

**2012 M.Ed. Texas A & M University, College Station** Special Education

**2007 B.A. University of Nevada, Las Vegas** Special Education

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**08 / 2022 – Present Assistant Professor**

**Sharjah Education Academy**

**United Arab Emirates**

* Taught teacher training courses for pre-service and in-service teachers through hybrid model
* Development of courses for Post-Graduate Diploma-Education (PGDE)
* Conference presentations
* Research

**12 / 2021 – Present Educational Psychologist and Learning Coach**

**Enlighten Lounge Learning Center – Founder**

[**www.TheEnlightenLounge.com**](http://www.TheEnlightenLounge.com)

**United Arab Emirates**

* Management of center operations
* Assessment of learner levels
  + Reading, Mathematics, Writing
* Teaching and learning strategies for diverse learners
* Game-based learning strategies
* Training for center employees

**08 / 2021 – 11 / 2021 Mainstream and Inclusion Senior Specialist**

**Abu Dhabi Department of Knowledge (ADEK)**

**United Arab Emirates**

* Provide training for evidence-based inclusive education practices to school stakeholders
* Develop inclusion policy, frameworks, and guidebooks for school stakeholders
* Manage procurement requests
* Conduct school inspections to inform needed areas of Professional Development

**08 / 2015 – 07 / 2021 Assistant Professor, Counseling, Special Education, and Neuroscience Division, Emirates College for Advanced Education, United Arab Emirates**

* Taught master’s courses in special education
* Advised graduate students and graduate students’ theses
* Taught undergraduate courses in special education and the teaching of mathematics
* Taught foundational courses in mathematics
* Developed and revised courses for the special education concentration
* Collaborated with colleagues to create master’s and doctoral level courses in special education and single-case research methods
* Current Program Coordinator for the M.Ed. and Ph.D. Special Education Programs

**08 / 2016 – 12 / 2020 Adjunct Assistant Professor, College of Education, University of Texas-El Paso, Texas, United States**

* Taught online undergraduate course using Blackboard
* Responsible for course content, rubrics, grading, and student interaction via email

**05 / 2014 – 12 / 2017 Online Instructional Coach, Florida International University, University of Texas-Permian Basin, and University of Texas-El Paso, United States**

* Responsible for grading all student assignments and responding to student emails

**08 / 2013 – 07 / 2015 Certified Special Education Teacher (EC-12), Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District and Houston Independent School District**

* Taught grades 9-12 mathematics
* Co-teacher and Resource room teacher
* Subjects: Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra II, and Math Models and Applications
* Responsible for IEP paperwork and other special education documentation
* Member of the Response to Intervention and Positive Behavior Intervention Supports Team Member
* Member of the Inclusion Intervention Team
* Assisted with career and vocational training for students
* Baton twirling coach

**05 / 2013 – 08 / 2013 Graduate Teaching Assistant**, **Texas A&M University, United States**

**01 / 2012 – 12 / 2012 Student-Teacher Supervisor Trainee**, **Texas A&M University, United States**

**08 / 2011 – 05 / 2012 Graduate Teaching Assistant**, **Texas A&M University, United States**

**08 / 2009 – 07 / 2011 Graduate Research Assistant, Texas A&M University, United States**

**08 / 2010 – 07 / 2012 Certified Substitute Teacher, Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District, Texas, United States**

**08 / 2007 – 07 / 2009 Certified Special Education Teacher (EC-12), Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District, Texas, United States**

* Taught grades 9-12 mathematics
* Co-teacher and Resource room teacher
* Subjects: Algebra 1 and Geometry
* Responsible for IEP paperwork and other special education documentation

**04 / 2004 – 07 / 2007 Substitute Teacher (Designated), Clark County School District, Nevada, United States**

**Doctoral Dissertation**

Williams, C. D. (2014). Curriculum-based measurement as an intervention: A literature review and meta-analysis. Texas A&M University-College Station. Dissertation Chair: Yvonne Goddard, Ph.D.

Committee Members: Victor Wilson, Shanna Hagan-Burke, and Yeping Li.

**Major Fields of Research Interest**

My research interests include teaching strategies, especially game-based learning, universal design, differentiated instruction, and inclusive techniques, mathematics education, and at-risk populations. I prefer to utilize qualitative and mixed methods approaches.

**TEACHING CERTIFICATIONS**

Special Education EC-12: Texas

Mathematics Grades 4-8: Texas

**COURSES TAUGHT**

Sharjah Education Academy

* 8101: Introduction to Human Learning
* 8103: Social and Emotional Learning
* 8203: Core Skills, Life-Long Learning and Ethical School Culture in the Digital Age

Emirates College for Advanced Education, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

* EDUSIE1: Current Research and Trends: High Incidence Disabilities
* EDUSIE3: Content Specific Assessments and Methods in Inclusive Settings
* EDUSIE5: Inclusive Pedagogy
* EDU2112 Practicum 3: Assessment
* EDU3002 Social and Cultural Worlds of Children
* EDU3091 Practicum 3: Student Teaching
* EDU3221 Teaching of Maths 2: Problem Solving
* EDU3222 Teaching of Maths 3: Assessment
* EDU4002 Individuals with Special Needs
  + Course Leader: Spring 2016 / Spring 2017 / Spring 2018
* EDU4003 Action Research Project
* EDU4091 Practicum 4: Student Teaching
* ELESN01 Special Education: Diverse Learners in Inclusive Settings
  + Course Leader: Fall 2015 / Fall 2016 / Fall 2017 / Fall 2018
* ELESN02 Special Education: Families of Students with Disabilities
  + Course Leader: Spring 2018
* ELESN03 Teaching Students with Mild to Moderate Disabilities
  + Course Leader: Fall 2017 / Fall 2018 / Fall 2019
* ELESN04 Special Education: Behavior Management
  + Course Leader Fall 2015
* Math Preparatory Program – 8 weeks
  + Spring 2016
    - Assisted with developing the curriculum

University of Texas-El Paso

-SPED 3310: Special Education Service for Students in General and Special Education Settings

**COURSES COACHED**

Florida International University

* EEC 3070: Teaching Students with Exceptionalities in Inclusive Settings
* EEC 3403: Special Needs Children and Their Families

University of Texas – Permian Basin

* EDEC 6315: Young Exceptional Learners
* EDU 6302: Cultural Diversity
* EDU 6345: Transition for Exceptional Learners
* EDUC 6304: Educational Psychology
* EDSP 6344: Methods of Teaching Exceptional Learners

University of Texas-El Paso

* SPED 3310: Special Education Service for Students in General and Special Education Settings

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

09/2019 – Present ECAE Graduate Sub-Committee

12/2018 – Present Brain and Learning Research Committee

08/2016 – 08/2019 ECAE Undergraduate Sub-Committee

08/2018 – 08/2019 ECAE Research and Grants Committee

**RESEARCH PROJECTS and GRANT-WRITING EXPERIENCE**

**Data Collection**

2020 - 2021 **Williams, C. D.** & Agbenyega, J. *Online and hybrid teaching and learning processes and outcomes: A systematic review of best evidenced-based practices.*

2020 - 2021 El Zein, F., Santos, I., **Williams, C. D.**, & Jasperse, S. M. *Effective pedagogic strategies for online and hybrid teaching and learning: Findings from Abu Dhabi schools.*

2020 - 2021 Woolsey, M. L., **Williams, C. D.**, Lewis-Traylor, C., Kharbet, F., & Melkonian, M. *COVID-19: Stakeholder perceptions of distance learning for students with disabilities.*

2019 - 2020 Brezial, S. J. & **Williams, C. D**. *Teaching while black and male: A*

*phenomenological study of the racialized professional experiences of underrepresented African American male k-12 public school teachers.*

2017 - 2018 Rashad, F. F. & **Williams, C. D.** *Screen media as an educational tool to*

*teach English-learning infants language.* Emirates College for Advanced Education Research Grant.

2015 - 2018 Areepattamannil, S., Al Suweidl, S. S. M., Al Hassan, S., Khine, M. S.,

Woolsey, M. L., Tennant, L., Welch, A. G., **Williams, C. D.**, Rashad, F. F., & Melkonian, M. *Beyond abc’s and 123’s: A two-year longitudinal study of the impact of kindergarten education on child outcomes in Abu Dhabi.* A.D.E.C. Award for Research Excellence.

2016 - 2017 Tennant, L., Woolsey, M. L., Al Hassan, S., **Williams, C. D.**, Saqr, S., &

Rashad, F. *Emirati pre-service teachers’ global self-esteem and self-efficacy in classroom* *management.*

2012 Diversity Project: Texas A&M University Dean’s Office Project Collected data from various universities to address diversity within the Colleges of Education

2011 Assisted graduate student with coding of reading articles for dissertation

data / Assisted with literature review for an IES grant submission

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Published Peer-Reviewed Manuscripts**

Eppard, J., **Williams, C.**, Hojeij, Z., Johnson, J. D. (2022). Ipad integration: How parents and students at a Dubai-based indian school perceive its effectiveness. International Journal of Education in Mathematics, Science, and Technology (IJEMST), 10(2), 372-390. https://doi.org/10.46328/ijemst.2079

Johnson, J. & **Williams, C. D.** (2019). Emirati university students in the united arab emirates describe preferred mobile learning features used to make sense of mathematics*.* *International Electronic Journal of Mathematics Education, 15*(3), em0596. <https://doi.org/10.29333/iejme/8325>

Shih, M., Calhoon, M. B., Olson, C. L., & **Williams, C. D.**  (2013). Using computation curriculum based measurement probes for error pattern analysis. *Intervention in School and Clinic, 49*(5). 281-289*.* <https://doi.org/10.1177/1053451213513957>

**Published Manuscripts**

Williams, C. D. (2018). Special needs education: Trends and future outlook in the UAE. *The Knowledge Review October 2018.* 66-67. http://magazine.theknowledgereview.com/The-10-Best-Value-Institutes-In-UAE-2018-October2018/#page=69

**Published Abstracts**

Williams, C. D. (2018). Educational considerations for using manipulatives in mathematics. *Front. Neurosci. Conference Abstract: International Conference – Educational Neuroscience.*

Williams, C. D. (2016). Does progress monitoring increase student achievement? Curriculum-based measurement in mathematics. *Front. Neurosci. Conference Abstract: International Conference – Educational Neuroscience. doi: 10.3389/conf.fnins.2016.92.00027*

**Manuscripts Under Review**

Meda, L., Efthymiou, E., AlHammadi, M., **Williams, C. D.**, & Fteiha, M. Conceptualizing and reimaging the future of inclusive education in the UAE. *Submitted to International Social Science Journal*

Meda, L., AlHammad, M., Fteiha, M., Efthymiou, E., & **Williams, C. D.** (2023). Inclusive education in the united arab emirates: Teachers’ preparedness and perceived challenges. *Submitted to Education, Citizenship and Social Justice*

**Editorial Board**

International Journal of Technology in Education and Science

**Guest Reviewer**

2019 Guest reviewer for the *American Educational Research Journal*

2018 Guest reviewer for *Educational Researcher*

2017 Guest abstract reviewer for the 3rd International Conference on Education

2012 Assisted advisor as guest reviewer for *Educational Administration Quarterly*

2011 Assisted advisor as guest reviewer for *Journal of Teacher Education*

2010 Guest reviewer for AERA conference proposals

**Conference Presentations**

Williams, C. D. (November 2022). *Game-based learning for diverse students.* Sharjah Center for Learning Difficulties Third Learning Difficulties Conference in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.

Williams, C. D. (October 2019). *Instilling inclusivity: Teaching students of determination.* Panel Moderator at the Qudwa Forum in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

**Williams, C. D.** & Johnson, J. D. (June 2019). *Undergraduate student preference of mobile learning features to make sense of mathematics.* Poster presented at the 11th Annual International Conference on Education and New Learning Technologies in Palma de Mallorca, Spain.

Williams, C. D. (April 2018). *Playing with mathematics.* Workshop presented at the International Conference on Education in Mathematics, Science and Technology in Marmaris, Turkey.

Williams, C. D. (March 2018). *Educational considerations for using manipulatives in mathematics*. Poster presented at the 3rd International Conference on Educational Neuroscience in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Williams, C. D. (February 2018). *Turn math worksheets into activities.* Workshop presented at the 1st Annual Conference of Education in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Williams, C. D. (2018). *Differentiated Instruction in Math and Worksheet-less Mathematics.* Workshop for the First Subject Teacher Forum at the Teacher Training Institute in Ajman, United Arab Emirates.

Williams, C. D. (April 2016). *To use or not to use progress monitoring as an intervention in mathematics.* Oral presentation presented at the 2nd Annual International Conference on Education in Bangkok, Thailand.

Woolsey, M. L., Tennant, L., & **Williams, C.** **D.** (March 2016). *Workshop A: Informal assessment of at-risk students and progress monitoring. Workshop B: Accommodations vs modifications: The stand-off!* Workshop presented at the International Conference on Inclusive Education: Education for Diversity in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Williams, C. D. (February 2016). *Does progress monitoring increase student achievement? Curriculum-based measurement in mathematics.* Poster presented at The International Conference on Educational Neuroscience in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Williams, C. D. (February 2016). *Curriculum-based measurement in mathematics as an intervention: A meta-analysis*. Poster presented at the International Teacher Education Conference in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Williams, C. D. (October 2015). *The effects of social media and protection strategies.* Oral presentation presented at The International Conference on the Protection from Sexual Harassment in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Calvo, B., Tucker, M., & **Williams, C. D.** (May 2014). *Enhancing student outcomes in online learning with instructional coaches.* Roundtable discussion presented at the Innovations in Online Learning Conference in San Antonio, Texas, United States.

Williams, C. D. (April 2013). *Curriculum-based measurement in mathematics: A meta-analysis.* Poster presented at the Houston Symposium for Research in Education and Psychology in Houston, Texas, United States.

Williams, C. D. (April 2011). *Improving mathematical performance of struggling high school students*. Poster presented at the Council for Exceptional Children Convention and Expo in National Harbor, Maryland, United States.

Goddard, Y. & **Williams, C. D**. (October 2010). *Connecting response to intervention (RtI) and differentiated instruction*. Paper presented at the Council for Learning Disabilities Conference in Myrtle Beach, Florida, United States.

Williams, C. D. (May 2010). *Self-regulatory strategies in mathematics for students with learning disabilities at the secondary level*. Poster presented at the Association for Behavior Analysis International Conference in San, Antonio, Texas, United States.

**Professional Development Offered**

Williams, C. D. (2022). *Strategies for Diverse Learners.* Presented to teachers and teaching assistants at GEMS American Academy in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Williams, C. D. (2021). *Early identification and intervention.* Online webinar for Al Yasmina School Parents, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Williams, C. D. (2021). *Teaching and learning strategies 4-week professional development workshop series.* Online workshops, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSSxpG3QegzWU8thb9no4DsXtrTKEkWUp>

Williams, C. D. (2021). *Introduction to special education 4-week professional development workshop series*. Online workshops, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSSxpG3QegzVHObOa095zpXaUklADT1jG>

Williams, C. D. (2021). *Personalized learning*. Online workshop for Al Yasmina School, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Rashad, F. F., **Williams, C. D.**, & Lewis-Traylor, C. (2020). *Strategies for the student-centered classroom*. Workshop online for Educators Without Boarders, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Williams, C. D. (2019). *Lesson planning for inclusive classrooms*. Workshop at the Emirates College for Advanced Education, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Williams, C. D. (2019). *Inclusive strategies for struggling students.* Workshop at the Emirates College for Advanced Education, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Williams, C. D. (2019). *Lesson Planning.* Workshop as part of the Emirates College for Advanced Education student internship orientation in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Williams, C. D. (2016). *Teaching math to students with special needs.* Workshop at the Future Center in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Williams, C. D. & Parkman, S. (2016). *Dynamic duo of tools for mobile learning in the classroom*. Workshop as part of the Emirates College for Advanced Education Faculty Development Day in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

**Community Service**

04/2019 – 12/2020 Al Mubarakah program development with Sheikha Shamma bint Sultan bin Khalifa al Nahyan -Content Development Team Member

01/2019 – 07/2020 Providing English immersion classes for displaced Syrian children in collaboration with the United Nations and Retal Center – Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

05/2019 – 08/2019 Emirates College for Advanced Education 4-week Summer Camp. -Camp for grades 10-12 -Development Team Member

06/2019 – 07/2019 Emirates College for Advanced Education Helping Hands & Lotus Retal Centre

-5-week Summer Program

-Program for displaced Syrian children -Coordinator & Developer

02/2019 – 06/2019 Parent Volunteer for Student Reading at Repton School - Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

10/2017 – 11/2017 6-week Autism Workshop for children with GOALS UAE

-Creative Designer

10/2016 – 11/2016 6-week Autism Workshop for children with GOALS UAE