

Dawn L. Thomas

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SUMMARY

Skilled African American educator with a strong background in working with underserved students, a passion for helping marginalized students see themselves in their academic leaders, and a desire to recruit African American and other marginalized students into the education fields.

EDUCATION

The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

M.A.T. Secondary English Education

May 2023

ESL Endorsement

May 2023

Bachelor of Liberal Studies, Expression in Writing and Art

May 2019

TEACHING

Graduate Teaching Assistant, The University of Iowa

Aug. 2020 – Present

- Assisted Elementary Education professors and seminar leaders with:
 - Grading assignments required for state licensure and reading and research reflections
 - Student assignment and attendance follow-up and email responses to student inquiries
 - Developing and teaching lectures
 - Taking attendance for 60-150 Elementary Education students and student teachers

Course Instructor, The University of Iowa

Jan. 2021 – May 2021

- Worked as college course instructor for a ten-week Spring break community service course focused on educational justice in the United States
- Conducted online lectures for a group of college students interested in educational justice
- Developed and presented socially and academically engaging curriculum and activities

Elementary School Paraeducator, Iowa City Community School District

Aug. 2019 – Sept. 2020

- Worked with special needs elementary school students one on one with reading, math intervention, and task specific routines to assist teachers with learning and behavioral outcomes
- Assisted parents, staff, and students with administrative, scheduling, and student specific issues
- Supervised elementary school students during recess and lunch

Teen Dynamics Program Coordinator, The City of Iowa City Recreation Division

Sept. 2019 – Aug. 2020

- Coordinated engaging afterschool programming for junior and senior high school students who identify as special populations within the City of Iowa City Mercer Park rec center district
- Wrote, developed, and facilitated an eight-week life skills course on behalf of a local non-profit for senior high school girls who self-identify as minority students

Rhetoric Tutor, The University of Iowa Writing Center

Jan. 2019 – May 2019

- Assisted Rhetoric students seeking Writing Center services
- Reviewed student writing assignments based on assigned prompts and instructor rubric
- Provided feedback on student papers, speeches, and presentations

Student Teacher, The University of Iowa

Jan. 2023 – May 2023

- Built positive and strong connections with high school students, staff, teachers, and administrators
- Planned, created, and taught a three-week teaching unit for 114 African American Literature
- Planned, modified, and taught a one-week teaching unit for 15-20 English Language Learners
- Collaborated with two lead teachers for effective delivery of teaching units, formative and summative assessments, and classroom management strategies

English Education Practicum, The University of Iowa/Iowa City Community School District

Sept. 2020 – Dec. 2020

- Worked as the lead substitute for two virtual 9th grade English classes
- Implemented effective daily social emotional learning strategies for positive student engagement, connection, and relationship building
- Planned, developed, and taught curriculum for 10 weeks
- Collaborated with lead teacher for effective online teaching strategies, grading policies, and virtual classroom management strategies
- Conducted parent conferences

OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teacher Leader Certificate, The University of Iowa

Dec. 2022

Attended the following workshops, along with more than 10 hours of volunteer work in a 9th grade virtual classroom.

- The Power of Creativity in Education (9/20/2020)
- Nikole Hannah-Jones: In Conversation about 1619 and the Legacy that Built a Nation (9/22/2020)
- It's Okay To Be Uncomfortable: Moving Toward Racial Equity in Education in Iowa (9/23/2020)
- Race and the Media: How the Media Shapes Race Issues and Influences Our Beliefs (10/8/2020)
- Bullying: How to Recognize It & Help Those Experiencing It (10/24/2020)
- Freedom Fridays: Fete Collage (interactive session for BIPOC) (11/6/2020)
- Planning Effective Inclusion for Students with Disabilities in K-12 Classrooms (Nov. 11, 2020)

Google Certified Educator - Level 1, The University of Iowa

Feb. 2021

Rhetoric Peer Mentor (Paid Practicum), The University of Iowa

Aug. 2018 – Dec. 2018

- Assisted Rhetoric professor with student-needs based assignments and office hours
- Reviewed student writing assignments based on assigned prompts and instructor rubric
- Provided feedback on student papers, speeches, and presentations

SERVICE

Volunteer Teacher, Christ Place Church, Oakwood, GA

Jan. 2012 – May 2018

- Prepared, taught, and led various primary school-aged through adult classes based on assigned text

MLK Day of Service, The City of Iowa City

Oct. 2019 – Jan. 2020

- Committee Member
- Youth Summit Sub-committee Member

Antiracism Webinar Series, The University of Iowa

Aug. 2020 – Oct. 2020

- Committee Member

Graduate Student Executive Committee, The University of Iowa

Jan. 2022 – Dec. 2022

- Committee Member
- Mentorship Sub-committee Co-chair

HONORS AND AWARDS

University of Iowa ESL Endorsement and *ACCEL in Iowa* Scholarship recipient

Aug. 2020

Graduate Diversity Scholarship recipient

June 2021

Margaret A. Sloan Memorial Scholarship recipient

2021/2022

Women's Resource & Action Center's Margaret P. Benson Memorial Scholarship recipient

2022/2023

Margaret A. Sloan Memorial Scholarship recipient

2022/2023

Iowa College of Ed. Center for Inclusive Academic Excellence Dean's Achievement Award

May 2023

Fulbright Award recipient

2023/2024