

## Curriculum Vitae, Jennifer Prager

### **Jennifer Jaye Prager**, Ed.D.

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Current work title/location: Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Coach / Special Education Teacher  
Long Beach Unified School District  
1515 Hughes Way  
Long Beach, CA 90810  
Current supervisor: Dr. Erin Brown, Assistant Superintendent Student Support Services

Part-Time Lecturer  
California State University Long Beach  
Advanced Studies in Education and Counseling (ASEC) Dept, College of Education  
Department Chair: Dr. Hiromi Masunaga

### **EDUCATION:**

University of Southern California

Educational Doctorate (Ed.D), 2006

Major: International/Intercultural Education

Dissertation: *Through the eyes of art: Uncovering promising practices in arts-themed learning in California charter elementary schools*

National University, Los Angeles

Education Specialist Teaching Credential, 2014

Emphasis: Teaching children with special needs, k-12, with mild to moderate disabilities

Phoenix University

CLAD Certification, 2012

California State University, Long Beach

Education Specialist Teaching Credential, 2000

Emphasis: Teaching children with special needs, k-12, with moderate to severe disabilities

California State University, Long Beach

Master of Science, 1996

Major: Special Education

California State University, Long Beach

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Bachelor of Arts, 1994

Major: Theatre, Performance

### **WORK EXPERIENCE:**

California State University, Long Beach

Lecturer

2017-PRESENT

Long Beach I am a part-time lecturer in the Department of Advanced Studies in Education and Counseling. I teach EDSP 350- Education of Exceptional Disabilities. My duties in the ASEC Department consist of teaching my class and providing adequate instruction to the students in the class. The class is EDSP 350-Education of Exceptional Individuals. This introduction to Special Education class teaches the foundations of Special Education, RTI and IEP process, cultural and linguistic diversity, behavior management, differentiated instruction, and introduction to various needs of students such as ADHD, Learning Disabilities, Emotional Disabilities, Communicative Disorders and Autism, Developmental Disabilities.

Long Beach Unified School District

Special Education Teacher

1994-PRESENT

Since September 2019, I am a Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) for Social Emotional Learning (SEL), for all elementary schools. As SEL TOSA some of my duties are:

- Writing SEL curriculum directly teaching children skills for understanding emotions, relationships, and problem solving. This curriculum is embedded in the ELA Unit Guides
- Providing PD directly to sites in the areas of unpacking SEL and CASEL Competencies, Adult SEL, Trauma-Informed Strategies, and Cultivating Resilience through Mindful Strategies.
- Provide direct Adult Wellness in weekly "Mindful Moments," supporting teachers' understanding of strategies for managing stress.
- Organizing a QIT, a team tasked with supporting us develop outcome indicators for SEL instruction.

In December 2020, I was chosen to be part of the Equity Leadership Team (ELT) in LBUSD. Out of 80 applicants, I was one of 10 LBUSD staff chosen to facilitate the development of an Equity Policy that we will bring before the Board by June 2021. This is exciting and long overdue work to make sure there is an equitable approach to teaching, staffing, disciplining, organizing, and facilitating change. I am so excited to be part of necessary work.

Until September 2019, I was a teacher in a classroom for children with behavioral and emotional needs ages 6-9. The classroom designation is Emotional Disability (ED). I was responsible for educating my students in all academic areas, including brand-new

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curriculum in ELA and Math, and Common Core curriculum. I assist each student in dealing with, managing, and modifying his individual behavioral/emotional needs. I also oversee the performance of three paraeducators who work with me in the classrooms. I help this position, at various schools, for over 24 years.

Additionally, for 10 years, (ending in 2010) I was a Home-Hospital teacher through the district. I was assigned to cases where children were too sick to attend school. I provided 5 hours of instruction a week for each child. I instructed one of my students for 8 years until she aged out at 22.

Long Beach Unified School District

**EXALT** (**EX**cellence and **A**chievement in **L**ife's **T**heatre) teacher and director

2000-PRESENT

I run this self-funded Theatre Arts Program created specifically for children with special needs. Throughout the years, I have worked with children ages 3-18, with emotional, behavioral, physical, and developmental needs. Every group's participation culminates with a theatrical production for students, teachers, and family. I must balance the specific special needs of the students with the creative arena, providing the children with an environment for success.

I am responsible for operating EXALT's after-school Theatre Arts program component, producing a full-length musical for approximately 50-70 children ages 6-13. Duties consist of directing, choreographing, organizing, coordinating different committees such as costumes, set design, and public relations. I facilitate parents to participate in various positions and I am responsible for presenting a polished production to the public for 4 performances. A recent musical was Lion King, performed in December 2019. This year's performance was Annie, to be performed in March 2020. Unfortunately, when schools closed due to the pandemic, our performance never happened. Previous performance casts have attend City Hall Board Meetings and performed for City Council, receiving recognition from Mayor Garcia and Vice Mayor Richardson.

Additionally, the performance was attended by the Superintendent of Long Beach, Chris Steinhauser and Board Member, Megan Kerr. As a result, EXALT received a \$10,000 Grant from LBUSD for the 2017 school year.

### **Honors:**

\$20,000 Initiative funding for EXALT, submitted by Superintendent Chris Steinhauser and Board Member Megan Kerr and approved by LBUSD, 2017 and 2018

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The Council for Exceptional Children, Long Beach Chapter #108 honored me with the STAR Award (Special Education Teachers and Credentials Service Providers), 2015

Long Beach City Council, Mayor Bob Foster recognized me as "Teacher of the Year" as extraordinary teacher of the arts (celebrating Day of the Teacher), 2007

Long Beach Rotary Club  
Educator of the Month, 2001  
Recognizing my use of the arts with children

Arlene Solomon Foundation  
Arlene Solomon Classroom Grant, 2000  
For the integration of the arts in the classroom

### **Courses Taught:**

As the teacher in a SDC, I am responsible for teaching all content areas for the grade levels I teach including: English Language Arts (and ELD instruction when necessary), Writing, Math, PE, Social Studies, and Science. I am responsible for teaching to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) as well as meeting the academic goals as designated in the IEPs for my students.

I am dedicated to providing my students to a well-rounded arts-based education which includes teaching about and learning from Art Masters, such as in the "Meet the Masters" Program.

I provide extensive instruction in the areas of anger management and empathy training. I provide students with strategies for dealing with their emotions, as well as give them the tools to identify and understand how others are feeling. I am well-trained to use the empathy training program, Second Step.

I have been trained in Lindamood-Bell instruction for reading and comprehension, as well as strategies for Visualizing and Verbalizing. I currently use what I was taught in the classroom.

I am part of the Safe and Civil team at my school site and have attended many training sessions in this area for the past 7 years.

I am part of the LBUSD Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) for my school and attend several trainings a year to assist my school site in a district-led, site-managed instructional visions and pathways for the past 2 years.

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I have received training in the area of Non-Violence Crisis Intervention (NCI or CPI), which provides strategies for deescalating aggressive situations and assisting students in a non-threatening, safe way. This certification and re-certification happens every two years.