

**Education**

**M.S. Zoology, 1996**

University of Wyoming

**B.S. Secondary Education – Science, 1998**

University of Wyoming

**B.S. Wildlife Conservation Management, 1990**

University of Wyoming

**Present  
Position**

**Senior Associate**

*2011 – present*

Contribute to edCount’s organizational objectives through intellectual engagement, technical expertise, and management of staff and company resources. Responsibilities include directing projects and managing the work of junior staff; planning and implementing methods, techniques, and skills to complete projects in a timely and cost-efficient manner; preparing high-quality reports and other outputs; developing corporate knowledge and knowledge of individual program areas and projects.

**Projects**

**Louisiana Education Alternate Assessment Program Design and Management, Louisiana Department of Education (LEAP Connect)** – Serve as an Alternate Assessment and Science and Mathematics Content Specialist to develop, review, and revise test items aligned to Louisiana Connectors for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities. Developed and designed the LEAP Connect Science assessment. Ensure accessibility of items through multiple types of scaffolding. Developed and maintained an editorial and graphic style guide. Facilitate Louisiana educators in selecting prioritized Louisiana Connectors for the science assessment as well as in reviewing items for content, bias, and sensitivity issues. Developed assessment guides for grade bands to assist Louisiana educators in understanding the LEAP Connect assessment.

**Nebraska Classroom Science Assessment Development** – Serve as Assessment and Content Specialist to develop classroom science tasks aligned to Nebraska’s science standards. Utilize Evidence-Centered Design assessment tools for creation of templates for design patterns, task specifications, tasks, rubrics, and exemplar responses. Plan development and facilitation of professional development. Provide technical documentation of all aspects of project development.

**Strengthening Claims-based Interpretations and Uses of Local and Large-scale Science and Assessment Scores (SCILLSS)** – Serve as a Senior Project Lead and Assessment and Content Specialist to develop NGSS and state science standards crosswalk, claims, and measurement targets. Utilize Evidence-Centered Design assessment tools for creation of classroom and large-scale assessments including task templates, design patterns, exemplar tasks, rubrics, and exemplar responses. Plan development and facilitation of state-based professional development. Provide technical documentation of all aspects of project development.

**Mississippi Assessment Program – Alternate** – Served as a Senior Project Lead and Assessment and Content Specialist to develop and implement the MAP-A including components of an alternate assessment system, innovative assessment design, test blueprints, item and passage development guidelines in English language arts (reading, writing, language) and item development guidelines in mathematics and science for grades 3 – 8 and high school. Facilitated stakeholder meetings including development of assessment components, content and bias reviews, and item development.

**New York State Assessment Development – Mathematics** – Served as a Senior Project Lead and Assessment and Content Specialist; Trained and led educators in the development of mathematics items for grade 3 – 8, including facilitating both online and in-person trainings, and managing educator-created content. Facilitated on-site stakeholder meetings including development of assessment components, and content and bias reviews. Provided feedback and consultation to NYSDE with respect to mathematics development and reconciliation of educator reviews. Previously, developed mathematics item specifications for grades 3 – 8 aligned to the New York State P-12 Common Core Learning Standards; Served as a developer, facilitator, panelist, and contributor to technical documentation of alignment studies for mathematics and English language arts. Provided expertise and guidance as a technical advisor on the assessment system and its contents.

**Studies of General and Alternate Assessment Alignment** – Serve as a Senior Advisor and Assessment Specialist. Act as a facilitator, panelist, and developer of technical documentation of alignment studies for general and alternate assessments of English language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science for various entities including NCSC, PARCC, and several state departments of education.

**South Dakota Development of Science Core Content Connectors (CCCs)** – Served as a Senior Project Lead and Alternate Assessment Specialist to develop science core content connectors (CCCs) that reflect high expectations for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities and describe academic targets that pinpoint starting points for instruction, instructional sequence within a grade and across grade bands (K-5, 6-8, & high school), and inform classroom and accountability assessments to promote a fully aligned system of content, instruction and assessment; Prepare materials, train, and facilitate groups of expert panelists including content experts, assessment experts, special educators, and state leaders, in grade span groups for K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 to analyze the South Dakota Science Standards and finalized the CCCs.

**California Alternate Assessment** – Served as a Senior Project Lead and Assessment Specialist working to develop the California Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Core Content Connectors for use with the California NGSS Alternate Assessment Program. The Core Content Connectors, which were developed with attention to vertical and horizontal articulation, will be used to maintain fidelity to the California Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

Performance Expectations, defined for kindergarten through high school in classrooms serving the student population participating in the alternate assessment.

**Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program – Alternate (TCAP-Alt) – Science and Social Studies** – Served as Senior Project Lead and Alternate Assessment Specialist working towards the development of social studies and science alternate assessments for grades 3 – 8 and high school including determination of prioritized assessment content and development of the test design, test blueprints, item development guidelines, item development, and curriculum and instruction materials. Previously, facilitated stakeholder meetings in both face-to-face and virtual settings, and developed a series of content modules for educators. The modules support delivery of science and social studies instruction to provide appropriate levels of challenge and rigor to students with significant cognitive disabilities.

**Education for the Deaf Act (EDA) Implementation Technical Assistance – the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center** – Served as Senior Curriculum Advisor supporting the Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center’s efforts in curriculum and professional development and compliance with assessment and accountability regulations under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and the Education for the Deaf Act (EDA). Assisted with edCount’s work providing technical assistance to the Clerc Center as they transition to the Common Core State Standards, including curriculum alignment and professional development to support curriculum implementation.

**National Center State Collaborative (NCSC) General Supervision Enhancement Grant** – Served as Senior Curriculum Advisor and Alternate Assessment Specialist working directly with UNC Charlotte on the mathematics and ELA content work for development of the curriculum and instructional resource materials and development of the core content connectors. Provided support and collaboration with other organizational partners including SRI International, University of Kentucky, and the National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment, Inc., and the assessment development teams and item writing/summative assessment vendors. Participated in all management team, staff leadership team, and cross workgroup meetings, and coordinated with the validity evaluation team. Supported the development and writing of technical documentation, standard setting performance level descriptors in mathematics and English language arts for grades 3 – 8 and high school, individual student report content and interpretive guides, and multiple technical reports related to a variety of project-related activities.

**Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Item Development Project** – Served as Project Director responsible for managing budget, staff, timelines, and quality for the creation of program evaluation tests in 32 subject areas for CMS. Managed the test construction process including item and blueprint development, item review, and production of test materials. Managed item writers and liaised with CMS Executive Director of State and Federal Programs to ensure deliverables met client specifications.

**Puerto Rico Department of Education Curriculum Development** – Served as Senior Curriculum Advisor in the evaluation of materials created for the PRDE in the areas of K-12 mathematics and science curriculum development to improve educational standards and student achievement.

**Puerto Rico Standards and Assessment Implementation Technical Assistance** – Served as Senior Curriculum Advisor in the development and evaluation of materials created for the PRDE in the area of students with significant cognitive disabilities. The Assessment Training Modules and materials development for grades 3-11 were designed to improve educational opportunities and student achievement in the Pruebas Puertorriqueñas de Evaluación Alternativa (PPEA).

## **Professional Experience**

### **Director of Assessment, Wyoming Department of Education (WDE)**

*March 2011 – August 2011*

Oversaw and managed the Wyoming state assessment system with responsibility for budget, staff and vendor management. Provided state-wide trainings for district and higher education personnel on state laws and procedures pertaining to state assessment. Collaborated across WDE divisions to define business requirements, improve efficiency and functionality of core services, and implement new systems. Created, implemented, and led action plans and timelines for multiple initiatives. Additional responsibilities included membership on committees and advisory groups internal and external to WDE, acting as liaison between school districts, colleges, and state legislature, developing a program of research in collaboration with the Wyoming Technical Advisory Committee, publishing and presenting at professional conferences on issues affecting state policy and assessment.

### **Director of Test Development and Research, Wyoming Department of Education (WDE)**

*2009 – 2011*

Managed and implemented the Wyoming state assessment system. Provided state-wide training for district and higher education personnel on state laws and procedures pertaining to state assessment. Collaborated across WDE divisions to define business requirements, improve efficiency and functionality of core services, and implement new systems. Created, implemented, and lead action plans and timelines for multiple initiatives. Represented WDE at national meetings and forums, and conducting state-wide workshops relevant to the assessment program. Communicated with state legislature to ensure compliance of rules and regulations. Conducted educational policy research, and interpreted and reported results. Served as co-investigator in federally-funded Enhanced Assessment Grants and General Supervision Enhancement Grants. Served as Co-Chairperson for AdvancEd (the parent organization for the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement) to gather information to be used as evidence that a school met the AdvancED standards for accreditation in Department of Defense overseas schools, 2010.

**Assistant Director of Assessment, Wyoming Department of Education (WDE)**  
*2007 – 2009*

Managed test development activities and item/test analyses. Planned and supervised design of general and alternate assessments and resultant item banks. Evaluated production and quality control procedures and development of technical documentation for computer-based testing programs. Developed and monitored project management schedules and staffing plans. Wrote RFPs (Request for Proposals) and assessment development plans. Co-led development and administration of the Wyoming Alternate Assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. Developed test items, management of content and special education committees and coordination with Wyoming's test vendors (general and alternate assessments) in each stage of development. Created and presented professional development activities for implementation of the results from the state assessments to improve instruction and growth of student knowledge and skills. Implemented and supervised an English Language Proficiency assessment system in Wyoming to improve instruction for English Language Learners. Represented WDE at professional meetings.

**Science and Mathematics Content Specialist, Wyoming Department of Education (WDE)**  
*2004 – 2007*

Led staff in conceptualizing, designing, developing, and implementing the science and mathematics assessment program. Managed the test construction process including item and blueprint development, item review, and production of aligned test materials. Served on state-wide committee for the creation and implementation of a \$450 million state scholarship program with responsibility for state-wide trainings for district and higher education personnel on state laws and procedures pertaining to this scholarship.

**Lecturer, Physics & Astronomy Department, University of Wyoming**  
*2003 – 2004*

Designed undergraduate classroom and laboratory activities. Planned and presented Wyoming Science Fair Activities. Served on committee to provide resources to Wyoming teachers to allow them to enroll in graduate courses at the University and to create learning modules which align with state standards to augment the current science curriculum.

**Adjunct Instructor – Mathematics and Science courses, Laramie County Community College**  
*1999 – 2003*

Instructor for a variety of mathematics and science courses including Human Anatomy, Chemistry, Calculus, and Astronomy. Designed and implemented classroom and laboratory activities.

**Mathematics and Science Teacher – Whiting Alternative High School, Grades 9-12, Albany County School District #1**

*1998 – 2003*

Provided instruction in a manner that met or exceeded the district math/science standards. Served as a representative to the district technology committee and as building technology coordinator. Participated in state-wide BOE (Bodies of Evidence) committees for the math and science state assessments and was a member of the Cadre of Experts which developed the Wyoming Activities Consortium assessments, rubrics, and scoring guides in support of the BOE.

**Professional  
Affiliations &  
Organizations**

National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME)

American Educational Research Association (AERA)

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)

Past member of the Council of State Science Supervisors (CSSS)

Past member of the Association of State Supervisors of Mathematics (ASSM)

Past member of the Council of Chief State School Officers – State Collaboratives on Assessment and Student Standards (SCASS):

Assessing Special Education Students (ASES)

Implementing the Common Core System (ICCS)

Technical Issues in Large-Scale Assessment (TILSA)

Past member of Wyoming Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges (WYMATIC)

Past member of The Wyoming School-University Partnership (University of Wyoming)

**Publications  
&  
Presentations**

Deters, L., Nebelsick-Gullett, L., Turner, C., Herrera, B., & Towles, E. (2016, April). Evaluating the Degree of Coherence Between Instructional Targets and Measurement Models. National Council on Measurement in Education, Washington, D.C.

Herrera, B., Turner, C., Nebelsick-Gullett, L., & Scott, L. (2016, April). Consideration of the Learner, the Teacher, and Item Performance. National Council on Measurement in Education, Washington, D.C.

Turner, C. & Herrera, B. (2016, April). Writing Instruction: What We Know and Still Need to Know. Council for Exceptional Children, St. Louis, MO.

Herrera, B., Turner, C., Quenemoen, R., & Thurlow, M. (2015, November). NCSC's age- and grade-appropriate assessment of student learning. NCSC Brief, Number 6.

Davidson, A., Hagge, S., Herrera, B., Turner, C., Egan, K., Flowers, C., Quenemoen, R., & Thurlow, M. (2015, April). Incorporating accessibility and complexity concepts into test specification and anchor set selection

- for alternate assessments of alternate achievement standards. American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- Flowers, C.P., & Herrera, B. (2015, April). Building from the ground up: A writing assessment story (Symposium: Writing for students with significant cognitive disabilities: It's more than just writing their names). American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- Flowers, C., Herrera, B., Turner, C., Towles-Reeves, L., Davidson, A., Hagge, S., Thurlow, M., & Quenemoen, R. (2015, April). Developing a large-scale assessment using evidence-centered design: Did it work? National Council on Measurement in Education, Chicago, IL.
- Hagge, S., Davidson, A., Herrera, B., Turner, C., & Thurlow, M. (2015, April). Item construct maintenance when varying levels of support and complexity. National Council on Measurement in Education, Chicago, IL.
- Herrera, B. (2014, June). *Using performance standards in next generation alternate assessments: connecting instruction and assessment*. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Council of Chief State School Officers, New Orleans, LA.
- Herrera, B. (2014, June). *While this may be true, the stepping stones to transition are not enough*. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Council of Chief State School Officers, New Orleans, LA.
- Herrera, B. (2013, April). *Changing traditional item review processes to review ecd-based items*. (Symposium: *Everything changes: implementing evidence-centered design to address large-scale assessment challenges*). American Educational Research Association, San Francisco, CA.
- Wakeman, S., Turner, C., Herrera, B., & Lee, A. (2013, April). *Graduated understandings for instruction of students with significant disabilities: Movement toward common core state standards*. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Council for Exceptional Children, San Antonio, TX.
- Mueller, C., Herrera, B., & King, K. (2012) *Standards: Revisited, Re-evaluated, and just Refurbished*. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Association of Test Publishers Innovations in Testing, Palm Springs, CA.
- Kettler, R.J., Dickenson, T.S., Bennett, H.L., Morgan, G.B., Gilmore, J.A., Beddow, P.A., Swaffield, S., Turner, L., Herrera, B., Turner, C., & Palmer, P.W. (2012). Enhancing the accessibility of high school science tests: A multi-state experiment. *Exceptional Children*, 79(1), 91-106.
- Herrera, B. (2010). *In Pursuit of PAWS Instructional Sensitivity or...nothing specific or too very Scientific*. Presented at CCSSO, Detroit, MI.
- Turner, C. & Herrera, B. (2005 – 2010). *Technical Manuals for the Proficiency Assessments for Wyoming Students – Alternate*. Contributions on behalf

of Wyoming Department of Education, Harcourt Assessment, Inc. and Questar Assessment, Inc. Internal Reports.

Herrera, B. & Turner, C. (2005 – 2010). *Technical Manuals for the Proficiency Assessments for Wyoming Students*. Contributions on behalf of Wyoming Department of Education, Harcourt Assessment, Inc. and Pearson Assessment, Inc. Internal Reports.

Karvonen, M., et al. (including B. Herrera) (2010). *Correlates of Student Performance on an Alternate Assessment based on Alternate Achievement Standards (AA-AAS): The Role of Learner Characteristics and the Instructional Program*. Presented at American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.

Herrera, B., Bechar, S., Almond, P., Karvonen, M., Wakeman, S., Turner, C., Bowen, T., Turner, L., & Flowers, C. (2009, June). *Hitting a Moving Target: A Discussion of Ten Alignment Studies for AA-AAS*. Presented at CCSSO, Los Angeles, CA.

Karvonen, M., et al. (including B. Herrera) (2009). *Curriculum Alignment and Student Performance on an Alternative Assessment Based on Alternate Achievement Standards*. Presented at American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

Turner, C. & Herrera, B. (2009, June). State Academic Learning Links with Self-Evaluation for Alternate Assessment. Wyoming Contribution to *SALLSA Newsletter*, pp. 7-8.