

Dana Smerda-Mason, Ed.D.

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Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

Ed.D. Educational Technology Leadership, *New Jersey City University* - 2022

M.A. Educational Technology, *New Jersey City University* - 2012

B.A. Music Performance, *New York University* - 2006

DISSERTATION

Smerda-Mason, D. (2022). *Professional development concerns and solutions in STEAM education*. [Doctoral dissertation, New Jersey City University]. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global.

This study examines the concerns K-12 educators face when tasked with adopting a convergence education approach in their classroom, as well as technological solutions developed to meet the needs for autonomous learning and professional development support through a growing community of practice. Dissertation Committee: Dr. Laura Zeiger (Chair), Dr. Christopher Shamburg, and Dr. Tracy Amerman.

CERTIFICATIONS

New Jersey K-6 Certification

New Jersey Music K-12 Certification

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor.

EDTC 627: Seminar: Current Issues and Trends in Educational Technology

EDTC 807: Implementation and Evaluation of Curriculum

EDTC 310: Teaching with Technology

EDTC 671: Introduction to Assistive Technology

EDTC 631: Administration and Supervision of Educational Technology

EDTC 815: Advanced Administration and Supervision of Technology

EDTC 655: Internship: School Media Center

EDTC 662: Advanced Field Experience School Library Media Specialists

EDTC 803: Data Analysis and Report Writing

EDTC 808: Summer Institute in Educational Technology Leadership II

EDTC 812: Teaching in the Adult Learning Environment

Department of Educational Technology

New Jersey City University, Fall 2024 – Present

Professional Support Spec.

Department of Educational Technology

New Jersey City University, September 2023 – September 2024.

Adjunct Professor.

EDTC 803: Data Analysis and Report Writing

EDTC 808: Summer Institute in Educational Technology Leadership II

EDTC 812: Teaching in the Adult Learning Environment
EDTC 625: STEM Across the Curriculum
EDTC 614: Introduction to Distance Learning
EDTC 623: Introduction to Educational Technology
 Department of Educational Technology
 New Jersey City University, Spring 2022 – August 2024

Instructional Designer. *EDTC 310: Teaching with Technology*
EDTC 625: STEM Across the Curriculum (7-Week Cohort- NCD)
 Department of Educational Technology
 New Jersey City University, December 2022 – April 2023.
Character Education and Social and Emotional Wellness Program
for grades Prekindergarten through eight.
 Ministry of Education & We are GUTSY, Inc.
 Georgetown, Guyana, July 2021 – September 2024.
Forensic Science Gr 6-7, Financial Literacy Gr 6-8, Design
Thinking Gr 3-4.
 Vision Gifted Chinese Children, Shenzhen, China, December
 2019, January 2020, July-August 2025.

Freelance Consultant. Professional Development Trainer and Presenter 2019 – Present.
 Middle School Student Ecology Virtual Research Classes
 Vision Gifted Chinese Children, Shenzhen, China, Jan. –May
 2024.
 STEM Education Program Vision Gifted Chinese Children,
 Shenzhen, China – Dec. 2019, July & August 2025.

Graduate Assistant. Department Of Educational Technology
 New Jersey City University, September 2021 – July 2022.

K-12 PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Teacher of Technology Bayonne Board of Education, January 2015 – September 2023.

Data Analysis Team Bayonne Board of Education, October 2007-May 2008, & January
 2015 – September 2023.

Curriculum Writer Technology and STEAM Education Curriculum
 Ecology, Biodiversity, and Sustainability Activities
 Bayonne Board of Education, 2019 - 2023.

Professional Development Trainer Teacher Academy Presenter and Content Creator
 Bayonne Board of Education, 2020 - 2023.

Teacher of Music High school and middle school instrumental music, music theory,
 aural comprehension, elementary general music, and ensembles

(Concert Band, Marching Band, String Ensemble, Woodwind Ensemble, Mariachi Band, Chamber Groups).
Bayonne Board of Education, August 2006 – December 2014.

Assistant Band Director Bayonne High School Marching Band
Bayonne Board of Education, August 2006 – May 2012.

GRANTS

NJ Maker Day – Site Partner - \$500 - 2025
NJ STEM Pathways Network Grant - \$500 - 2024
BEF Mini Grant - \$500 – 2019
Honeywell Ecosystems Education Grant - \$500 - 2018

AFFILIATIONS

NJCU AI Ethics Advisory Board – Co-chair – 2025 – Present.

Space Center Houston Girls in STEM Mentor Café – Mentor - 2025 – Present.

NJCU AI Ethics Advisory Board – Co-Chair - 2025 – Present.

Vision Gifted Chinese Children (VGCC) – Teacher and Instructional Designer – 2019- Present.

We Are GUTSY, Inc. (Guyanese United to Serve our Youth) – Advisor to the Board - July 2025 – Present.

NJCU SBR Grant Committee- Spring 2025.

NJCU PKAL Regional Committee –2024- Present.

New Jersey City University Senate, Senator-at-Large, May 2024 - Present.

Faculty and Professional Studies Senate Committee – Member – Fall 2024 – Present.

NJCU Professional Support Promotions Committee – Member – Fall 2023 – Fall 2024.

AAC&U Capital PKAL regional network meeting at NJCU- Organization Committee Member – September 2024 – Present.

CAEP College of Education Accreditation Committee – Quality Assurance, Advanced Program, and School Library Media Specialist Program – 2024- Present.

Minority Teacher Quality and Retention Grant (MTQR) for the College of Education – NJCU Coach Hub Digital Consultant and Social Media Support – January 2024 – Present.

Educational Technology Department Webinar Professional Development Series – Organizer - 2021, and 2023 – Present.

Journal of the Instructional Technology Council, Peer Reviewer. 2024 – Present.

American Educational Research Association (AERA), Member – 2024 -Present.

Kappa Delta PI Education Honors Society - Member 2012 - Present, NJCU Chapter Advisor 2024 - Present.

The Thread – NJCU Student Crocheting and Embroidery Group – Group Faculty Advisor - October 2023 – Present.

North Eastern Digital Learning Association (NEDLA) - Vice President - February 2021 - 2024.

We Are GUTSY, Inc. (Guyanese United to Serve our Youth) - Board Member, Educational Content and Instructional Provider - Board Member and Lead Trainer - July 2021 – September 2023.

International Society for Technology Education (ISTE) - Member - 2020 - Present.

2020 SILA CODiE Awards - Judge - January 2020 - June 2023.

Civil Air Patrol, Montgomery, AL, Aerospace Education Member - February 2019 – Present.

Bayonne Water Guardians, Bayonne, NJ, Media Communications Chair - 2017 – 2023.

Bayonne High School Music Foundation 501(c)3 Organization - Artistic Director & Founding Member - 2011-2013.

People to People Student Ambassador, China Summer of 1998, South Africa Summer of 1997 - Selected to represent the United States to promote peace and cultural understanding while visiting government officials.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

3rd Annual Summer Professional Development Institute. New Jersey City University. August 27, 2025.

AERA Conference 202. Denver, CO. - April 2025.

2nd Annual Summer Professional Development Institute. New Jersey City University. August 27, 2024.

MSEIP Grant Sponsored Professional Development Workshop Series: Integrating Community Engagement into STEM Education – New Jersey City University. March 2023.

Northeast CTE Modernizing Health Sciences Seminar with Apple Education – Virtual. February 27, 2024.

Northeast CTE App Development Seminar with Apple Education – Virtual. December 6, 2023.

Northeast CTE Creative Economy Seminar with Apple Education – Virtual. November 14, 2023.

Safe Zone LGBTQ+ Training, New Jersey City University. October 2023.

CS For All, Fairleigh Dickinson University. CS for All teacher training - Fall 2022-Spring 2023.

PRISM Computer Science PD Training - Montclair State University - Fall 2022.

Educators at Space Academy Advanced Training, Huntsville, AL, June 2018 - Attended the advanced training course with NASA trainers in the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.

Honeywell Educators at Space Academy, Huntsville, AL, June 2017 - Received scholarship to attend STEAM classes and Space Academy training with NASA trainers at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center.

National Aerospace Training and Research Center, Southampton, PA - July 2017 & 2018 - Attended STEAM classes and trained in flight simulation and the centrifuge at their aviation training center.

Center for Technology Education Excellence at The College of New Jersey Code.org Training, Ewing, NJ 2017.

PRESENTATIONS

Rand, M., Shamburg, C., Smerda-Mason, D., Pax, J., & Fox, J. (2025, September 22). Using Blackboard to increase student engagement. [Professional Development Webinars for New Jersey City University]. Jersey City, NJ.

Rand, M., Shamburg, C., Smerda-Mason, D., Pax, J. (2025). Helping students persist in online learning. [3rd Annual Professional Development Institute at New Jersey City University]. Jersey City, NJ.

Smerda-Mason, D., Shamburg, C., & Zieger, L. (2025). From now to next: The first wave of teachers using ChatGPT on TikTok. [3rd Annual Professional Development Institute at New Jersey City University]. Jersey City, NJ.

Smerda-Mason, D., Shamburg, C., & Zieger, L. (2025). *From now to next: AI innovations in special education*. [All In Summer Inclusion Leadership Conference at Kean University]. Union, NJ.

Smerda-Mason, D., Stanton, L., Jayaraman, J., Chatterjee, M., Zieger, L., Wallace, A. (May 2, 2025). *Artificial Intelligence, voices across the university*. [AAC&U Project Kalidescope at New Jersey City University]. Jersey City, NJ.

Shamburg, C., Zieger, D., Smerda-Mason, D. (April 25, 2025). *From Instagram to AI: Teacher professional development on the frontlines of educational technology*. [American Educational Research Association, Roundtable Discussion]. Denver, CO.

Shamburg, C., Mason, D., Dennis, P. (March 17, 2025). *Teacher professional development through play: Co-teachers the game*. [New Jersey Coalition for Exceptional Children, Rowan University]. Mahway, NJ.

Smerda-Mason, D., & Degraw, D. (March 14, 2025). *AI Enhanced Digital Storytelling*. [New Jersey Educational Computing Cooperative]. Montclair, NJ

- Shamburg, C., Mason, D., Dennis, P., Gately, C., & Zamora, J. (2025). Board games for professional development. [New Jersey Educational Computing Cooperative 2025 Conference]. Montclair University, NJ.
- Smerda-Mason, D. (February 2, 2025). *STEAM Carnival of Inclusivity*. [New Jersey Maker Day Professional Development Event]. Jersey City, NJ.
- Smerda-Mason, D. (October 16, 2024). *Student empowerment through digital storytelling*. [New Jersey Science Convention]. Princeton, NJ.
- Smerda-Mason, D. (October 14, 2024). *Developing AI Policy and Integration*. [Frankford Regional Schools Staff Training]. Virtual.
- Zieger, L., Smerda-Mason, D., & Kirby, C. (September 4, 2024). *Developing AI Policy and Integration*. [The Academy of the Holy Angels Educator Professional Development]. Demarest, NJ.
- Smerda-Mason, D., Cotter, K., Robinson, V., Noguera, E., George, J., Grant-Simmons, T. (August 27, 2024). *AI in Education Integration Panel Discussion* (Moderator). [New Jersey City University Professional Development Conference]. Jersey City, NJ.
- Smerda-Mason, D., Koch, D. J. (May 15, 2024). *Getting Started with AI: Ideas for Classroom Integration and Policy*. [Westchester University RECAP Conference]. Westchester, PA.
- Smerda-Mason, D. (April 11, 2024). *Integrating AI and Policy Development*. [NJCU Educational Leadership Class with Dr. Pipher]. Jersey City, NJ.
- Smerda-Mason, D., & DeGraw, D. (April 22, 2024). *Integrating AI Into the Classroom*. [NJCU Teacher Inservice Program Class]. Jersey City, NJ.
- Smerda-Mason, D. (March 12, 2024). *Student Empowerment Through Digital Storytelling*. [New Jersey Educational Computing Cooperative]. Montclair, NJ.
- Smerda-Mason, D. (February 11, 2024). *Getting Started with AI: Ideas for Classroom Integration*. [NJCU Department of Educational Technology AI Webinar Series]. Jersey City, NJ. Virtual.
- Shamburg, C., Smerda-Mason, D., McCarty, B., & Welz, M. (December 6, 2023). *Choosing a Doctoral Program Panel Discussion*. [New Jersey Association of School Librarians Conference]. Atlantic City, NJ.
- Smerda-Mason, D. (December 6, 2023). *STEAM On! How to develop a STEAM center in your library*. [New Jersey Association of School Librarians Conference]. Atlantic City, NJ.

Zieger, L., Smerda-Mason, D. (November 9, 2023). *Brain Science Principles to Promote Active Learning in Educational Technology*. [New Jersey Educator Association Conference]. Atlantic City, NJ.

Smerda-Mason, D. (August 2023). *Greatest Hits: Digital Playlists in the Classroom*. [NJCU Department of Educational Technology STEM Professional Development Summer Institutes]. New Jersey City University. Fort Monmouth Campus & Jersey City Campus.

Smerda-Mason, D. (March 27, 2023). *STEAM Education for All: Inclusivity in Design*. [NJCU Department of Educational Technology Carnival of Inclusivity, STEM Pathways]. Jersey City, NJ.

Smerda-Mason, D. (Spring, 2023). *Diversity Equity and Inclusion Awareness for Educators*. [Bayonne Board of Education Teacher Professional Development Technology Series]. Virtual.

Smerda-Mason, D. (Spring, 2023). *Diversity Equity and Inclusion Awareness for Educators*. [Bayonne Board of Education Teacher Professional Development Technology Series]. Virtual.

Smerda-Mason, D. (January 22, 2023). *Student empowerment through digital storytelling*. [NJCU Department of Educational Technology AI Webinar Series]. Jersey City, NJ. Virtual.

Smerda-Mason, D., & Bacha, F. (March 30, 2022). *Origami Artifact Cubes in Space*. [Girls in Technology Symposium]. Hudson County Community College, Jersey City, NJ.

Smerda-Mason, D. (March 14, 2022). *The Power of STEAM Integration in the Classroom*. [NJCU Department of Educational Technology Maker Day]. Jersey City, NJ.

Smerda-Mason, D. (February 18, 2022). *From STEM to STEAM: Integrating Convergence Education Into the 21st Century Classroom*. [Union County Vocational and Technical School Professional Development Conference]. Scotch Plains, NJ.

Smerda-Mason, D. (December 7, 2022). *STEAM On: Convergence Education in the Library Media Center*. [New Jersey Association of School Librarians Conference]. Atlantic City, NJ. - Presenter 2023.

Smerda-Mason, D. (August, 2022). *STEAM and Convergence Education*. [Northeast Digital Learning Association K-12 Virtual Conference]. Virtual Conference.

Smerda-Mason, D. (2022). *Character education for every grade*. [Bayonne Board of Education Teacher Professional Development Technology Series]. Virtual.

Smerda-Mason, D. (2022). *Fun Tech: Resources for Students and Educators*. [Bayonne Board of Education Teacher Professional Development Technology Series]. Virtual.

- Smerda-Mason, D. (2021). *Self-Paced Learning*. [Bayonne Board of Education Teacher Professional Development Technology Series]. Virtual.
- Smerda-Mason, D. (July – August, 2020). *Groups vs. Courses in Schoology*. [Bayonne Board of Education Teacher Professional Development Technology Series]. Virtual.
- Smerda-Mason, D. (May 26, 2020). *New Jersey Ecology and Water Conservation for Grade Six*. [NJTV Learning Live Episode].
- Smerda-Mason, D., Falletti, J. (January 19, 2020). *Creating a Makerspace on a Budget*. [New Jersey Educational Computing Cooperative]. Montclair, NJ.
- Smerda-Mason, D. (2020). *Engage all Learners with STEAM Education*. [Bayonne Board of Education Teacher Professional Development Technology Series]. Virtual.
- Smerda-Mason, D., & Falletti, J. (February, 2020). *Makerspace and STEAM in Every Classroom*. [Space Exploration Education Conference]. Houston, TX.
- Zieger, L., Francis, J., Smerda-Mason, D., & Gomez, I. (December 4, 2019). *Active Learning and Brain Science Principles*. [New Jersey Association of School Librarians Conference]. East Brunswick, NJ.
- Smerda-Mason, D., Falletti, J. (November 6, 2019). *Establishing a Makerspace on a Budget*. [New Jersey Educator Association Conference]. Atlantic City, NJ.
- Smerda-Mason, D., & Falletti, J. (February, 2019). *Creating Your Makerspace and STEAM Center* [Space Exploration Education Conference]. Houston, TX.
- Smerda-Mason, D. (November 7, 2017). *Origami in Space*. [Bayonne Board of Education Teacher Professional Development Technology Conference]. Bayonne, NJ.

PUBLICATIONS

- Mason, D. (2026). *Education Disrupted: Moving Beyond the AI Debate in Educational Spaces*. Boss, G., Davis, T. J., Rantz, R. (Eds.), Rethinking general education in higher education. IGI Global. (In editorial review for Fall 2026 publication).
- Shamburg, C., Zieger, L., Mason, D. L., Dennis, P., Gately, C., Zamora, J. (2025). *Rich conversations and data from an original board game on co-teaching*. American Education Research Association (AERA). Paper submission in editorial review.
- Shamburg, C., Zieger, L., Mason, D. L., Dennis, P., Gately, C., Zamora, J. (2025). Co-teaching: Insights from playing a board game. *International Journal of Inclusive Education*. (Currently under editorial review).

Mason, D. (2026). *Professional development pathways that support inclusion and innovation: A STEAM education approach to educator training*. An, H., & Sung, W (Eds.), *Designing Online Continuing Professional Development for STEM Teacher Education: Models, Strategies, and Practices*. Routledge. (Pending Publication – 2026).

Shamburg, C., Zieger, L. Mason, D., & Amerman, T. (2025). *Teachers and Chat-GPT: The first wave on TikTok*. Teaching and Teacher Education.

D. Smerda-Mason & D.J. Koch (Eds). (2024). *Utilizing Virtual Communities in Professional Practice*. IGI Global. DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3693-1111-0

Smerda-Mason, D. (2024). Virtual communities to support STEAM educators. In D. Smerda-Mason & D.J. Koch (Eds), *Utilizing Virtual Communities in Professional Practice*. IGI Global. DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3693-1111-0.

Mason, C. J., & Smerda-Mason, D. (2024). And the media plays on: How an archive company leveraged community during a time of shutdown. In D. Smerda-Mason & D.J. Koch (Eds), *Utilizing Virtual Communities in Professional Practice*. IGI Global. DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3693-1111-0

Smerda-Mason, D. (2023). Integration of STEAM Education Supports the Future of Cybersecurity. In R. Jimenez and V O'Neill (Eds.), *Handbook of Research on Current Trends in Cybersecurity and Educational Technology*. IGI Global. DOI: 10.4018/978-1-6684-6092-4

Smerda-Mason, D. (2022). *Professional development concerns and solutions in STEAM education*. [Doctoral dissertation, New Jersey City University]. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global.

Smerda-Mason, D. (2021). STEM Becomes STEAM: Educational Innovation in the 21st Century. In I. Jafar, and J. M. Pederson (Eds.), *Emerging Realities and the Future of Technology in the Classroom*. IGI Global. DOI: 10.4018/978-1-7998-6480-6

Smerda-Mason, D. (2019). Supporting the 21st Century Effects of Music Performance with Technology. *Journal of the Instructional Technology Council*. Vol.1(2)

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Frank Murray Leadership Recognition for Continuous Improvement – awarded to the NJCU College of Education Accreditation Committee from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) – 2025.

International Green Teacher Award - NYC Green School Conference, by Green Mentors - 2023.

New Jersey Governor's Educator of the Year Award - Henry E. Harris Community School - 2020-2021.

Albert Einstein Distinguished Fellows - Finalist in 2022 & 2023.

Project Innovate Team - Placed 2nd in city competition and 3rd in Hudson County - 2019.

Commander's Cup Award - July 2018 - Awarded by Space Academy for teamwork and leadership.

Honeywell Institute for Ecosystems Education - August 2018 - Grant Recipient.

National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C. - Selected with our ensemble to perform - May 2012.

US Scholastic Band Association Marching Band State Championship – Bayonne High School Marching Band – *The Lion King* – Placed 3rd in the state of New Jersey – October 2012.