

Edwin Obilo Achola, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

Department of Advanced Studies in Education and Counseling

California State University Long Beach

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Redacted for online publication

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Equity and diversity in special education; transition from adolescence to adulthood;
teacher training and professional development; culturally responsive and sustaining
pedagogy

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2018-Present **Associate Professor**
 Project Director
 Special Education
 Department of Advanced Studies in Education and Counseling
 CSU, Long Beach

2016-Present **Consultant**
 US Department of Education
 Qualified Administrator: Intercultural Development Inventory

2013-2018 **Assistant Professor**
 Co-Project Director
 Special Education
 Department of Advanced Studies in Education and Counseling
 CSU, Long Beach

2011-2013 **Adjunct Professor**
 School of Education
 Virginia Commonwealth University

2010-2013 **Research Assistant**
 School of Education
 Virginia Commonwealth University

2008-2010 **Graduate Assistant**
 African American Cultural Center
 Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Jan 2006- Dec2007 **High School Teacher**
 Highway High School
 Responsibilities-Teaching English in inclusive 9-12 Grades

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Special Education and Disability Policy
 Virginia Commonwealth University
 Richmond, Virginia

M.Ed. Education of Exceptional Persons
 Indiana University of Pennsylvania
 Indiana, Pennsylvania

B.Ed. English Education
 Maseno University
 Maseno, Kenya

AWARDS

2018	Virginia Commonwealth University Alumni's 10 Under 10 award recipient
2016, 2017,	Hogar Award: Faculty Summer Research
2018	
2018	ATI Faculty Advocates Incentive Program Award
2018	Academic Innovation Design Initiative Award
2018	Ukleja Center: Ethics Across the Curriculum Award
2015	Disabled Student Services: Faculty of the year Award

PUBLICATIONS

- Hsieh, B., Achola, E.O., Navarro, O., Reese, L., Keirn, T., Davis, S., & Moreno, J. (2021). Transforming educator practice through a culturally responsive and sustaining pedagogies rubric: Co-construction, implementation, and reflection. In E.C. Cain, J. Crawford, & R. Filback (Eds.) *Cases on academic program redesign for greater racial and social justice*.
- Achola, E. O. (2019). Practicing what we preach: Reclaiming the promise of multicultural transition programing. *Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals*
- Kahn, L., Achola, E. & Povenmire-Kirk, T. (2018). Career Development for Young Adults with Disabilities: An Intersectional Analysis. Impact of diversity on career development. In A.M. Broadridge & S. L. Fielden (Eds.) *Research Handbook of Diversity and Careers*. Cheltenham. Edward Elgar Publishing
- Agran, M., Wojcik, A., Cain, I., Thoma, C.A., Achola, E., Austin, K., Tamura, R., & Nixon, C. (2017). Participation of youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities in extracurricular activities: Does inclusion end at 3:00pm? *Education and Training in Autism and Developmental Disabilities*.52 (1)3-12
- Achola, E. & Green, G. (2016) Person-family-centered transition planning: Improving post-school outcomes for culturally diverse youth and families.

- Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*.45, 173-183 DOI:10.3233/JVR-160821
- Powers, K. & Achola, E. (2016). Transition Planning. In Kampwirth, T & Powers, K. *Collaborative consultation in the schools, 5th Edition*. Columbus, Ohio: Pearson Press.
- Achola, E.O., Tamura, R., & Nixon, C. (2013). Health care assessment. In C.A. Thoma & R. Tamura (Eds.). *Demystifying Transition Assessment*. Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co.
- Wehman, P., Kevin, S & Achola, E. (2012). Applications for youth with emotional and Behavior disorders. In P. Wehman. (Eds). *Life beyond the classroom: Transition strategies for young people with disabilities*: Paul H. Brookes Publishing
- Thoma, C.A., Austin, K., Achola, E., Batalo, C., Carlson, D., Boyd, K., Bozeman, L., & Wolfe, D. (2012). The state of postsecondary education for persons with intellectual disabilities: What are the perceptions of key stakeholders? *Creative Education*. DOI:10-4236/CE 2012
- Gerber, P.J, Batalo, C. G and Achola, E. O (2011) Learning disabilities and employment before and in the Americans with disabilities act era: Progress or a bridge too far? *Learning disabilities. An interdisciplinary journal*, 17(3), 123-129. doi: 10.1002/dys.437
- Gerber,P. J., Batalo, C. G., & Achola, E. (2012). Dyslexia and learning disabilities In Canada and the United Kingdom: The impact of its disability employment laws. *Dyslexia: International Journal of Research and Practice*, 18(3), 166-73. doi: 10.1002/dys.1441

Grants

- Achola, E. O, Olsen, J., & Powers K. *Culturally Responsive Transition Support in School Counseling and Special Education (CREST) PI & PD*. Funded by the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) for \$1,249,993 (CFDA # 84.325K). January 2019 – December 2023.
- Powers, K., Achola, E. O, & Sanderson, K. *Multicultural Secondary Transition Services for Students with High Needs Disabilities* Co-PI &Co-PD. Funded by the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) for \$1,249,812 (CFDA # 84.325K). January 2019 – December 2023.

- Powers, K., Achola, E., & Hagans, K. *Culturally Responsive Transition Policies, Planning and Practices* Co-PI &Co-PD. Funded by the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) for \$1,249,922 (CFDA # 84.325K). August 2015 – August 2020.
- Achola, E., Leonard-Giesen, S., Hansuvadha, N., Richards-Tutor, C., Stout, K. *Curriculum Innovation for Special Education*, PI. Funded by The College of Education-CSULB (\$3,500)
- Hansuvadha, N, Achola, E & Olsen, J. *Culturally Responsive Multi-tiered Systems of Support in School Counseling and Special Education*, Co-PI. Funded by Office of Research Sponsored Programs Multi-Disciplinary Research Grants (\$14, 450) August 2017- March 2018
- Achola, E. & Powers, K. *Project HOGAR AY 2015-2016 Grant Mentoring Program for Faculty*. (\$5,000 and 3 units of assigned time)
- Achola E. O. *Lessons from stakeholders: Exploring the discourse on diversity and special education in Long Beach and its environs*. Project HOGAR Summer 2016 Grant Award (\$4, 000)
- Nixon, C., Achola, E., Thoma, C. (2012). Health care transition needs of youth with mild disabilities living in poverty. Center of Excellence Outreach (\$2,500)

Unfunded Grants Proposals

TIPSID

- Achola, E., & Powers, K. *Family School Partnerships in Transition*. PI. Submitted to the Institute of Educational Sciences (IES) for \$1,400,000. (August, 2016).
- Achola, E. O., Pandya, J., Elison, K. & Leonard-Giesen, S. *Multicultural/Urban Special Education. An integrated Four-year Special Education Program*. PI . Submitted to California Commission on Teacher Credentialing for \$250, 000
- Achola, E. O., Powers, K., & Hagans. *Multicultural Transition Programming and Practices*; PI &Co-authored. Submitted to the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) for \$1,250,000 (CFDA #84.325K).

Powers, K & Achola, E. O. *Inclusion in Linked Learning Field Experience*. Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability and Reform Center (\$12,000)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Achola, E. O. (October, 2019) Assessing and Using Cultural Wealth in Transition Programing, *Division on Career Development and Transition Conference, Seattle, Washington*

Hagiwara, Ingram, Achola, Shanley & Suk (2019). Beyond Diversity Projects. Looking at the Whole to Seize Future Opportunities *Division on Career Development and Transition Conference, Seattle, Washington*

Achola, E. O. (May, 2018). Practicing what we preach: Reclaiming the promise of multicultural transition programing in practice *NTACT, Denver, Colorado*

Achola, E. O. & Ledezma, J. (October, 2017). Practicing what we preach: Reclaiming the promise of multicultural transition programing in practice *Division on Career Development and Transition Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

Powers, K., Layton, J. & Achola, E. O (October, 2017). Improving post-secondary transition planning through consultation. *Division on Career Development and Transition Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.*

Kahn, L. & Achola, E. O (October, 2017). Intersectionality and career development for young adults with disabilities: A Critical analysis of transition practices strand *Division on Career Development and Transition Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

Achola, E., Kea, C., Correa, V., Green, T.D., & McIntosh, K. (2016) Preparing Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Educators: Rethinking Our Approach to Personnel Preparation. *OSEP Project Directors' conference*. Washington, DC (July 2016).

- Achola, E. & Haggans, K. (2016) An Interdisciplinary Project to Promote Culturally Responsive Transition Policies, Planning & Practices. OSEP *Project Directors' conference*. Washington, DC (July 2016).
- Achola, E. Alvares, J., & Underwood, A. (2016) Lessons from Stakeholders: Exploring the Discourse on Diversity and Transition Planning from an Asset-based Perspective *International Division on Career Development and Transition Conference, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina* (October 2016).
- Powers, K., Achola, E. Alvares, J., & Underwood, A. (2016) An Interdisciplinary Project to Promote Culturally Responsive Transition Policies, Planning & Practices *International Division on Career Development and Transition Conference, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina* (October 2016).
- Achola, E. (2015) Using Person-Family Interdependent Planning Approach to Improve Transition Outcomes for Culturally Diverse Youth & Families. *19th International Division on Career Development and Transition Conference Portland, Oregon* (November 2015).
- Nixon, C. A., Thoma, C. Achola, E., Tamura, R. & Austin, K. (2015) Participation of Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Extracurricular Activities: Are Students Included?" *19th International Division on Career Development and Transition Conference Portland, Oregon*
- Achola, E. & Arora, T. (2015) Family-Centered Transition planning (FCTP): Strategies for increasing effective transition services, supports, and outcomes for individuals with exceptionalities and families from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. *International conference on Autism and Developmental Disabilities, Clearwater-Florida*.
- Achola, E. (2015). Person Centered Transition Planning: Improving Outcomes to Culturally Diverse Youth & Families. *A Bridge to the Future II" California Institute on Secondary Transition, San Diego, California*.
- Achola, E. (2015). Impact of college social environment on academic achievement and persistence of students with disabilities. *Council of Exceptional Children, San Diego, California*.

- Thoma, C., Tamura, R., Nixon, C., Achola, E. & Austin, K. (2015) Participation of Students with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities in Extracurricular Activities: Are Students Included? *Council of Exceptional Children, San Diego, California.*
- Achola, E. Nixon, C. A., Tamura, R. & Austin, K. (2016) Participation of Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in Extracurricular Activities: Are Students Included?" *International conference on Autism and Developmental Disabilities, Honolulu-Hawaii .*
- Achola, E. (2014). Completing college: A longitudinal examination of potential antecedents of success in postsecondary education for students with disabilities. *Council for Exceptional Children, Philadelphia, PA*
- Achola, E. (2013) Completing college: A longitudinal examination of potential antecedents of success in postsecondary education for students with disabilities. *Division on Career Development and Transition, Williamsburg, VA.*
- Nixon, C., Achola, E., Thoma, C.A., Tamura, R., & Salmirs, D. (2012) Strategies to increase teacher knowledge in supporting student self-determination. *Division on Career Development and Transition, Denver, CO*
- Nixon, C., Achola, E., Thoma, C.A., Tamura, R., & Salmirs, D. (2012) Effective strategies to increase teacher knowledge in supporting student self-determination. *National Transition Conference, Washington, DC.*
- Thoma, C., Nixon, C., Achola, E., Salmirs, D. (2011). Preparing Teachers to Facilitate Student Self-determination in Transition: What do teacher educators need to know and do. *DCDT International Conference. Kansas City, MO.*
- Reed, E & Achola, E. (2011) Comparing Traditional and Alternative Licensure Routes Performance Assessments of ECSE Scholars from Different Backgrounds *OSEP Project Directors' conference. Washington, DC.*
- Thoma, C.A., Batalo, C., Achola, E., Wolfe, D., Boyd, K., & Austin, K. (2010) Follow up to the 2009 State of the Science Conference: A qualitative review of meeting transcripts. Presentation at the 2010 State of the Art Conference on post-secondary education and individuals with intellectual disability. Fairfax, VA.

Contributions/ Participation in Organization of State/National Scope

Member: Council for Exceptional Children

Member: Division of Career Development and Transition (DCDT) & Peer Reviewer

Member: Division for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Learners (DDEL) & Peer Reviewer

Member: California Transition Alliance (CTA)

Other:

A. University and Community Service Activities

I. Membership and Positions on Faculty Committees

2017-Present: Co-facilitator- Caminos HSI Professional Development

2019-Present: Student Affairs committee

2019: Grades appeal committee

2018-2019: Endowment committee

2017-2019: Co-Chair Faculty Council (College)

2017-2018: Co-chair Special Education search committee (Department)

2017: Co-chair lecturer search Special Education (Department)

2017-2019: Academic Senate-Elections and nominations subcommittee (University)

2015- 2016: Program Assessment and Review Council (university)

2014-Present: Advisory Council on Enrollment Management (university)

2013-present: International Education committee: Africa sub-committee (university)

2014-2017: Student Affairs committee (College)

2014-2017: College of Education: Nominations and elections committee (college)

Spring 2015: Department chair nominating committee: Committee chair. (Department)

2016-2017: Socio Cultural Analysis of Education search committee (Department)

2014-2015: School counseling search committee (Department)

2015-2016: School counseling search committee (Department)

Other Contributions

Grade appeals committee (-2021)

ASEC Professional Review (2020-)

CED Student Affairs (-2021)

Faculty Awards (2021)

- ASEC Curriculum (2021)
 School Counseling TT Faculty Search (2021)
 2018-2020: Council of Exceptional Children DCDT-Board Member
 2018-2020: Chair Human Rights and Diversity Committee-DCDT
 2016-Present: Member of the Standing Panel (Office of Special Education Programs)
 2016-: OSEP conference planning committee, OSEP Project Directors conference
 2015-2017: Recruitment of African American Future Teachers (college/program)
 2013-present: Course equivalency (program)
 2013-present: Student interviews (program)
 2014-present: Comprehensive exams: Grading and student mentorship (program)
 2014-present: Recruitment: international and domestic students (program)
 2014-present: Thesis chair and committee member (program)
 2014-present: Faculty advisor (program & university)
 2015-present: Co-Project director: *Culturally Responsive Transition Policies, Planning and Practices* project.
 2018-present: Project director: *Culturally Responsive Transition Support in School Counseling and Special Education (CREST)*
 2018-present: Co-Project director: *Multicultural Secondary Transition Services for Students with High Needs Disabilities*
 2013-present: Professional development: Long Beach school district transition programs (community)
 2015-present: Expert reviewer for OSEP grants (profession)
 2014: Safe zone ally training curriculum modification (college)
 2015-present: Manuscript review (profession)
- *SAGE Open* is an open access publication from SAGE. It publishes peer-reviewed, original research and review articles in an interactive, open access format.
 - *Remedial and Special Education Journal*
 - *Multiple Voices for Ethnically Diverse Exceptional Learners Journal*
 - Teaching Exceptional Children
 - Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals
 - Inclusion

- UMGSS committee-chair
- Search committee

Service to the field

2021 CCTS Transition Forum

DISSERTATION/THESIS COMMITTEES

Doctoral Students

Amra Pepic- Chair: Graduated 2020

Kahdaffi Rippors-Chair

Diana Tran-Chair: Graduated in 2021

Mathews Nicholas-Member-Graduated in 2021

Masters Students

Meng Long Kong-Chair; Graduated 2017

Tania Calhoun-Chair: Graduated in 2021

Gloria Guzman-Member; Graduated 2018

Alison Underwood- member; Graduated 2018

Jennifer Diaz- Member, Graduated 2020

Kolini Coleman- Member, Graduated 2020

Sabrina Khan-Member, Graduated 2021

EDLD Post-Doctoral Scholars Fellowship

II. Activities in the profession/ community

Ongoing professional development in Long Beach School District. Consulting with professionals in in the youth employment network in developing culturally responsive transition assessments.

Consultations with culturally diverse families who have transition age children with disabilities.